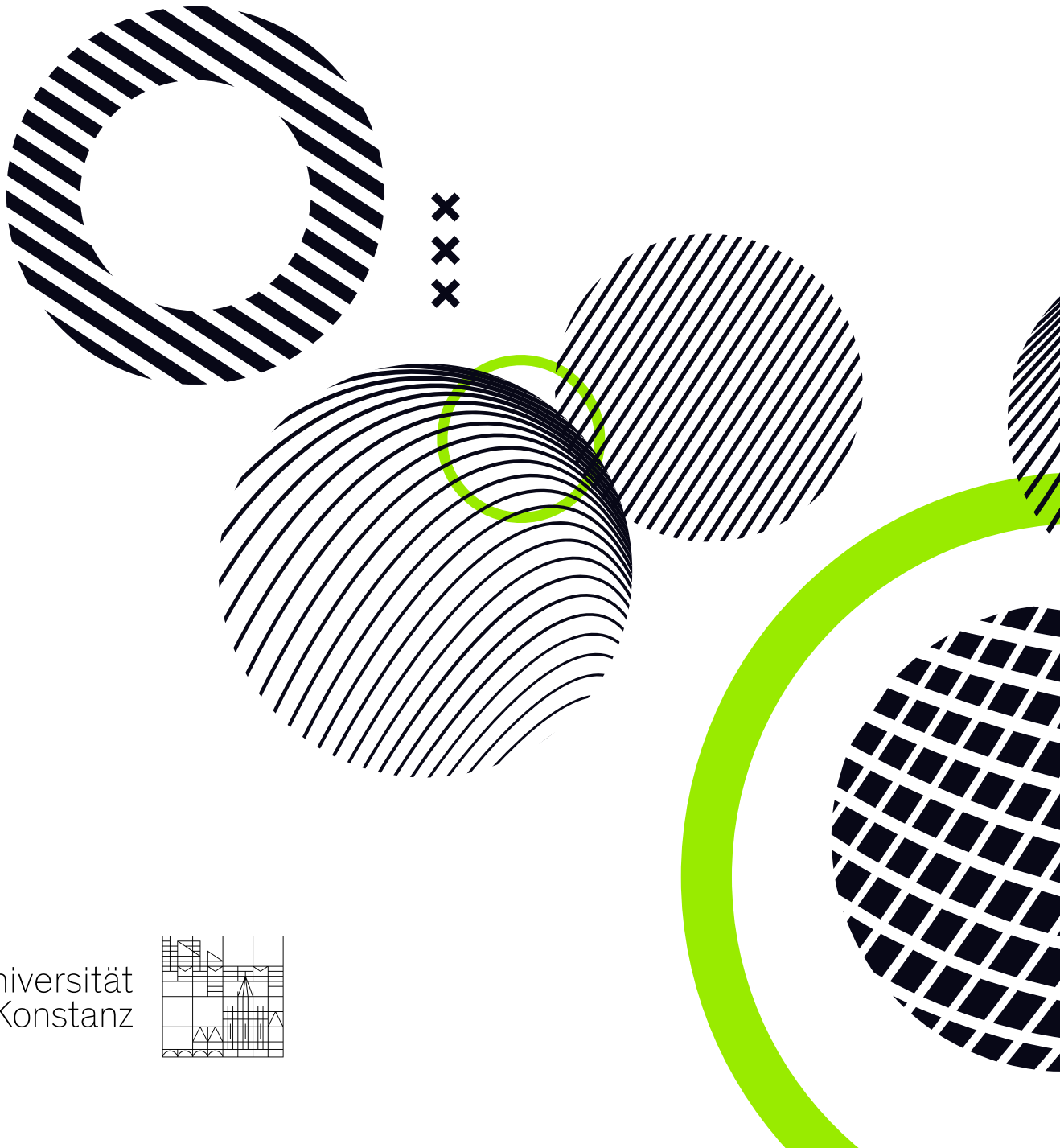
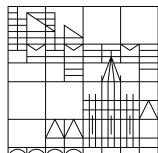


Zukunftskolleg Annual Report 2023



Universität
Konstanz



Dear readers,

Is it better to pursue new paths or to follow existing traditions? We at the Zukunftskolleg like to do both: the weekly Jour fixe where our fellows meet and report on their research has been a tradition for 16 years now; on the other hand, the Zukunftskolleg must reinvent itself continuously and create new ideas to support its fellows in the best possible way. In this annual report, you can see how we have achieved this!

We wish you an enjoyable read!

**Read all
stories**
digital report



Foreword

What a year! A lot has happened – and there is so much to tell!



Eleven fellows with a new position, two new ERC grants, eleven of our fellows are Emmy Noether grantees and four hold a Heisenberg Fellowship/Professorship; we have welcomed three new 5-year Research Fellows, one 2-year Postdoctoral Fellow and eight ZUKOnnect/Herz Fellows; we have ongoing collaborations both across the world and at local level: Tokyo, Jerusalem, Stuttgart, Tuttlingen... I'm losing count!

It's good to take a break, just for a coffee or a cup of tea and a biscuit, relax and use the turn of the year to review the past one. After all, yearbooks are for browsing! Pick them up, put them down, make use of them, enjoy them page by page. But we wouldn't be the Zukunftscolleg if we did the same as everyone else – or even the same as we ourselves did last year! On the other hand: we want to preserve our own traditions, and something becomes a tradition when it happens for the second time... And so this year for the second time, you are not holding in your hands a printed yearbook but a booklet that accompanies our digital annual report and presents in a nutshell 16 stories about the Zukunftscolleg. However, to allow these stories to "unfold" even further, we need the help of the internet! (Almost) no paper, (almost) no traditional paper mail with a big carbon footprint, only (hopefully environmentally friendly) electrical energy. But everyone is different! And so we fully appreciate that if you don't like your computer screen (who does?) or you need something weighty to keep your coffee table in place, no problem: you can download our annual report or else ask us for a printed copy which we'll then send to you!

Coming back to traditions and their aim: the Zukunftscolleg has been an Institute for Advanced Study for about 16 years now, with one clear goal and vision: to offer the best environment for researchers at an early stage of their careers, after a doctoral degree and before a tenured position, so that they can undertake their own independent research. Research without disciplinary borders, in an intergenerational, international setting, but embedded within the University of Konstanz and its departments. This goal has remained unchanged over the years, but we must finetune our work to a changing and evolving academic and societal environment.

In this way, we are building a Zukunftscolleg that enables unexpected contacts, fortuitous encounters, unforeseen ideas and ingenious breakthroughs of the sort that cannot be planned, that originate off the beaten track.

The Zukunftscolleg can be seen as an interdisciplinary group of individuals – academics each working in their own research area – or as a structure of intertwined networks – consisting of interactions between academics. The two belong together – what we do is create a productive and stimulating environment that encompasses both, people and networks, with the aim of promoting the research ideas and academic leaders of tomorrow.

This annual report shows you the research ideas developed in the past year, the networks created and the great people we have welcomed. Like in 2022, the report is divided into 16 stories: stories about the successful careers and projects of selected fellows, stories about new projects, people and formats, and stories about achievements and events in the past year.

On behalf of the entire Zukunftscolleg, I hope you enjoy clicking through it and wish you happy reading!

Yours,
Giovanni Galizia

Just a dream?



Story with digital content

Publications are as much a part of science as lectures or talks. They only cause surprises when they suddenly arouse such great interest on the part of the media and society that even the most experienced and much-cited researchers are astonished. Daniela C. Rößler was also surprised when her article on “REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders” suddenly received enormous media attention.



Daniela C. Rößler
Biology

Her article “Regularly occurring bouts of retinal movements suggest a REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders” was published in the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in the summer of 2022 and generated a great deal of coverage in national and international media. National Geographic, for example, recognized Daniela Rößler’s research as one of the “22 most amazing discoveries of 2022”.

The research results of Daniela Rößler and her team suggest that jumping spiders (*Evarcha arcuata*) experience a state similar to active REM sleep in humans. They recorded and analyzed nocturnal infrared footage of 34 young jumping spiders. The spiders exhibited phases of clear retinal movements that took place at very regular intervals. These phases increased in length over the course of the night. The retinal movements were always accompanied by uncontrolled movements of the body, like curling of the legs or twitching of single limbs or the spinnerets. These are surprising similarities to REM sleep seen in other animals.



We talked to Daniela about her experiences with such a huge media response:

Dear Daniela, in a few sentences: What is the aim of your research?

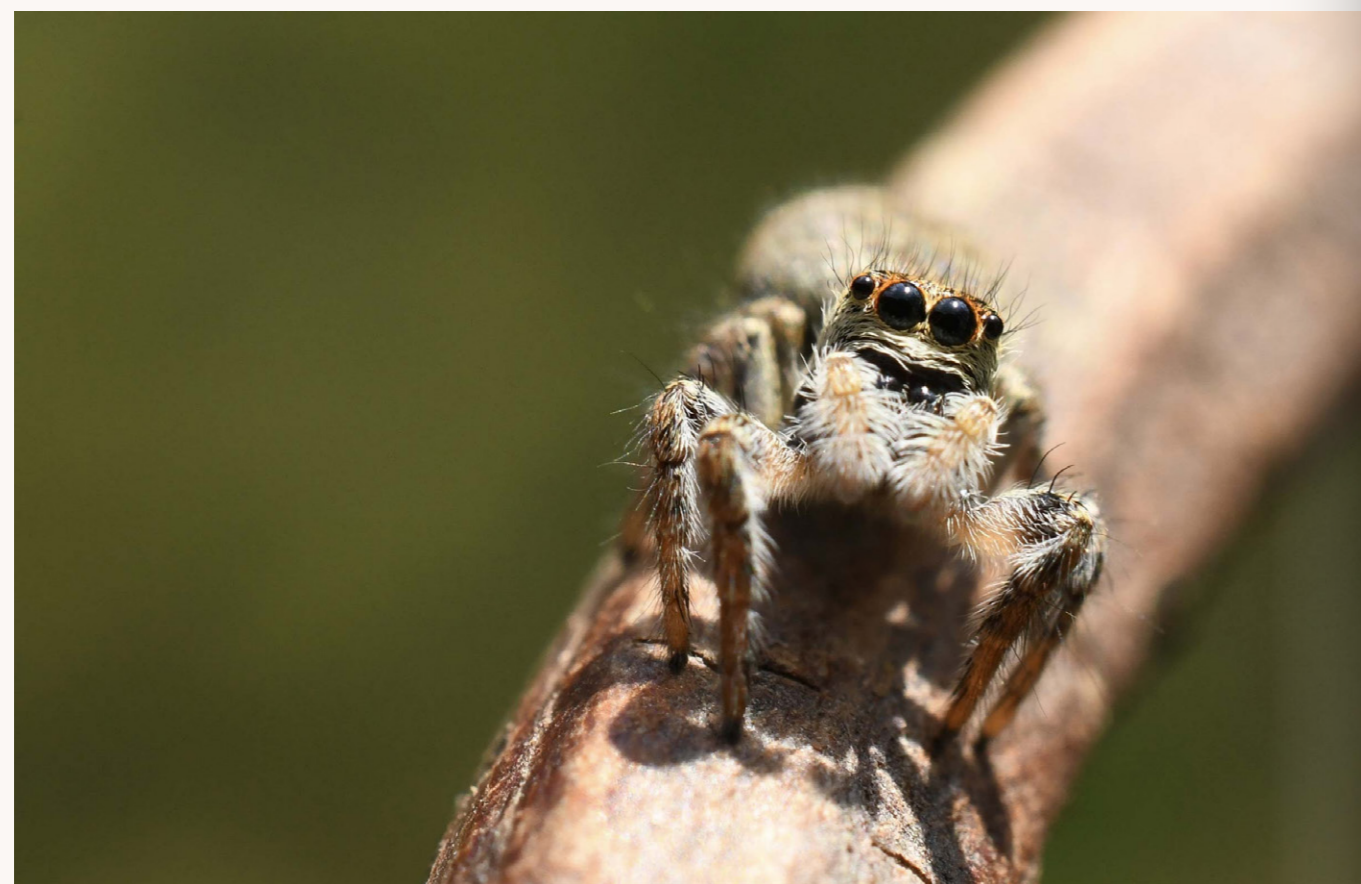
My aim is to contribute to a better understanding of the natural world and the living beings we share this planet with. I am broadly interested in animal behaviour. During my doctoral degree, my research focused on animal colouration and signalling in predator-prey contexts. More recently, since our discovery of a REM sleep-like state, my interest has shifted towards sleep in animals, particularly in those for which we do not know anything yet. That said, my research is almost always based on natural observations that lead me to small – or big – discoveries. I love exploring things we still know nothing about and making new observations. The thought of seeing something that maybe no one has seen before is quite exhilarating! Overall, I think that the kind of research I do generates a lot of public interest, which is fantastic because the more we manage to spark curiosity and interest about the natural world, the better we will hopefully become at protecting it.

In the summer of 2022, after your paper was published in PNAS, the media coverage that followed was immense. Did you expect that?

I most definitely did not expect that! I knew we were potentially onto something really interesting, and I knew we were touching a completely unstudied group with respect to sleep which would be a huge contribution to the field, but I did not anticipate the overwhelming (positive!) response from the scientific community, let alone from the public.

What were the main results of your study?

In our study, we were able to show that jumping spiders spend all night in a sleep-like state with a characteristic posture and with almost no movement during that time. However, in regular intervals throughout the night and with increasing duration, these spiders experienced sleep-like phases that have incredible similarity to REM (rapid eye movement) sleep in mammals and birds. Spiders twitch during those bouts that last about 1.5 minutes, their legs curl up, likely as a result of muscle atonia. The wildest part was that every single one of those REM-like bouts included visible retinal movements. This finding seriously challenges what we know about REM sleep, its function and its origin. In humans, REM sleep is associated with narrative and intense dreaming, thus, one might want to ask: Do spiders dream???



Why do you think this topic/your research findings are so interesting for the public?

Sleep is such a mysterious state that we all experience every day, and despite thousands of studies it is still not well-understood. So far, it looks like virtually all animals sleep. At least we would still have to find one that doesn't. What is even more mysterious than sleep is dreaming. . . We drift off into imaginary worlds, and we still lack a full explanation of why we dream and how. Dreaming is a powerful and intriguing state of mind. Every dog and cat owner among us will have no doubt about the fact that their pets also dream just by looking at them sleep. But thinking about spiders potentially dreaming (even though that was not the content of the study) got a lot of people extremely excited, or at the very least interested. Because let's not forget that many people (unfortunately) hate spiders. But even they started thinking about whether they could crush an animal that may have dreams. The potential of dreaming in animals such as spiders raises a number of questions about animal consciousness, ethics (particularly when it comes to invertebrates), and sleep and dream evolution, as well as about the very basal function of dreaming.

Can you describe your experiences with different media? What did you like, what not?

I loved the genuine interest and fascination this publication generated. Almost every reporter I talked to was just so positive and curious. Of course, some are better prepared than others or some asked more interesting questions than others. And it also has to be said that almost every journalist wanted to know if spiders dream (which was not the point of the study!). Let me say a few things about the different media:

General interviews (Zoom, phone, emails): The general interviews were quite time-consuming, especially when a time-sensitive Zoom meeting had to be set up across different time zones. Phone calls were rare for written interviews, much more common for radio shows. Email interview requests where all questions were sent via email were great because I could reply in my own time and was able to think a bit more about my answers. Being stressed or between other meetings when doing a Zoom interview sometimes led to me not being able to reply as I would have liked to. Often, right after the interview ended, new thoughts popped up of what I could have replied instead.

Podcasts: I truly enjoyed podcasts because the ones I did were very well-organized and the hosts were well-prepared. The questions were usually different from the general interviews, and I felt like podcasts often went the extra mile of asking questions in a broader context and also inviting experts from other fields, so those were great.

TV: Very cool experience – extremely time-consuming. Filming what in the end became a 5-minute clip basically took a whole day. The team was great and nice and very interested, but yes, be prepared that TV stuff takes a lot of time.

Radio shows (live or recorded): Radio shows were usually asking for a phone call or skype call to either put you on a show live or record a short interview. My experience with radio shows was quite mixed, especially with brief live radio shows. I understand that radio is a fast medium and time is precious. I just felt that some shows wanted to cover it, but the hosts were not prepared for this topic, so many of those shows quickly took a bad and simple turn into how terrible spiders are rather than being about the actual research, so these shows felt like a waste of my time. (Let me stress that this was not true for all radio shows!).

What helped you to cope with all the media requests that you received within a very short time?

I guess I was just running on adrenaline for a few weeks! I really enjoyed the coverage, and I was in a really privileged position of being able to be extremely flexible and available. Given that global news outlets were covering our research, accommodating interviews across different time zones with time-sensitive requests would not have been possible had I not been that flexible. I think this kind of time investment and flexibility is not and should not be the norm. It can really be quite overwhelming, and I think it is important to eventually stick to working hours.

After all these experiences, what can you recommend other fellows with respect to requests from/ interviews with public media?

I enjoyed talking to some of the reporters so much that I am still in touch with them. I can only recommend building a network of journalists that you connect with. Reach out to them before your next publication, see if they would like to cover it. I think having such a network can be just as important as a good network of collaborators. Knowing people who can truly reach the public and that are great at science communication are so valuable to have around!

What would you do differently next time when you receive such a huge media response?

I tried to say yes to absolutely everything in the first weeks, thinking the more coverage the better. I would try to be a bit choosier next time and pick quality over quantity. But I suppose this strongly depends on the career stage. I felt like I really need and want the coverage as an early career researcher and thus put in a lot of time. I think it worked out for me, but maybe next time I could be completely burned out after a few weeks. So, the future me will also try to stick a bit more strictly to reasonable working hours and turn off the computer (and especially email notifications on the phone!) to take proper breaks from the media wave. And in the same way of not doing late night Zoom interviews, I would probably ask more often for questions to be sent via email. Being able to reply in my own time and with the option of thinking about my replies more thoroughly can definitely help manage the wave (thanks, Sigg, for sending written questions).

What are your future research plans? Which research trips, etc.?

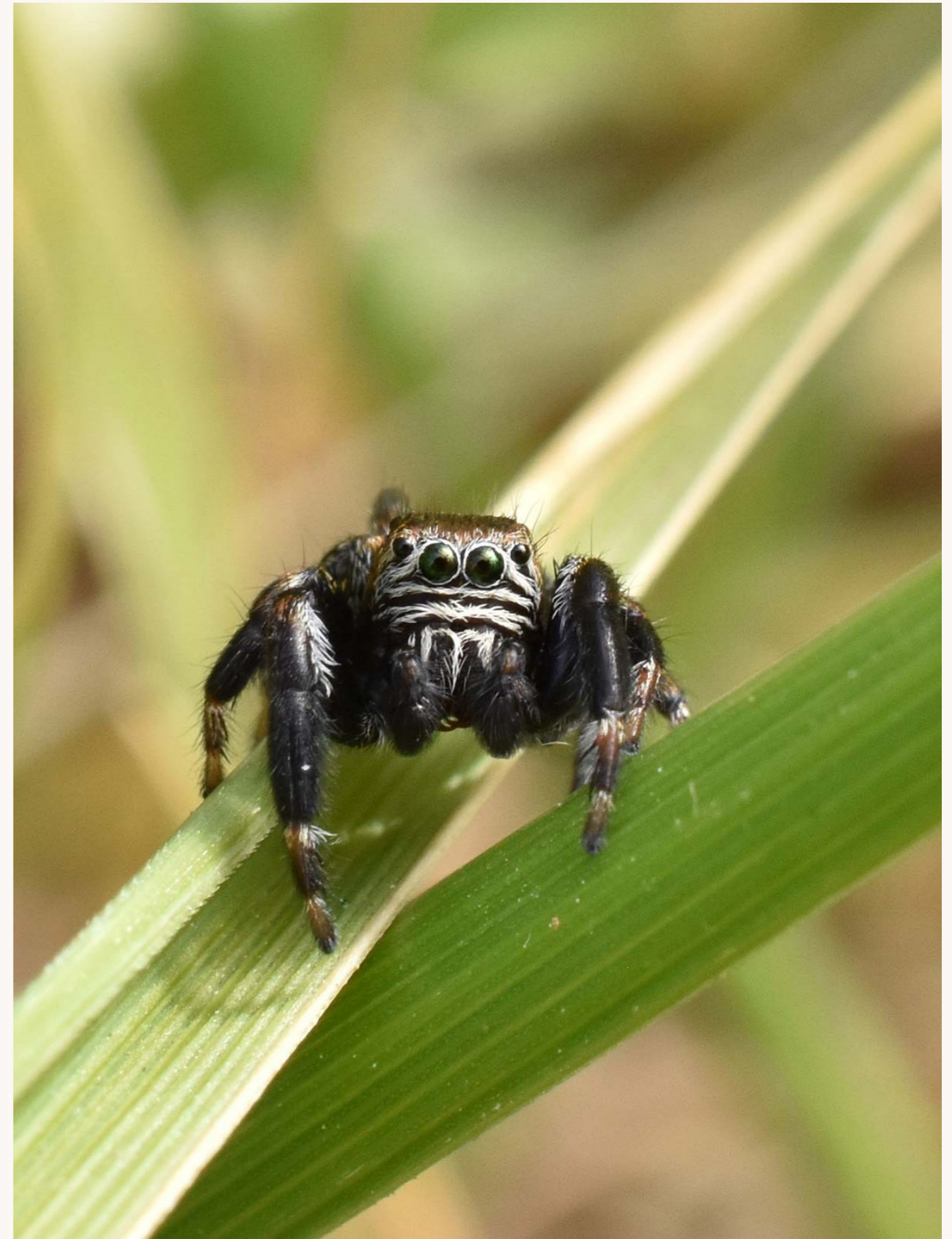
I am planning a large-scale project on sleep across spiders to explore the function, ecology and evolution of sleep. We see the same patterns of REM-like behaviour in (so far) all spider families and this gives us an opportunity to investigate how sleep and REM-like sleep evolved in this group. Spiders are a great system in which we can experimentally test the function of sleep and particularly REM sleep. We will also attempt to unravel the “dream” question in our experiments. Moreover, and because jumping spiders have a clear day/night rhythm, we will study their sleep in the natural habitat to better understand the role of ecological factors such as climate or predator presence. Exploring sleep in a comprehensive and evolutionary framework can contribute to a better understanding of (REM) sleep, including in humans. We know very little about the origin and function of sleeping and dreaming (not synonymous with REM sleep!) and I really hope we can add a little piece to the puzzle!

To do this, we will need a broad taxonomic sampling, which will include research trips in and outside Europe. Currently, my plan is to focus on spiders in Portugal, Panama and Australia, where we will film spiders sleeping in the field!! That is, if I manage to secure funding for the project.

Thank you very much!

Selection of Daniela Rößler's media presences:

- New York Times (paywalled)*
- Science*
- National Geographic*
- Scientific American*
- Harvard Gazette*
- Washington Post*
- Wall Street Journal*
- Popular Science*
- The Guardian*

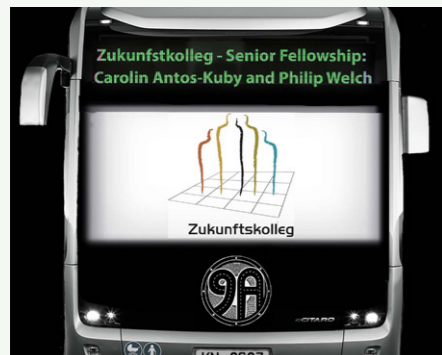


What is infinity?



Story with digital content

From April to June 2023, Senior Fellow Philip Welch (Mathematics) stayed at the Zukunftskolleg. He was invited by Research Fellow Carolin Antos-Kuby (Philosophy). In our podcast, they speak about their first encounter, their collaboration and their common passion: **set theory.**



About the podcast

The podcast was produced in cooperation with KIM Lecture Recording within their "9A/9B" podcast series: From start to finish, a trip with the 9B bus to the University of Konstanz takes 35 minutes – enough time for a podcast! That's why KIM.LR, on behalf of the StuVe (student representation) and the AStA (general students committee) and with the support of the Zukunftskolleg, regularly presents inspiring conversations in their "9B" podcast.

How do Ukrainians feel in Konstanz?



Story with digital content

In 2022, the Zukunftskolleg established Visiting Fellowships for early career researchers in Ukraine threatened by the current war ("scholars at risk"). Yeliena Kovalska is one of 12 Visiting Fellows that joined the Zukunftskolleg. Originally at the Department of Methodology and Methods of Sociological Research at the Faculty of Sociology at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in Ukraine, Yeliena has been a fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since June 2022, affiliated with the Department of History and Sociology.



Yeliena Kovalska
History and Sociology

During her time in Konstanz, she has been studying the living conditions, employment, lifestyle, leisure time, wellbeing and future plans of forced migrants from Ukraine in Germany, using the example of the City of Konstanz. Her project “The Status Characteristics and Peculiarities of Accommodation of Ukrainian War Refugees in Germany (Konstanz)” aims to answer six questions: (1) How has the type of employment of Ukrainian refugees changed; (2) How has general wellbeing changed; (3) What were the main problems faced by Ukrainian refugees in Germany; (4) Features of the life of Ukrainian refugees; and (5) Plans for further stay in Germany or return to Ukraine.

The situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany, especially their psychological state, living conditions, employment, life, leisure, wellbeing and plans for the future, remains little studied in contrast to studies in Poland or other countries. Therefore, Yeliena’s study aimed to identify the peculiarities of the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany (based on the example of the City of Konstanz and the surrounding area), as well as their social status and plans for the future.

Method

To conduct her study, Yeliena used an online survey with a self-completion questionnaire. Respondents were interviewed using a formalized questionnaire on the LimeSurvey online platform. In addition, to implement a quantitative study, participants in the Telegram group “Help Ukraine – Konstanz”, including 1,886 participants, were also interviewed. The study was implemented between 6 and 28 October 2022. The response led to a large number of answers to the open questions regarding personal problems, experiences or questions related to life in Germany, although this question was optional and the last one on the questionnaire. Moreover, respondents provided important feedback with detailed answers. 114 questionnaires out of 376 provided answers to the open questions.

Given the sensitivity of the research topic, it was decided at the preparatory stage of the research to obtain support from one of the largest social organizations helping refugees in Germany – Caritas. The support of the research by such an organization increased trust in the survey and encouraged respondents to give sincere answers. As a result of the negotiation process (2 months), official permission was obtained for the use of the Caritas logo in the questionnaire, and volunteers supported the recruiting process.

At the pre-test stage of the questionnaire, Yeliena started with a high number of sensitive questions about income, financial situation and housing conditions before the start of the Russian-Ukrainian war. However, because respondents reacted very negatively to these questions because of memories of losing their jobs, property and a possible decrease in status in Ukraine, she decided to reject them.

In addition to Ukrainian refugees in Konstanz, interviewees included: a) persons registered and living in satellite cities whose leisure practices are closely related to the City of Konstanz; b) persons who had been in Konstanz but have already left for Ukraine or other countries; c) persons who only plan to move (to a refugee camp or to family/friends).

For Yeliena and her project, studying all these categories made it possible to obtain deeper qualitative knowledge about the peculiarities of the stay of Ukrainians in forced migration in Germany.

Results

The ratio of females and males among the survey participants was 83 to 17 percent. This is due to the fact that men aged 18 to 60 were prohibited from leaving the country according to Ukrainian military law. An exception applied to men with more than three minor children, single fathers with young children and children with disabilities, as well as men not fit to serve in the army for medical reasons.

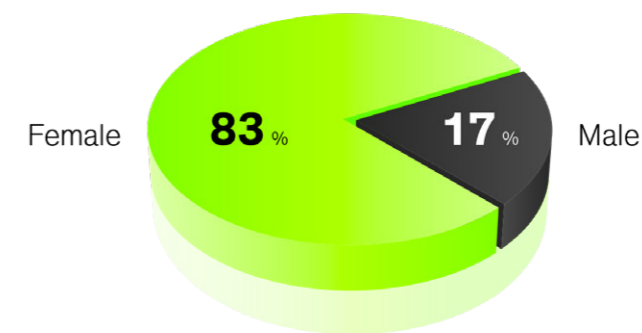


Fig. 1. Gender distribution, %

Most Ukrainian refugees were between the age of 26 and 35 (23.6 percent), 36 to 45 (41.4 percent) and 46 to 55 (15.7 percent) years. This distribution was more or less normal, as these refugees in Germany are mostly women of working age with minor children and no grandchildren, which allows them to actively solve issues in everyday life and the time to participate in the study.

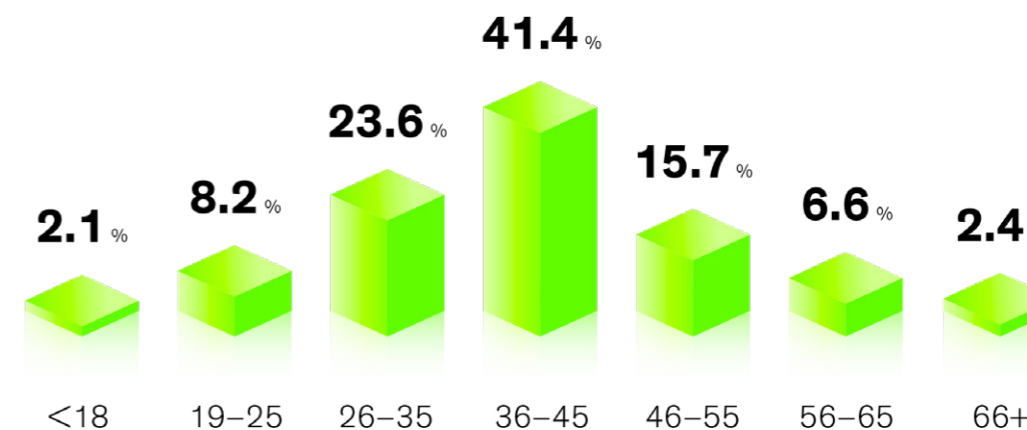


Fig. 2. Age distribution, %

21.5 percent were at the first stage of refugee resettlement (a refugee camp), 19 percent were staying in hostels and 14.8 percent lived with German families, relatives or friends – all categories are characterized as “temporary housing” and required further relocation to permanent housing (55.3 percent). Many Ukrainians were looking for housing on their own or through social and city services.

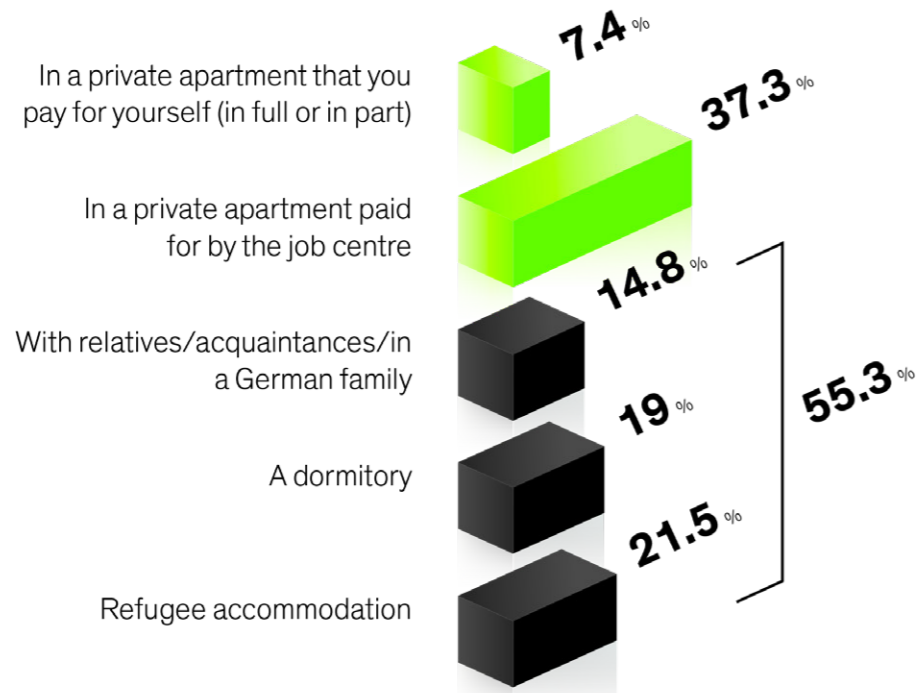


Fig. 3. Accommodation, %

Regarding difficulties finding housing, most respondents indicated that they could not find housing at all (58.5 percent), some found only offers that were too expensive (35 percent), some were refused by landlords due to lack of permanent employment, income or rental history in Germany (24.4 percent), and some were refused housing because they had pet animals (6 percent). Thus, Ukrainian refugees in the Konstanz area found themselves in a difficult situation due to the inability to find a permanent place of residence.

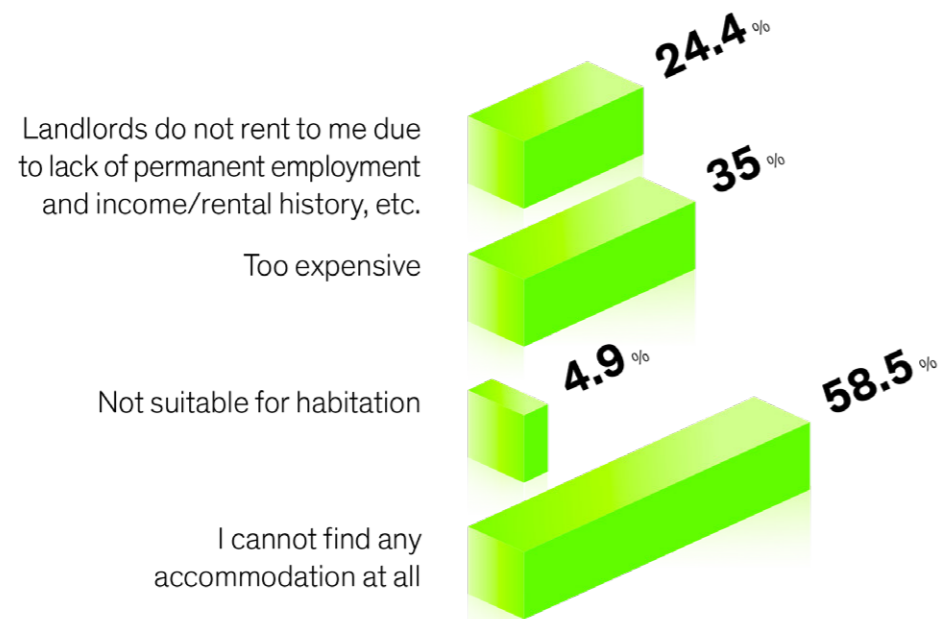


Fig. 4. Difficulties in finding private housing, %

27 percent of Ukrainian refugees lived with children under 6 years of age and 45 percent with children from 7 to 16 years of age. Two thirds of the respondents said that they were not provided with nursery/pre-school places for their children.

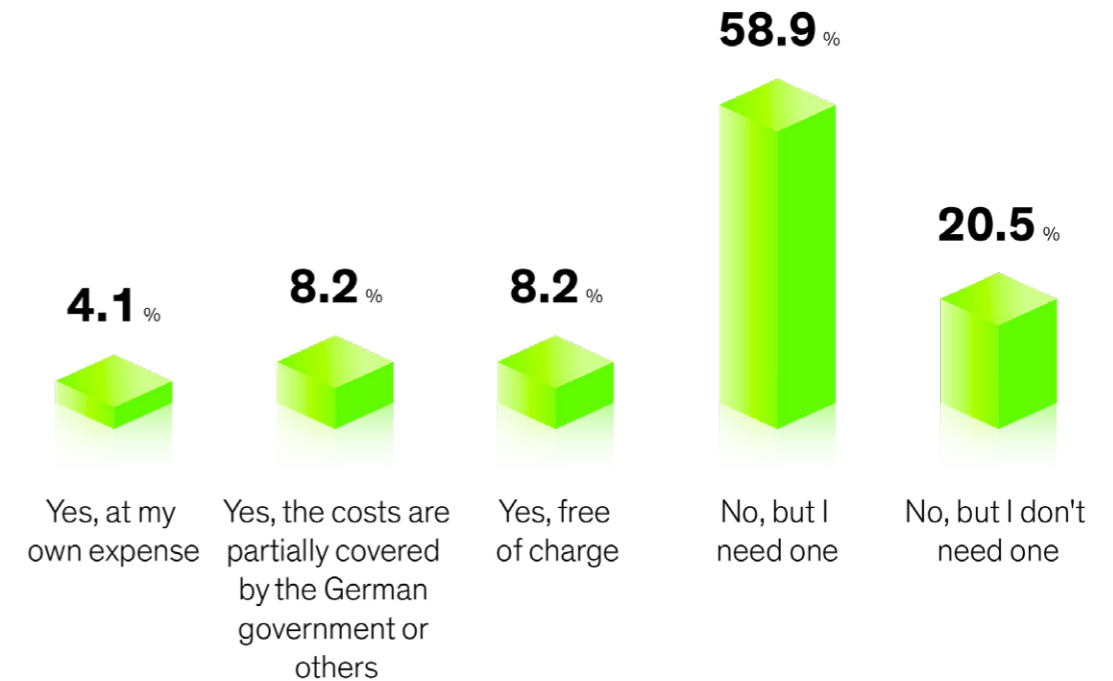


Fig. 5. Nursery/pre-school places provided for children, %

Interestingly, with 57 percent there were more people with a higher level of education than ever before among war refugees in Germany, and 4.3 percent even had an academic degree, as well as being professionals (30.7 percent). At that moment, 12.4 percent of Ukrainian refugees were employed in the Konstanz region, of which only 3.9 percent were employed in their special field.

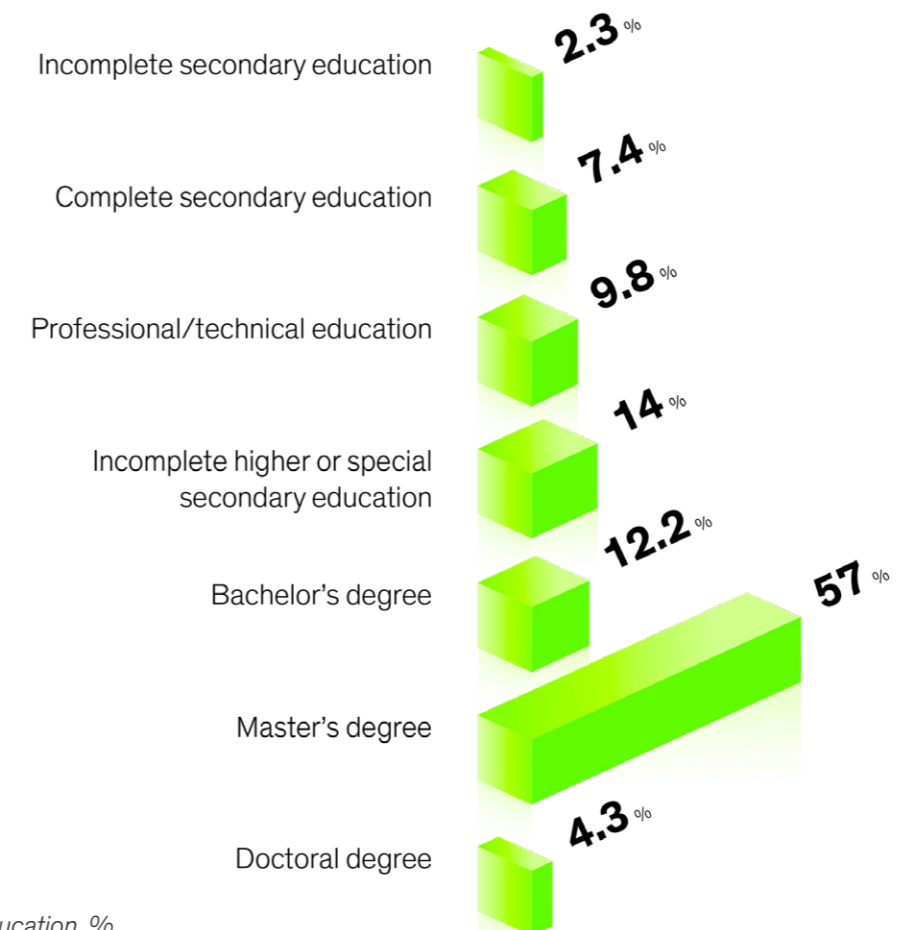


Fig. 6. Education, %

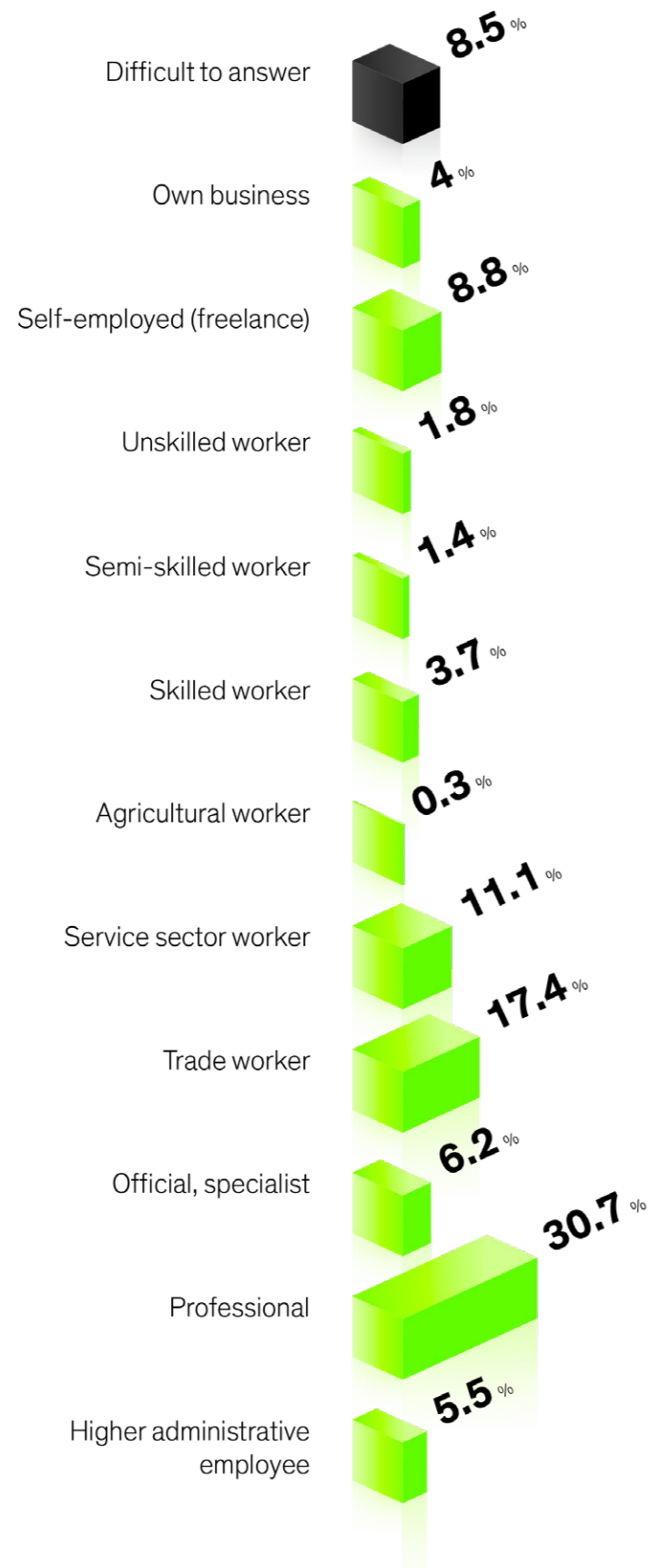


Fig. 7. Occupation in Ukraine, %

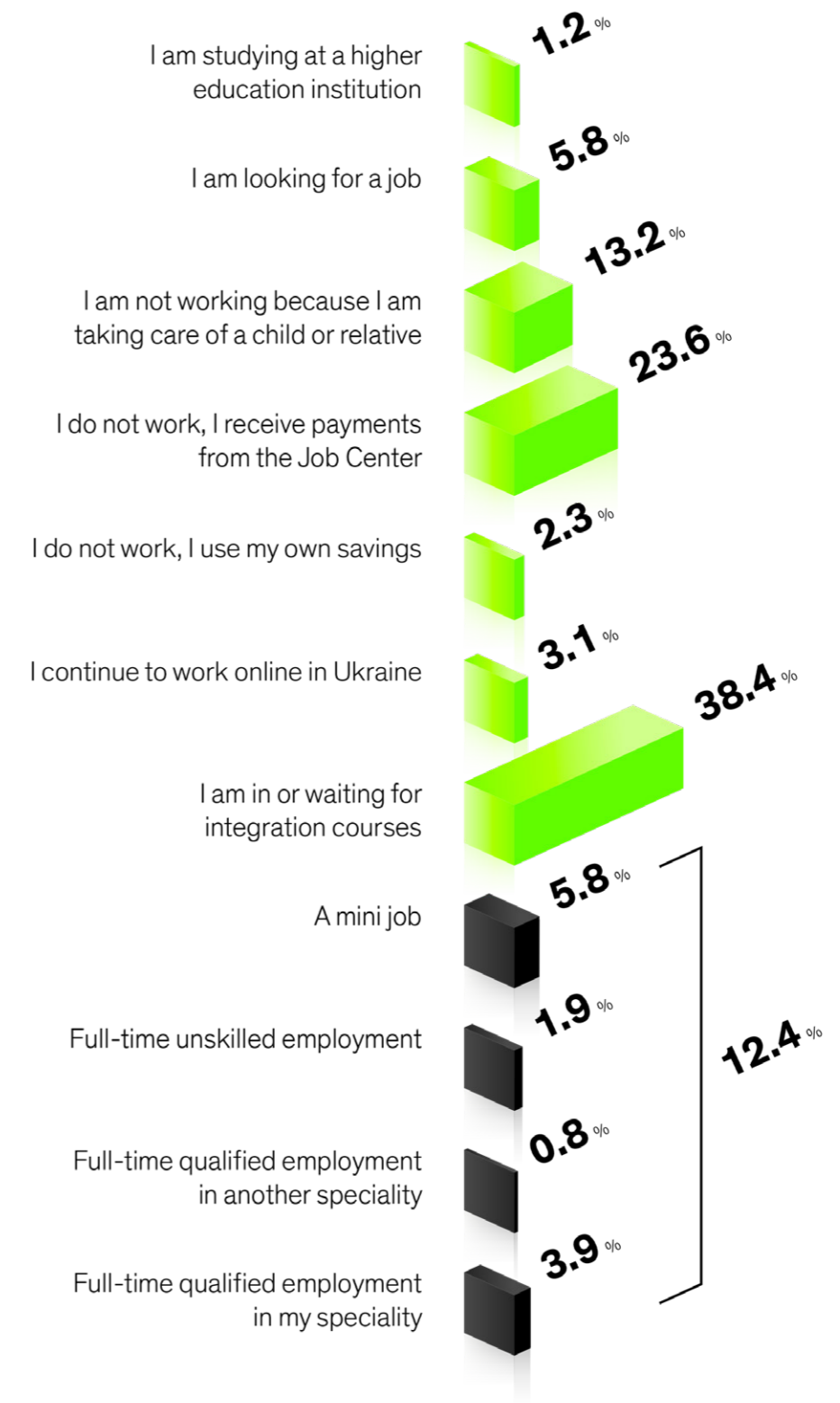


Fig. 8. Occupation in Germany

Furthermore, language barriers also posed some difficulties for the Ukrainian refugees in Konstanz. Mostly, the level of English language proficiency was Level A2 and above (38.2 percent), compared to 11.8 percent for German language proficiency at a similar level.

Concerning the material situation of the respondents, people with above-average incomes had somewhat lowered their social status. This is due to the fact that about 81 percent of Ukrainian refugees in Konstanz were only drawing unemployment benefit. This covers only basic necessities. There was also a decrease in the level of answers to "Difficult to answer" from 22 to 7 percent. This may be because in Germany it has become easier for Ukrainian refugees to determine their material status, or there is no need to hide unofficial income due to its absence.

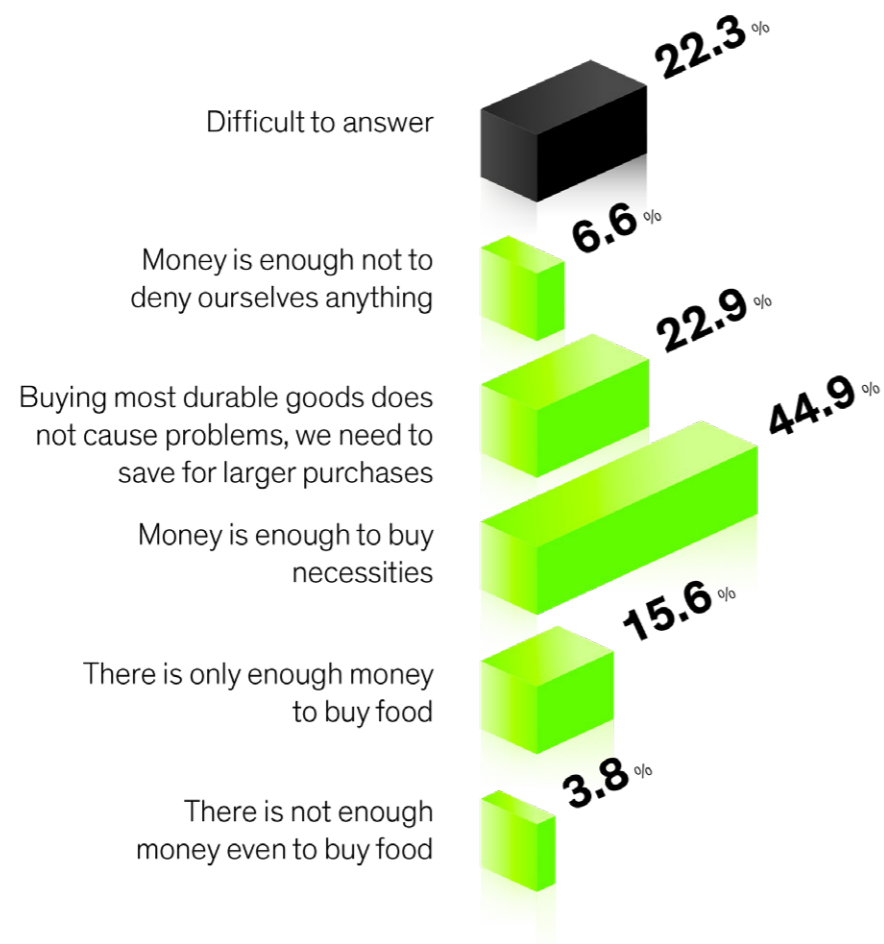


Fig. 9. The material situation of family in Ukraine before the war

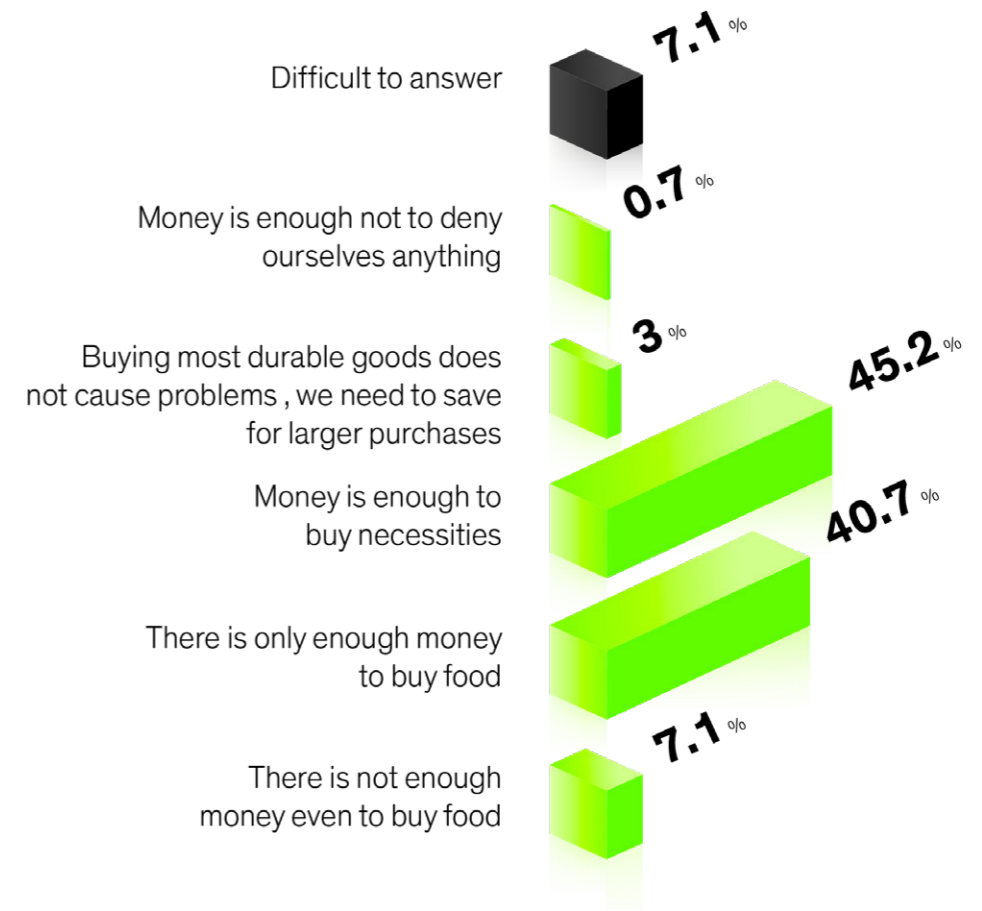


Fig. 10. The material situation of family in Germany, %

Despite the downward trend in social status, 45 percent of Ukrainian refugees in the Konstanz region said they would like to stay in Germany indefinitely.

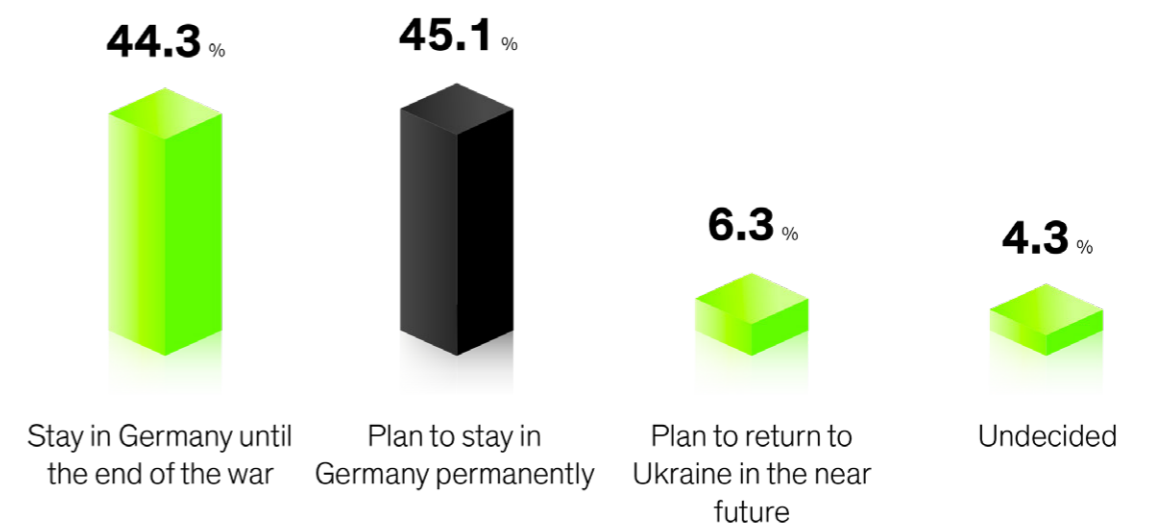


Fig. 11. Plans to stay in Germany, %

Conclusion

For Yeliena, the main methodological result of her study was the active completion of an open question in a third of the questionnaires, and revealing, as a result of the pre-test, a high level of sensitivity among Ukrainian refugees towards questions about income, financial situation and housing conditions before the start of the war. The results of the analysis of the open questions formed the basis for additional research by qualitative methods.

The main problems for Ukrainian refugees in Konstanz were finding permanent housing and getting a place in a nursery/pre-school. Both problems are typical for the region, having existed for many years, and were only exacerbated by the migration crisis.

Plans for further stay in Germany or return to Ukraine deserve special attention – for example, 45 percent of respondents indicated that they plan to stay in Germany indefinitely. This information also brings new challenges for the country's migration policy and requires further discussion.

The purpose of Yeliena's study, among other things, was to promote cooperation between the government, social organizations and representatives of Ukrainian refugees on the basis of reliable data from a survey of Ukrainian refugees on the current situation.

Outlook

In addition, in the spring of 2023 Yeliena was awarded a MSCA4 (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) Ukraine Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. During the MSCA4Ukraine Fellowship of one year, Yeliena will continue her research project which she started during her Visiting Fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg: "Use of factorial survey design to determine the significance of personal social status characteristics", supervised by Professor Thomas Hinz, Chair of Empirical Social Research with a Focus on Survey Research at the University of Konstanz.

"Since I became part of the Zukunftskolleg, I have received a lot of support and help in adapting to the new German academic reality, which was and still is very challenging for me," says Yeliena. "I still cannot believe that in such a short time I was able to receive this prestigious grant. Many thanks to the whole team of the Zukunftskolleg!"

How do pūkekos communicate?



Story with digital content



Gabriella Gall's research is directed at understanding how individuals in groups communicate and coordinate group actions. More specifically, the biologist is interested in how the ability of an individual to coordinate effectively with others develops and what the fitness consequences of efficient communication are. She studies these questions in a range of bird species (domestic chicken and pūkeko) and is currently focusing on how experiences made within the egg affect hatching synchronization, vocal communication and post-hatching social behaviour.



Gabriella Gall
Biology

In the past year, Gabriella Gall spent some months in New Zealand to investigate communication in pūkekos. We talked to her about her experiences and findings in New Zealand.

Dear Gabriella, why are pūkekos so interesting and why New Zealand?

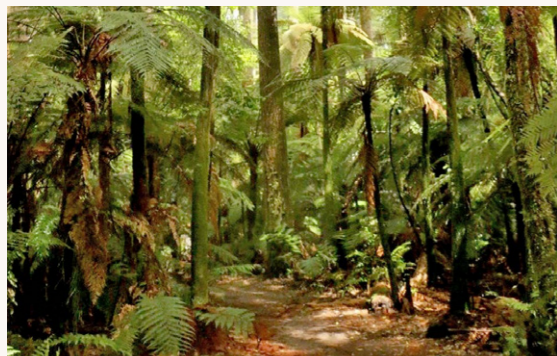
My original plan was to work with pheasants in the UK, as these birds can be reared in the lab and then released when they are about 10 weeks old. This means that they can be manipulated and closely observed during development while in the lab, and once released we can study how they interact within a natural environment, hence allowing us to understand the fitness consequences of specific behaviours. This plan was foiled by a combination of Brexit, COVID and prevailing avian influenza within the UK. Hence, while I can use species such as domestic chicken to do controlled lab experiments, e.g. on eggs and chicks, I cannot “release” them (they would be eaten by foxes within a couple of days). I was therefore looking for an alternative species which would allow me to do manipulations easily and which I would be able to study in its natural environment. I came across multiple articles about pūkeko, Australasian swamp hen (*Porphyrio melanotus*), and it seemed like the perfect system. After reaching out to a couple of colleagues, I got in touch with Professor James Quinn at McMaster University, who invited me to join him at his field site in Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary, New Zealand, to collect pilot data and obtain real-life insights into the species.

The pūkeko is a very interesting species for many reasons. For instance, the birds are extremely flexible with regard to their social dynamics and mating system, and differences seem to be at least partly dependent on their local habitat and climate. They also exhibit joint nesting behaviour, meaning that multiple females can lay eggs in the same nest and these are incubated jointly by the group. In addition, the whole group helps to rear the chicks once they hatch. While they mostly do not hatch synchronously, chicks benefit from hatching early by being more dominant over their clutch mates later on, making them an interesting system for manipulations early on. Importantly, experiments and observations can be conducted fairly easily.

What were your best and what your worst experiences/discoveries in New Zealand?

New Zealand is great, and I had a lot of amazing experiences. This included great interactions with my collaborators, rangers, other inhabitants, etc., as well as getting to watch and observe pūkeko and other wildlife (e.g. kiwi, kororā, tuī, korimako, etc.), the sea, a bioluminescent lagoon, the different forests with incredible ferns, mosses and lichens, etc., each one of them amazing! We also went on a couple of day trips to see a bit of the country, and each of these was very nice! E.g. seeing kōkako as well as sea hare on Tiritiri Matangi or talking to artists at Te Puia Maori Arts & Crafts Institute in Rotorua.

The worst part, or rather a bit of a sad part, was tripping over a bird trap (which is now called the “trip-trap”) and tearing my anterior cruciate ligament, three weeks into my trip, meaning that I could not walk very well for the rest of my stay. As both field trips and any visit to New Zealand involve a lot of hiking, it was rather unfortunate.



What is special about communication in pūkeko nests?

Communication in nests is generally quite interesting, as there is a lot going on: parents communicating with each other and with their chicks as well as chicks communicating with each other. In pūkeko nests, there is even more going on, as these birds can nest jointly, and hence each member of the group may visit the nest at one time or another and there are eggs of different females vocalizing as well as chicks from previous nests being kept warm during nighttime. Very little is known about the vocal communication in pūkeko, whether in the nest or away from it. During my visit, I wanted to get a better understanding of the species and its vocalization behaviours, and hence I aimed to collect observational data in the nest at different stages of incubation and many different groups.

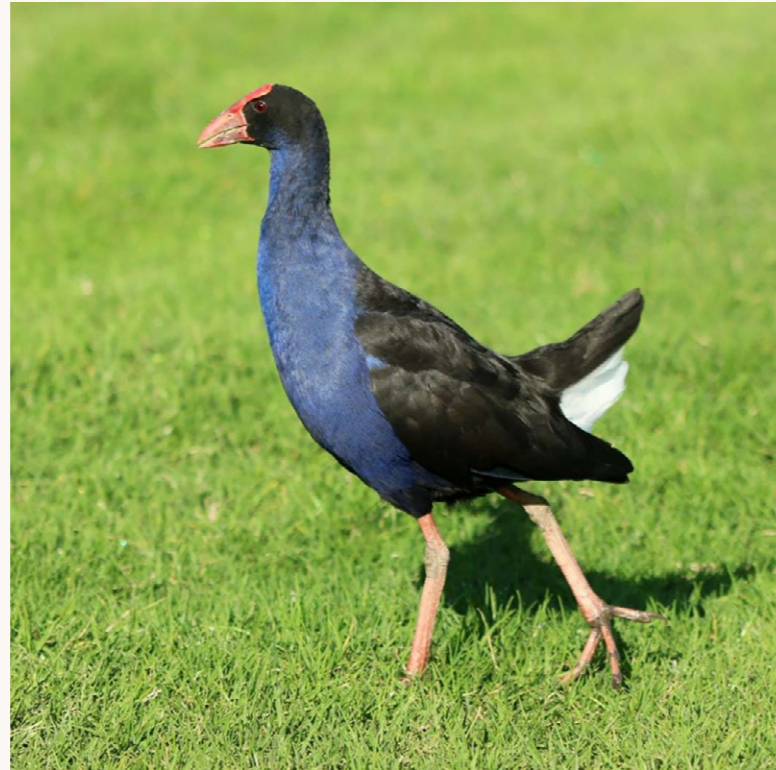


What are your major results?

Currently I have none. I collected 1,020 hours of vocal recordings from 19 different pūkeko nests, at different stages during incubation (early, middle, hatching) as well as from first/second nests. At the moment, I am still processing the data. This includes determining distinct sound elements and labelling these in each of the recordings. Once the recordings are labelled, I will be able to investigate how pūkeko combine different acoustic elements to various calls (they have some crazy vocalizations!) and compare this to the repertoire published by Clapperton & Jenkins, 1984. Once fully labelled, I will be able to determine the activity of birds during incubation and hatching (both adults and chicks), as well as how chicks and adults interact (vocally) in the nest before and after hatching. In addition, I have a lot of additional environmental information that I can use to help interpret the results (e.g. sheep in the paddock with the nest vs no sheep). These data are also helping me generate ideas and hypotheses for experiments and my overall research.

Can these results also tell us something about communication in other species?

Yes. The specific vocalizations used to interact are most likely different and dependent on the species studied, but the interactions themselves will be similar across similar species (given context and environment).



What have you planned next? Which research trips, etc.?

Now that I have a better understanding of the system, I would like to go back to New Zealand to conduct experiments and follow individuals over extended periods of time in order to answer my main research questions mentioned above as well as additional questions relating to the drivers of intra-species variation in social dynamics.

Thank you very much!



Story with digital content

Reaching out?

The Zukunftskolleg and its fellows show presence in both the scientific community and the public debate by offering talks and events that are (partly) open to the whole of society. In this chapter, you can find a selection of public events that took place in the past year:

Public talk: “The Relations between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Countries”

The Zukunftskolleg extended an invitation to the public talk by **Michael Köhler** (European Commission) on Wednesday, 12 July entitled „**The Relations between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Countries**“. He was invited by James Wilson (Postdoctoral Fellow / History and Sociology).

Michael Köhler is Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General „European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation“ since 2019.

The talk took place in collaboration with the Department of Politics and Public Administration in the framework of its departmental colloquium.



Public talk:
“Feminist Approaches and Masculinity in Policing Research”

Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature & Politics and Public Administration) extended an invitation to her talk on **“Feminist Approaches and Masculinity in Policing Research”** at the University of Warwick, UK, on 7 July.

Abstract

Policing is recognized as one of the world’s most masculinized institutions, constructed on rigid patriarchal norms and ideologies. Although contemporary policing is beginning to recognize the necessity for feminist approaches to successful policing, masculinity continues to take a pivotal pre-eminence in policing. The Ghana and Nigeria police, like most police institutions, are highly gendered with dominant patriarchal principles. But what does this mean for ethnographic research, particularly for female researchers to conduct ethnographic studies in such a masculinized institution? Furthermore, how does the research topic increase the vulnerability/agency of the researcher?

In this presentation, she examined her fieldwork experiences as a woman researching on feminist issues in the Nigeria Police Force and the Ghana Police Service. She employed a narrative approach to examine the gender tensions, her vulnerabilities and adaptation skills during her 13 months of fieldwork in six police stations.



Talking about languages?

The 4th edition of the international workshop **“Heritage Language Syntax”** (HLS4) took place on 3 and 4 July at the Kulturzentrum in Konstanz. The workshop was organized by **Research Fellow Anamaria Bentea**, in collaboration with members of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Konstanz and with the support of the Zukunftskolleg.

38 participants from Germany, Netherlands, France, UK, Spain, Greece and the US attended the workshop. The programme was very rich and featured talks by early and advanced career researchers on various aspects related to the development and processing of syntax in heritage languages, that is, minority languages learned by speakers at home as children.

The four invited speakers gave inspiring talks: Tanja Kuspisch (University of Konstanz/UiT The Arctic University of Norway) spoke about changes in the determiner system in heritage languages and showed that “heritage language acquisition is systematic and in fact mirrors language change, though at a higher speed”. Jill Jegerski (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) showed that the apparent difficulty that heritage speakers of Spanish have with the processing of morphology is “not necessarily due to deficient morphosyntax, as it can also be due to the demands of accessing lexical items in real time”. Natalia Meir (Bar-Ilan University) gave a talk which demonstrated that heritage language grammars are shaped in tandem by effects of cross-linguistic influence from the speaker’s dominant language(s) and by diminished input in the heritage language. Monika S. Schmid (University of York) spoke about language attrition and the emotional aspects related to language loss in various speaker groups (adoptees, immigrants and refugees).

Theodoros Marinis (University of Konstanz) presented the TEAM project, which aims to educate teachers about multi- and bilingualism. More information about this can be found on the project website. Various other resources can be accessed on the YouTube channel created as part of the project.

Public talk:
“Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Semantics”

In the **Logic Colloquium** on 12 June at the University of Konstanz, **Noelia Martínez Doallo** (Postdoctoral Fellow/Law) gave a presentation on **“Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Semantics”**.

Abstract

Traditionally, human rights have been described as inalienable, absolute and universal, yet such features seem to contradict the formal semantics of the legal language at various levels. First, the thesis of correlativity – as deployed by W.N. Hohfeld – demonstrates that, to be actual subjective rights, human rights must be enshrined through legal rules and be necessarily alienable, otherwise they should be articulated in terms of a different category of legal norms, i.e. principles. Second, constitutional case law supplies a number of examples of human rights collisions that not only requires weighing them against each other on a case-by-case basis but also contradicts their alleged absolute character. To this effect, the weight formula developed by R. Alexy appears as a promising tool to solve such conflicts, while bringing once again into question the conceptualization of human rights as rights proper. Finally, on the basis of a dialectically necessary method, A. Gewirth’s principle of generic consistency proves that no prospective purposive agent can deny other agents’ ownership of human rights without logical contradiction, though placing the debate in the moral domain and, thus, evincing the hybrid nature of human rights insofar as moral-legal entities. From the premises of the semantics of logic, Noelia turned to the aforementioned theories to make the case that legal norms on human rights should be better formulated as principles and, consequently, the subjective rights approach should be abandoned.



European NetIAS Lecture/Debate Series

The **European NetIAS Lecture/Debate Series** is organized jointly by the institutes participating in NetIAS.

In the 2023 summer semester, there were two NetIAS debates in which researchers from different fields and from various European centres reflected on “Labour and Migration” and “Health. Interdisciplinary, ethical and alternative approaches”.

25 May, 17.00-19.00: “Health. Interdisciplinary, ethical and alternative approaches”
at IMéRA, Marseille

The four fellows who participated in the event were:

Amy Padula, fellow at HIAS, Hamburg
Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco

Noelia Martinez Doallo, fellow at the Zukunftscolleg, Konstanz
Doctoral candidate in law, her research interests are bioethics, health law, philosophy of law

Cristina Nombela, fellow at MIAS, Madrid
Psychologist working on cognitive disturbances in neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Parkinson's disease

Michael Koslowski, fellow at IMéRA, Marseille
Psychiatrist, researcher at CHU Charité Berlin, his current research topic is: The renaissance of psychedelics for the treatment of mental diseases

27 April, 10.00-12.00: “Labour and Migration”
at the Madrid Institute for Advanced Study

The three discussants were:

María Hernández Carretero, MIAS fellow, Madrid
Anthropologist and migration researcher, with a background in sociology and international development and peace studies

Julie Weise, IMéRA fellow, Marseille
Associate Professor of History, University of Oregon – Holder of the Fulbright-IMéRA Chair in Migration Studies

Irina Nicorici, New Europe College fellow, Bucharest
Sociologist working on Migrations between Romania and the Soviet Union, 1960-1990

Network of European Institutes
for Advanced Study.

Netias.

Public Event: “pro.log: Einfache Leute”

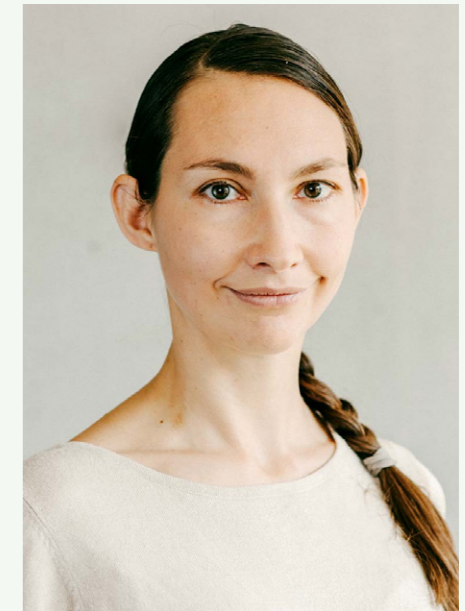
Speaker

Ariane Bertogg (Postdoctoral Fellow/History and Sociology)

Getting to the bottom of theatre: that's what the pro.log series does. It delivers insights into a play's creation and motifs, the sketching of the characters and current issues. It is directed at everyone who is interested in the performance – regardless of whether they have already seen it or still want to. A lecture of about 45 minutes delivers insights into the play. It is followed by a discussion with the audience and individuals involved in the production.

The talk by **Ariane Bertogg** on 21 May about the play “Einfache Leute” (Simple People) shed light on the tension between family of origin, professional success and the feeling of not having really arrived. She analyzed the fears of those who have moved up, the lack of understanding of those left behind, the ambivalence of family and the mistrust in meritocracy. And showed how life courses and success are gender-typed – and what that means for all of us. Finally, she discussed why we are unable to change because we are not only part of society but also bear society “within us”.

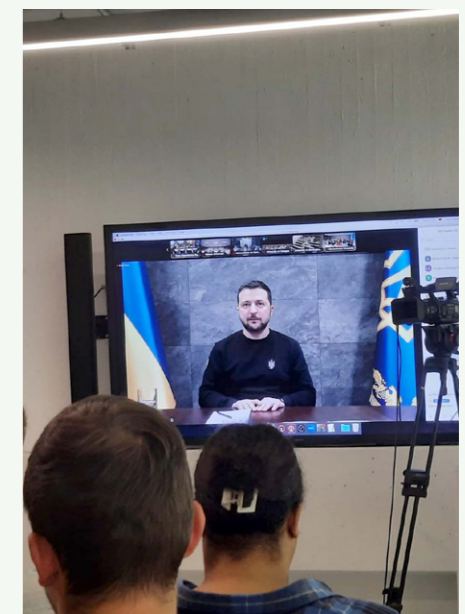
More information:
https://theaterkonstanz.de/pro_log



Celebrating Europe Day

On 9 May, the University of Konstanz, as a member of three European University Networks – ERUA, Yerun, EUniWell – celebrated Europe Day together with its international partners. Highlight of the event was a live online session with the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy as a very special guest.

For this occasion, the International Office, the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Zukunftscolleg organized an event with various talks in English.



Programme

Opening: Dorothea Debus, Vice Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Talk: Dirk Leuffen, Professor of Political Science and International Politics, on “Schuman 2023”

Talk: Yeliena Kovalska, sociologist from Ukraine and MSCA4Ukraine fellow at the University of Konstanz, on “Ukrainian War Refugees in Konstanz: Main Problems and Plans for the Future”

Talk: Maryna Lytvyn, economist from Dnipro University of Technology and Zukunftskolleg Visiting Fellow, on “Ukrainian European Studies Association”

The President’s Office published the following article about the event here.
See also an article on the website of the University of Konstanz.
And in the magazine DER SPIEGEL

Block Seminar: “Green Economy”

From 13-16 April, Visiting Fellow Roksoliana Liubachivska held a block seminar on “Green Economy” at the Zukunftskolleg. The seminar brought together a diverse group of international students from Italy, Spain, UK, France, Tunisia and Azerbaijan to learn about various aspects of green economy and sustainable development.

The seminar covered a wide range of topics, including an introduction to green economy, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), circular economy business models and the policymaking process. These discussions provided an excellent platform for the participants to learn about the importance of transitioning to the green economy and the impact it can have on our planet.

During the seminar, students also played an exciting game called “Circula – The Circular Economy and Entrepreneurship Game”, which was developed with funding from the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. The game helped the participants to learn about the circular economy and entrepreneurship, which are essential aspects of the green economy.

In addition to these activities, the students also worked on creating posters for the Green Index for University/Schools/ Accommodation, which provided them with the opportunity to showcase their creativity and understanding of green economy concepts.

“The poster session was a great success, and the students presented their ideas with tremendous enthusiasm,” says Roksoliana Liubachivska. “We hope that these seminars have inspired our students to think more deeply about the importance of transitioning to a green economy and making a positive impact on our planet.”

Presentation: Survey on the “Situation and living conditions of refugees from Ukraine in Konstanz”

On 2 February, **Yeliena Kovalska (Visiting Fellow/History and Sociology)** presented the results of a survey she conducted in Konstanz on the **situation and living conditions of refugees from Ukraine in Konstanz**

Afterwards, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and for discussion, as well as to exchange and develop ideas. The results of the survey could be helpful for designing new measures and projects for refugees in the region. The event was organized by the International Office and the Zukunftskolleg.



WIAS 15th Anniversary Symposium: “Well-being in the time of uncertainty”

On 12-13 December 2022, the Waseda Institute for Advanced Study (WIAS) of Waseda University organized the WIAS 15th Anniversary Symposium “Well-being in the time of uncertainty” together with the Zukunftskolleg and the Institute for Advanced Research of Nagoya University.

At the symposium, WIAS members discussed the topic of “Well-being in the time of uncertainty” together with their guests and co-organizers, addressing aspects such as climate change, energy issues, natural disasters and food problems. They also shed light on the role of higher education institutions in meeting these challenges. The main target audience was researchers, but students were also encouraged to attend.

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The two-day symposium featured a programme of keynote lectures and roundtable discussions. Day 1 was dedicated to the sub-theme “Energy and Sustainability”, Day 2 to the sub-theme “Life”. The respective roundtable discussions addressed the following topics: “Energy Issues”, “Sustainable Society”, “Culture/Arts”, “Health and Security” and “Inclusive Society”. Researchers from the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities shared their knowledge across and beyond the boundaries of academic disciplines.

The programme with all the presentations can be downloaded here.

You can watch videos of all the lectures on YouTube.

If you would like to watch the presentations by Zukunftskolleg members:

Keynote speech on “Well-being in an animal society: thoughts about honeybee collectives – and comments on institutes for advanced studies” by Giovanni Galizia

Roundtable on “Culture/Arts”:
Presentation by Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature)

Roundtable on “Health & Security”:
Presentation by Udith Dematagoda (Alumnus/Literature)
Presentation by Ariane Bertogg (Postdoctoral Fellow/History and Sociology)



Roundtables:

“Academic Careers in Africa, Asia and Latin America”

At these roundtables in December 2022, the **expert knowledge of ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows** helped researchers from the University of Konstanz understand academic career paths in the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows' home countries. They provided in-depth knowledge on structural differences as well as subject-specific insights into local academic careers. Researchers from Konstanz were then better informed on how to read and understand applications from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Two simultaneous roundtables were organized – one in the social sciences and humanities (hosted by the Inequality Cluster) and one in STEM (hosted by the Collective Behaviour Cluster).

Organizers

Cluster of Excellence “The Politics of Inequality”, Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour and Zukunftskolleg



Workshop:

“Academic careers for postdoctoral researchers in Germany”

What does the German academic system expect from postdoctoral researchers? And what opportunities does it open up for a further academic career? This **information session** gave an overview of the career phase between doctoral degree and professorship: What are the requirements, what are typical career paths and what specifics of the German academic system should you know? The session combined input by **Mirjam Müller**, expert for postdoctoral careers at the University of Konstanz, with a Q&A session. This offer was available for all international researchers at the University of Konstanz.

Speaker

Mirjam Müller, Academic Staff Development Behaviour and Zukunftskolleg

Public Talk:

“Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room: Patterns and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana”

Abstract

Obstetric violence, conceptualized as the abuse and mistreatment of women during pregnancy and delivery, has been recognized as a threat to women's reproductive health. It is a major barrier to women's use of health facilities, increasing the risk of preventable complications and maternal mortality. Obstetric violence is particularly humiliating, reducing women's autonomy over their bodies and the reproductive process. Although the phenomenon is gaining worldwide attention, there is yet limited evidence of the depths and dynamics of obstetric violence in Ghana where maternal mortality is excessively high and skilled birthing is on a decline. This study interrogates the phenomenon from a wider perspective using a larger sample size of 2,164 to measure the magnitude and qualitative interviews to investigate the drivers. This public lecture aims to answer the following intriguing questions: What is the magnitude of obstetric violence in Ghana? How does obstetric violence manifest in Ghana and which categories of women are more vulnerable to abuse? Why do healthcare professionals abuse women? How is obstetric violence perceived by healthcare workers? Does gender inequality within health systems contribute to women's experiences of abuse?

Collaborators

Professor Anke Hoeffler, Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz
Dr Seth Christopher Aphiah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Moderator

Professor Kirsten Mahlke, Literature, Arts and Media Studies, University of Konstanz

Zukunftskolleg Day Trip

to the Zentrum für Kunst und Medien in Karlsruhe

On 4 November 2022, a group of Zukunftskolleg fellows went on a **Scientific Retreat to the Zentrum für Kunst und Medien (ZKM) in Karlsruhe.**

The ZKM is a cultural institution that gathers scientists and artists from all over the world to collaborate in practical-theoretical projects. The institution also has some of the largest collections of media arts in Europe, with a particular focus on computer and video art. The day trip to the museum was preceded by a lecture given on the previous day about museums of computing by Peter Krapp (University of California, Irvine), who is also a Senior Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg. The journey started early in the morning, with fellows arriving in Karlsruhe by train at around 13.00. After a pleasant time spent discussing and getting to know colleagues further during the train journey and lunch at the bistro in the foyer of the ZKM Café, the researchers attended guided tours through three of the main open exhibitions at the museums.

Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room



Patterns and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana

Public Lecture on 7 December 2022, 11:00–12:00 Y 326/Zoom

Obstetric violence, conceptualized as the abuse and mistreatment of women during pregnancy and delivery has been recognized as a threat to women's reproductive health. It is a major barrier to women's use of health facilities, increasing the risk of preventable complications and maternal mortality. Obstetric violence is particularly humiliating, reducing women's autonomy over their bodies and the reproductive process. Although the phenomenon is gaining worldwide attention, there is yet limited evidence of the depths and dynamics of obstetric violence in Ghana where maternal mortality is excessively high and skilled birthing is on a decline. This study interrogates the phenomenon from a wider perspective using a larger sample size of 2,164 to measure the magnitude and qualitative interviews to investigate the drivers. This public lecture aims to answer the following intriguing questions: What is the magnitude of obstetric violence in Ghana? How does obstetric violence manifest in Ghana and which categories of women are more vulnerable to abuse? Why do healthcare professionals abuse women? How is obstetric violence perceived by healthcare workers? Does gender inequality within health systems contribute to women's experiences of abuse?

Organizers:
Anke Hoeffler, Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz
Dr Seth Christopher Aphiah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Moderator:
Kirsten Mahlke, Literature, Arts and Media Studies, University of Konstanz

Collaborators:
Anke Hoeffler, Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz
Dr Seth Christopher Aphiah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

First was the exhibition “Walter Giers. Electronic Art”, which spanned the career of the German op-art pioneer, from his early works deconstructing radio equipment, passing through his experiences with computer sensors and body movements, showing also his idiosyncratic pieces of jewellery design. The interactive aspect of Giers’ artwork made it a particularly good start for a tour, as fellows were invited to experiment with some of the pieces. Even though some of the installations could not be repaired to their original state for the exhibition, the noisy technical experiments of most pieces made themselves heard during the nearly one-hour long walk through the guided exhibition.

Next was “Lazy Clouds”, the current exhibition of artist Soun-Gui Kim. In a completely different rhythm, the tour through the three main halls, which spanned different phases of the artist’s career, had a much more introverted feel, reflecting the conceptual approach of Kim to the poetic aspects of landscape and her attention to human experiences within natural and social environments. Fellows could follow the evolution of her visual work from the early video interventions in (and struggling with) traditional Korean art to her more recent renditions exploring the structural tensions and continuities between digital technology and traditional media practices.

During the guided tours, the participants had the opportunity to view some of the ateliers and workshops where artists and researchers develop their collaborative work at the ZKM. In the last tour, fellows had the opportunity to see how the “zkm_Gameplay” exhibition was curated. Dealing with the past of digital games, this exhibition presented a diverse selection of historical and creative works from the medium of video games. Within the tradition of ZKM as a media-oriented museum, the curatorial approach of “zkm_Gameplay” focused on the artistic and technical limits and possibilities of the medium through specific, canonical titles of the history of digital games until the present. Participants could also play some of these games, mostly by making use of emulators but also some original consoles arranged by the museum.

Before returning home, the fellows went for a walk together through Karlsruhe city centre, visiting the park of the Badisches Landesmuseum Karlsruhe before travelling back to Konstanz at night.



Public Talk:
“Is the Internet a Museum of Computing?”

Senior Fellow Peter Krapp (Dept. of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Irvine, USA) gave a public talk entitled **“Is the Internet a Museum of Computing?”** on 3 November 2022 at the University of Konstanz.

Abstract
 How does the computer get into the museum and when does the museum get into the computer? “Information technology constitutes the twist in the Möbius strip that takes us from arguments internal to a field (how is the past conceptualized in the case of a historical science) to its exterior (how is information about the past stored),” as Geof Bowker put it. Of course, the internet is not a museum in any conventional sense – but then computers are not conventional media either, and a range of scholars have argued that the internet may be the most apt way to assemble, consult, commemorate, and musealize what we know about computing. Inversely, we may wonder to what extent computer history museums actually do justice to computer history, from analogue and early digital machines to mainframes and to computer history, from analogue and early digital machines to mainframes and from minicomputers and microcomputers to the creation of decentralized networks, up to and including the history of the internet.



**Is the Internet a
Museum of Computing?**

Public Talk
 Thursday, 3 November 2022, 15:15–16:45, F 425

Peter Krapp, Department of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Irvine, USA
 How does the computer get into the museum and when does the museum get into the computer? “Information technology constitutes the twist in the Möbius strip that takes us from arguments internal to a field (how is the past conceptualized in the case of a historical science) to its exterior (how is information about the past stored),” as Geof Bowker put it. Of course the internet is not a museum in any conventional sense – but then computers are not conventional media either, and a range of scholars have argued that the internet may be the most apt way to assemble, consult, commemorate, and musealize what we know about computing. Inversely, we may wonder to what extent computer history museums actually do justice to computer history, from analogue and early digital machines to mainframes and from minicomputers and microcomputers to the creation of decentralized networks, up to and including the history of the internet.



A better understanding of ancient trade routes?



Story with digital content

From 12 to 14 June 2023, the interdisciplinary workshop “Animating ancient trade routes through primate lifeways” took place at the Zukunftskolleg – organized by Gisela H. Kopp (Research Fellow/Biology) and Nathaniel J. Dominy, Dartmouth College (Senior Fellow/Biology).



Gisela H. Kopp
Research Fellow/Biology



Nathaniel J. Dominy
Senior Fellow/Biology

The ancient trade of nonhuman primates is a topic at the intersection of Near Eastern archaeology, Egyptology and primatology – three fields that rarely interact due to the nature of our disciplinary silos. Yet, there is great promise in working across these subdivisions of anthropology, in merging the study of primate lifeways and afterlives. New knowledge related to primate ecology and life history can inform our understanding of ancient trade networks, whereas archaeological findings and investigations can shed new light on primate population structures and behaviours. Recent years have witnessed rapid advances in these areas, but always in isolation of each other, and progress towards knowledge integration is slow. Gisela Kopp and Nathaniel Dominy organized this workshop to bring together primatologists, biogeographers and archaeologists, with the aim of fostering scholarly exchange and future collaborations and of taking important steps towards a new, integrated research programme in anthropology that centres on primates in antiquity.



The first day of the workshop was devoted to the primate genus *Papio*, a recurring and ubiquitous motif in Ancient Egyptian art and culture. Dietmar Zinner (German Primate Centre, Göttingen) started with an introduction to baboon distribution and phylogeography, followed by Nathaniel Dominy (Dartmouth College, Hanover/US) who concentrated on specific behaviours of baboons that are mirrored in Egyptian art and might explain the deification of hamadryas baboons. Salima Ikram (American University in Cairo, Cairo/Egypt) provided an overview of the role of baboons and other nonhuman primates in Egyptian art, literature, society and religion. Renee Friedman (University of Oxford, Oxford/UK) presented the baboon burials in the elite Predynastic cemetery at Hierakonpolis, Egypt (c. 3700-3600BC) and Wim Van Neer (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Leuven/Belgium) reconstructed the living conditions of captive baboons based on palaeopathological and demographic data. Gisela Kopp (University of Konstanz) presented evidence of the geographic origin of mummified baboons from ancient DNA analysis. This was followed by intensive discussions on baboons in antiquity, challenges, open questions and future avenues.

The second day focused on the genus *Macaca*, with an overview of macaque biogeography, palaeobiology and palaeoecology by Sarah Elton (Durham University, Durham/UK) and an introduction to the radiation of macaques out of Africa from a genetic perspective by Christian Roos (German Primate Centre, Göttingen). Claudia Minniti (University of Salento, Lecce/Italy) presented the burial of a rhesus macaque in the third millennium BC at Shahr-i Sokhta (Iran), and Bernardo Urbani (German Primate Centre, Göttingen) reviewed worldwide archaeoprimatological evidence and examined past trends of human-nonhuman primate interfaces. In the afternoon, a scientific excursion took the participants to Affenberg Salem. They observed semi-free-ranging Barbary macaques in the park, learnt from Roland and Mamisoulou Hilgartner about Barbary macaque biology and conservation, and were informed about the outreach efforts of Affenberg Salem. The participants brainstormed and developed ideas on how to structure and design potential outreach exhibitions at Affenberg Salem to inform visitors about primates in antiquity.

The third day of the workshop concentrated on methodological approaches. Gabe Bowen (University of Utah, Salt Lake City/US) showed how migration and trade routes can be reconstructed using naturally occurring geographic variation in the distribution of different stable isotopes across landscapes. The presentation by Sireen El Zaatari (University of Tübingen) focused on dental surfaces as indicators of diet, ecology and translocation events during development. Laura Epp (University of Konstanz) focused on ancient environmental DNA, in particular sedimentary DNA, to investigate the past distributions of species and populations and George Perry (Pennsylvania State University, State College/US) gave an overview of ancient DNA research in nonhuman primates. The afternoon was devoted to an interactive workshop on promising avenues to study primates in antiquity and the development and establishment of future collaborations.

The exchange of expertise during the workshop proved to be extremely valuable, with many shared interests emerging. Exciting questions were defined by the participants and main challenges identified. The results from the workshop will be compiled into a perspective article co-authored by the participants, focusing on how the study of primates in antiquity can inform about the causes and outcomes of human-nonhuman primate interactions. To maintain the scientific bonds created during the workshop, we aim to acquire further funding in order to establish a scientific network around the topic of primates in antiquity.

This workshop was funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, with co-funding from the Zukunftskolleg and an internationalization grant from the International Office of the University of Konstanz (part of the overall strategy "University of Konstanz – creative.together" and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg in the framework of Germany's Excellence Strategy).

"We would like to acknowledge the support of Sigrid Elmer and Michael Krauß in organizing this workshop and the help of the student assistants Hanna Rohr, Livia Hofmann, Hanna Seidel and Edyta Kurzawa," says Gisela Kopp.



Want some interdisciplinarity?



Story with digital content

Tuesday is an important day in the
Zukunftskolleg's calendar: **it is Jour fixe day.**

The Jour fixe is the weekly session for all
fellows, where they discuss the progress of
their work, present results, share and encounter
questions from other disciplines and explore
possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.
The Jour fixe sessions take place during the
semester on Tuesdays.

Here you can see all Jour fixe presentations
that took place in the past year:

Jour fixe in the **2022/2023 winter semester**

25.10.2022

"Poster Session"

Our eight current ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows (2022 cohort) gave a poster session followed by a small reception. The poster session was opened by Dorothea Debus (Vice Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity), followed by a short round of lightning talks, in which each of the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows presented their research topic to the audience, followed by their posters.

08.11.2022

"Urban and Sustainable Development"

The Mayor of Konstanz, Uli Burchardt, visited the Zukunftskolleg and discussed urban and sustainable development with us.

The agenda for the Jour fixe was as follows:

15.15: Brief welcome by the Rector of the University of Konstanz, Katharina Holzinger

15.20: Brief statement by Mayor Uli Burchardt

15.25: Short presentation of the Zukunftskolleg by Giovanni Galizia

15.35: Presentation by Research Fellow Gruia Badescu: "Research and urban development"

15.55: Presentation by Visiting Fellow Tetyana Nikolaychuck: "Post-war sustainable development in Ukraine"

16.15: Short presentation by Visiting Fellow Yeliena Kovalska of the results of a survey among refugees from Ukraine together with Caritas Konstanz

16.30: Discussion

15.11.2022

CAT group of Manuel Spitschan (Technical University of Munich, Germany)

"The impact of light on human health – Current perspectives"

Presenters

Laura Kervezee, Leiden University (Netherlands)
Renske Lok, Stanford University (USA)
Elise McGlashan, Monash University (Australia)

Raymond Najjar, National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Manuel Spitschan, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

Abstract

From synchronizing our circadian rhythms to the external light-dark cycle to controlling ocular growth, light has a profound impact on human physiology and behaviour. Some of these effects are mediated by a set of cells that were only discovered in the late 1990s – the so-called intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells. The "Light and Human Health" group funded by the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) programme of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS) brings together diverse interdisciplinary perspectives. In this talk, the group presented recent highlights from its work.

22.11.2022

"New Visiting Fellows from Ukraine"

Four of our Visiting Fellows from Ukraine gave a presentation:

Yeliena Kovalska (History and Sociology)

Roksoliana Liubachivska (Politics and Public Administration)

Maryna Lytvyn (Economics)

Kateryna Osadcha (Computer Science/Economics Education)

Yeliena Kovalska's talk was entitled "Use of factorial design to determine the significance of personal social status characteristics (according to the Adapted for Ukraine Warner's Status Characteristics Index)".

Abstract

The Adapted Warner's Index consists of four characteristics: Occupation, Income, Condition of the accommodation and Area of residence. The weight of the characteristics in the formula was calculated as a result of an expert (in the field of stratification of the Ukrainian society) survey. To check the correctness of the weight of characteristics in the formula for calculating the Adapted Warner's Index, using the factorial design method is proposed. Combining the potential of factorial design with the possibilities of social status measuring methods

has a promising cognitive potential. The Adapted Warner's Index, due to its scale-based structure, makes it possible to operationalize social status in terms of factorial design. All the Adapted Warner's Index characteristics can be redesigned to factors, and scales can be redesigned to levels.

Roksoliana Liubachivska spoke about "Ukraine's Energy Independence: the roadmap for recovery and energy security".

Abstract

Energy security is critical to sustaining the state's economic functioning and prosperity. It is also an important component of residents' quality of life and one of the key factors for returning temporarily displaced people to their homes. Furthermore, when Ukraine recovers, energy should become one of the important sectors that generates export income and contributes to the country's financial stability. An informed approach to modernizing Ukraine's energy would enable Ukraine to make a substantial contribution to safeguarding the EU's strategic autonomy and lowering the bloc's reliance on foreign energy supplies. This win-win strategy will hasten Ukraine's entry into the EU. The last six months were the most challenging in the history of Ukraine's independence for the Ukrainian energy industry. Such a destruction of energy infrastructure, seizure, bombing of nuclear power plants has never happened before. The primary goal of recovery is to create a stable and modern energy industry that attracts investment and provides Ukrainian consumers with clean, affordable and reliable energy, and relies on responsible domestic energy production development. The key direction is devoted to clean energy, namely renewable energy.

Maryna Lytvyn talked about "Global Challenges of Sustainable Development of the World Economy".

Abstract

The research aims to prepare Ukraine for adjustment to the European Union. Germany's experience in implementing policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be used for Ukraine. In November 2020, the ministers of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) signed the Rome Communiqué, which highlights the key role of higher education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations and focuses attention on the support and the development of the higher education institutions' ability and capacity to prepare their students for "green" work and other activities to achieve the SDGs. The following objectives will be formulated in the research: to discuss and summarize the best practices of promoting

SDGs, to identify how German universities consider SDGs in their policies, to develop recommendations for quality assurance systems regarding SDG achievement in Ukraine in the context of global challenges.

Kateryna Osadcha's presentation was on "Digital design trends and their influence on the training of designers: the experience of blended learning in the conditions of war in Ukraine".

Abstract

Modern digital art is rapidly developing and penetrating many spheres of human activity, capturing positions in the design of books, posters, advertising products, the computer game industry and cinema. Innovative areas of digital design are currently augmented and virtual reality, 3D art, cybernetic art, the art of artificial intelligence, media art, space modelling for virtual simulators, fractal graphics, digital painting, web design, character design, etc. Studying all these modern digital design technologies should be part of the professional training of future designers.

During the quarantine restrictions imposed by the increased incidence of influenza (until 2019) and the coronavirus epidemic (after 2019) and during the military aggression of Russia in Ukraine, the problem of organizing the educational process using blended, distance and e-learning technologies has become even more relevant.

How can the training of future designers be implemented in such conditions? This will be not only a discussion but also a practical example.

29.11.2022

CAT group of Damian Blasi (Harvard University, USA)
"Challenges for the development of fair language-based assessments of health, education, behaviour, and beyond"

Presenters

Damian Blasi (PI – Harvard University, USA – Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Germany)

Joseph P. Dexter (Harvard University, USA)

Amber Gayle Thalmayer (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Camila Scaff (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Adolfo Martin Garcia (University of Santiago of Chile, Chile)

Abstract

Linguistic behaviour serves as a reliable, inexpensive and increasingly automated resource to assess different aspects of individuals and societies. Speech helps detect incipient health issues; newspaper corpora are used to identify stereotypes and societal biases; and wordlists are the basis for determining verbal development. However, these and other relevant developments (which we label language-based assessments or LanBAs) have been concocted, tested and deployed primarily on a handful of large and commercially central languages, with English dominating the scene. Since the 6,500 extant languages can and do vary substantially, transferring LanBAs from English to them is fraught with technical and linguistic challenges. The consequences of this bias, which the CAT group is only starting to understand, is that users of minority languages have at their disposal more expensive, less efficient and potentially biased LanBAs. A novel source of worldwide inequity looms large across multiple social arenas.



06.12.2022

Executive Committee Election + Presentations by new Visiting Fellows (online)

In the first part, the Assembly of Members (2-year Fellows, 5-year Fellows, Senior Fellows and other fellows) elected one new member to the Executive Committee – replacing Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Literature/Politics and Public Administration) from January 2023. Re-election/a 2nd term of office for Abena were possible. The election was held in person and online.

After the election – when all Associated Fellows, Visiting Fellows, ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows were allowed to join the Jour fixe, two of our (online) Visiting Fellows from Ukraine gave a presentation:

Nataliia Pyzhianova (History and Sociology) talked about “Transcultural migration of elements of song-ritual folklore in Eastern and Central Europe” and Anatolii Koval (Philosophy) presented his project “Study of types of intelligence. New challenges for the intellect during the war in Ukraine”.

Abstract of Anatolii Koval’s talk

This project is aimed at the study of intelligence (starting from the theory of multiple intelligences of G. Gardner) and ways of adaptation of a person in their professional and personal life, especially in stressful conditions (such as war).

In this project, Anatolii would like to delve deeper into not only Gardner’s concept but also other authors and theories of intelligence (Craig Adams, Ian J. Deary, Mark M. Lowenthal, R. Keith Sawyer, Vera John-Steiner, Seana Moran, Robert J. Sternberg, David Henry Feldman, and others) and use their research for his goals.

This research will be useful for preparing children and students for the right choice of their main activity (profession) and to reconcile this activity with their type of intelligence.

In sum, his goal is to create a seminar for teachers, which would be based on current advances in the study of intelligence and its types. He is planning to present this seminar to Ukrainian teachers and educationalists. This will help them better understand themselves and their students in order to be more effective, especially in such difficult times.

13.12.2022

Itay Kavalier (Postdoctoral Fellow/Philosophy & Mathematics and Statistics)

“The Speed of Bounded Rationality. Nash Players Take Longer to Stumble”

Abstract

In the classical herding model, asymptotic learning refers to situations where individuals eventually take the correct action regardless of their private information. Classical results identify classes of information structures for which such learning occurs. Recent papers have argued that it typically takes a very long time, even when asymptotic learning occurs. In this paper, related questions are referred. He has studied whether there is a natural information structure representation for which the time it takes until individuals learn is uniformly bounded from above. Indeed, he proposes a simple bi-parametric criterion that defines the information structure representation and, on top of that, computes the time by which individuals learn (with high probability) for any pair of parameters.

Namely, Itay identified a family of structure representations where individuals learn uniformly fast. The underlying technical tool he deployed was a uniform convergence result on a newly introduced class of weakly active supermartingales. This result extends an earlier result of Fudenberg and Levine on active supermartingales.

20.12.2022

Peter Krapp (University of California – Irvine, Senior Fellow at the ZukunftsKolleg)

“Overheating media: gaming in the cloud and the thermal entanglements of digital infrastructure”

Abstract

Digital media have long been imagined as ephemeral, immaterial and cold, all adjectives which are given even more impulse through the metaphors often used to explain outsourced, synchronous networked computing – “the cloud”. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive observation of the technical infrastructure supporting online entertainment platforms can help to grasp how media are already always entangling technical and natural systems. In this talk, Peter looked at data centres, the physical facilities that organizations employ to house data and critical digital applications, as cultural techniques which are used, among numerous other things, to store and process data for emerging, energy-intensive streaming services, such as cloud gaming. A number of examples were provided as a basis for discussing how infrastructure providers geoe engineer natural resources into utilities able to keep server

farms running 24/7, triggering existing conflicts and contradictions and posing new challenges to the claims of environmental sustainability which are often raised by this same industry. As an introductory talk, this presentation sought to sketch an initial framework to discuss how the technical management of temperature in these strategic facilities sets the conditions for the seemingly continuous circulation of media through service-based models increasingly adapted to the principles of the platform economy.

10.01.2023

Valeria Vegh Weis (Research Fellow/Law & Literature)

“Criminalization of Activism”

Abstract

The presentation explored the content of the book “Criminalization of Activism” edited by Valeria herself and published by Routledge last year. The book draws on a multiplicity of perspectives and case studies from the Global South and the Global North to show how protest has been subject to processes of criminalization over time. Contributors are scholars and activists from different disciplinary backgrounds, with a balance between authors from the Global North and the Global South. The introduction written by Valeria framed the topic within critical criminology while also highlighting the possible disciplinary approaches and definitions of criminalization of resistance/activism. The introduction also investigated the particularities of the current times in comparison to dynamics of criminalization in prior stages of capitalism, as well as the connections between historical criminology, indigenous studies, gender studies, critical criminology, southern criminology and green criminology for a comprehensive understanding of how dissent has been and continues to be the target of the criminal justice system on both sides of the Equator.

17.01.2023

James Wilson (Postdoctoral Fellow/History and Sociology)

“Colonialism, the ‘Counter-Crusade’ and the early development of Crusader studies”

Abstract

Colonial era legacies and epistemological practices remain hugely influential in a number of academic disciplines. Even today, many Crusade historians remain reliant on a series of nineteenth-century French translations of medieval Arabic texts. Yet despite the involvement of their orientalist editors in European colonial projects, no consideration has been given to how these translations – which can be found in the footnotes of most books (and Wikipedia entries) on the Crusades – were compiled. In light of this, it is worth

checking whether these translations were imbued with the orientalist zeitgeist of the nineteenth century. Through evaluation of the underlying editorial process (text selections, omissions and the translation of specific terminology), it is possible to assess the extent to which colonial era attitudes have informed modern engagement with these texts and our understanding of the historical roots of Christian-Muslim relations more broadly.

24.01.2023

Anamaria Bentea (Research Fellow/Linguistics)

“Cross-linguistic influence in multilingual children and adults”

Abstract

Heritage speakers are individuals who have learned a language at home as children, their heritage language. This language differs from the main language spoken in the community they live in. To date, little is known about how heritage speakers process the heritage language in real time and whether they can make use of language-specific properties to correctly interpret complex linguistic structures. By focusing on Romanian in contact with German and English, Anamaria examined whether heritage speakers of Romanian use morphosyntactic information when comprehending language input in real time similarly to Romanian monolinguals and to what extent the presence or absence of similar grammatical information in the dominant second language modulates comprehension and production in the heritage language.



31.01.2023

Anna Stöckl (Research Fellow/Biology)

“An insect’s perspective on flowers – from inspection to pattern recognition”

Abstract

Insects’ visual systems perform remarkable feats, extending in sensitivity to dim starlight and rapidly processing complex temporal and spatial stimuli. Their output provides the basis for intricate locomotor control, as well as crucial behavioural decisions. This is exemplified by insect pollinators, which inspect and choose between suitable flowers, using features such as colour, shape or patterns to decide which flowers to approach. The neural basis underlying these abilities sheds light on the efficient processing strategies implemented in their miniature brains and provides a model for robust visuo-motor control. Anna presented data from current projects on the role of patterns for flower inspection in hawkmoths and bees, and introduced how they plan to unravel the neural basis of pattern recognition in the insect brain.

07.02.2023

Ana del Arco (former Associated Fellow/Biology)

“Evolution of microbial communities: is the enemy of my enemy my friend?”

Abstract

Microbe-host associations are a defence strategy against pathogens. They are widespread from unicellular organisms to humans. Focusing on host-virus interactions and associated microbes interfering in virus replication, we find virophages. Virophages are virus-dependent, meaning that virophage replication depends on their parasitism on virus virion factory to produce their own virions. Consequently, virus production decreases or is inhibited, which leads to a higher survival rate in host populations. Ana used a model system consisting of host-virus virophage (Cafeteria burkhardae-CroV-Mavirus). Little is known about virophage replication and reactivation. This is crucial to understanding under which conditions this protection of the natural host population by the virophage can inhibit virus infection and prevent an epidemic in the host population. Her aim was to contribute to filling in this gap of unknown conditions for virophage reactivation and its impact on virus replication and host population survival.

Jour fixe in the 2023 summer semester

25.04.2023

“Welcome to the summer semester 2023 & Executive Committee election”

In the first part, the Assembly of Members (2-year Fellows, 5-year Fellows, Senior Fellows and other fellows) elected one new member to the Executive Committee – replacing Ariane Bertogg (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of History and Sociology) from May 2023. Re-election/a 2nd term of office for Ariane were possible. After the election – when all Associated Fellows, Visiting Fellows, Senior Fellows, ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows were allowed to join the Jour fixe, we welcomed our new members, heard a short report on the workshop with the Martin Buber Society in Jerusalem that took place in the week of 18-21 April as well as several announcements, and then there was time for discussions.

02.05.2023

Daniel Skibra (Postdoctoral Fellow/Philosophy)

“Reassessing Desire for Mode and Content”

Abstract

In philosophy, it is common to categorize mental states, such as beliefs, desires, doubts, intentions, etc., as “propositional attitudes”. A central motivation for this framing is that these kinds of psychological attitudes seem to relate subjects to a certain kind of representational object, like a proposition. (Why to a representational object and not to objects that figure in the attitudes themselves? Because we can have beliefs and desires about things that do not exist, like, for example, when I believe that Santa Claus visited my house at the stroke of midnight last night, or when I want to ride a unicorn.)

Clearly, the manner in which we represent something when we believe it is the case is different from the way we represent something when we want it to be the case. In the standard story about propositional attitudes, this difference is captured by the notion of the “mode” – the relation we have to the content when we have a particular attitude. The principal difference between modes is usually cashed out in terms of “direction of fit”. When I believe that Santa just landed on my roof, I aim for my representation to fit the world (and change my belief when it doesn’t), but when I want Santa to visit my house, by contrast, the goal is for the world to fit my representation and I tend to change the world (in a limited way, of course) when it doesn’t.

In his talk, Daniel discussed several ways in which we talk and reason about desires, as exhibited by our practices of ascribing them to others, and revealed several features about them which are manifestly different from belief – features which cannot simply be chalked up to a difference in direction of fit. He has two aims in presenting these data.

The first aim is to suggest that the way we represent something in desire is different from attitudes such as belief. If we want to say that my belief that P or my desire that P relates me to a proposition, such talk should be attenuated. Secondly, he also has a methodological point to press, which is to make the case that these data do actually tell us something about desire and its objects, and not simply about language.

09.05.2023

Angelo Di Bernardo (Research Fellow/Physics)

“New approaches to low-dissipation superconducting logics”

Abstract

The key element of conventional metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) electronics, which underlies the functioning of any modern computer, is a three-terminal device called a transistor. In a transistor, the current of electron charges flowing through a small constriction of the device is controlled via a voltage, which is applied with an electrode very close (i.e. within a distance of a few tens of nanometres) to the constriction. Through the gate voltage, the resistance of the transistor is varied between two states, which makes it possible to encode the two bits (‘1’ and ‘0’) on which our computer logics relies.

It has been recently discovered that the superconducting equivalent of such an effect [1-19], which had remained unknown for years, can also be realized: applying a gate voltage to a superconducting constriction, it is possible to switch its state between a null-resistance and a non-null resistance value. This effect has raised great interest because it can lead to the development of superconducting logics, which is the superconducting equivalent of CMOS logics.

In this talk, Angelo described the physics of the effect and the work that he is currently carrying out with the support of an EU-funded FET-Open programme called ‘SuperGate’, led by the University of Konstanz with the aim of developing a disruptive technology based on gate-controlled superconducting devices.

16.05.2023

Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature)

“Wilde’s Heirs: Queer Icons, Queer Culture, and the Nation in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries” in the framework of the International Day Against Homophobia on 17 May

Abstract

Wilde’s Heirs: Queer Icons, Queer Culture, and the Nation in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries constitutes a critical historical investigation of ‘queer icons’ in the arts and popular culture; ‘queer’ meaning same-sex desiring and/or overtly gender nonconforming. Although this abstract employs the term queer as shorthand, the presentation took care to use culturally and historically specific labels concerning gender and sexual identities where appropriate.

Drawing partially from historian Geoffrey Cubitt’s (2000) definition of heroes, Jacob defined a queer icon as a cultural figure who has not only achieved fame among queer observers, but a figure whom queer observers have endowed with an extraordinary, symbolic significance marked by collective emotional investment. The presentation examined an international cohort of well-known figures who are seen as queer icons today, such as musician Little Richard, Turkish singers Zeki Müren and Bülent Ersoy, Japanese actor Akihiro Miwa, Finnish artist Tom of Finland, and Chinese dancer Jin Xing. A critical commonality among the queer icons investigated in Wilde’s Heirs is that, like Anglo-Irish writer Oscar Wilde in the British context, they have all been embraced as nationally significant figures. This process has occurred in spite of – or sometimes because of – their gender and/or sexual nonconformity. For example, Müren received a state funeral, Finnish postage stamps have honoured Tom of Finland, and Miwa has featured in a Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare anti-tobacco campaign.

Drawing from these case studies, Wilde’s Heirs addresses the following questions: What makes someone a queer icon in the first place? Have queer icons who have achieved national acclaim done so because of or in spite of their sexual and gender identities? When queer icons have achieved national acclaim, has that helped the wider queer community?

23.05.2023

Philip Welch (Senior Fellow/Mathematics/University of Bristol, UK)

“Different kinds of infinity”

Abstract:

On 12 December 1873, Georg Cantor discovered that there was more than one kind of infinity. This went against the grain of contemporary orthodoxy, and his ideas took some while to work their way through to the mainstream. By 1900, David Hilbert, who was probably the late nineteenth century’s greatest mathematician, was championing Cantor, later saying that “Nobody can drive us from the Paradise that Cantor has created”. Together with the fellows, he briefly looked at the background here from the Greeks onwards and saw how Cantor’s argument works.

30.05.2023

Johanna Vogt (Quality Management/University of Konstanz)

“Presentation of results of funding programme evaluation”

Johanna Vogt (Quality Management / University of Konstanz) presented the results of the evaluation of the Zukunftskolleg’s funding programmes (e.g. Mentorship, Independent Research Grant, Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects, Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching, Intersectoral Cooperation).

13.06.2023

Carolin Antos-Kuby (Research Fellow/Philosophy)

“Enabling interdisciplinary research – A philosophical perspective”

Abstract

Interdisciplinary research is highly valued for its potential for innovative insight and scientific progress. At the same time, it can be frustrating for scientists to do such research as it is prone to failure in collaborative settings. In this talk, Carolin wanted to explore these aspects by focusing on the epistemic and cognitive resources needed to enable successful interdisciplinary research. She described several aspects of integrating linguistic, cognitive and epistemic frameworks from different disciplines. This can explain the difficulties that interdisciplinary research faces and shows a way forward in supporting local and global interdisciplinarity.

20.06.2023

“Honeybee Excursion”

Giovanni Galizia gave a talk on bees to answer the question: “Do honeybees dream?”. After the talk, the group walked to the biology department and had a look at the bee hives and at the Galizia laboratory.

27.06.2023

Liliana Abreu (Associated Fellow/Politics and Public Administration)

“Breaking the cycle: Pioneering a Global Mental Health Approach to End Violence”

Abstract:

Violence is a complex and pervasive issue affecting individuals, families and communities worldwide. To address this multifaceted problem effectively, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive approach that goes beyond traditional law enforcement and criminal justice measures. This presentation explored the concept of preventing violence not only through a public health lens but also through the emergent field of research and practice: global mental health. The focus of this work lies in research on violence, its negative social and psychological impact and how we may be able to counter this. Causes of violence are multi-faceted – high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion of a significant proportion of the population stand out as major causes and, therefore, offending and detention are also high. How to begin to cope with the mental health burden, violent victimization and continuous recidivism is an urgent question. A preliminary study conducted in Brazil in 2022 was presented.

Afterwards, Maryna Lytvyn (Visiting Fellow/doctoral researcher in economics/Dnipro University of Technology, Ukraine) spoke about “Researching the activities of German universities in achieving the SDGs”.

Abstract

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, presents a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, today and in the future. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the core of it, which are an urgent call for action by all nations – developed and developing – in a global partnership. The results of the survey were presented. The survey was conducted for the purpose of researching the activities of German universities in achieving the SDGs. Participants of the survey are representatives of the University of Konstanz.

04.07.2023

“Executive Committee election and presentation by Daniela Rößler”

In the first part (15.15 – approx. 15.35), the Assembly of Members (2-year Fellows, 5-year Fellows, Senior Fellows and other fellows) elected three new members to the Executive Committee – replacing Violeta Ivanova-Rohling (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Physics) from July 2023 and Gruia Badescu (Research Fellow/Dept. of History and Sociology) and Noelia Martinez Doallo (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Law) from October 2023. Re-election/a 2nd term of office for Noelia were possible. Gruia and Violeta have already served two terms on the EC.

After the election (at about 15.35/15.40) – when all Associated Fellows, Visiting Fellows, Senior Fellows, ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows, etc. were allowed to join the Jour fixe, Daniela Rößler (Postdoctoral Fellow/Biology) reported on “REM sleep-like state in spiders – are they dreaming?!?”

Abstract

Sleep is thought to be a universal behaviour across the animal kingdom. However, shockingly little is known about the evolution and function of sleep, and different phases of sleep. We recently discovered a sleep-like state in jumping spiders with astounding parallels to REM (rapid eye movement) sleep in vertebrates. By observing juvenile spiders that are temporarily translucent, we found evidence for a REM sleep-like state: periodic bouts of retinal movements coupled with limb twitching and stereotyped leg curling behaviours during nocturnal resting. That these characteristic REM sleep-like behaviours exist in a highly visual, long-diverged lineage challenges our understanding of this sleep state. At the same time, this finding may hold important questions and answers about the origin, evolution and function of REM sleep.

What happened after publishing this research? The media happened! Since REM sleep in humans is the phase associated with the most intense and narrative dreaming, the most urgent question that the media asked was whether spiders dream and, if so, what they are dreaming about. In order to address this question, we need to consider a potential adaptive function of dreaming that may apply to other, if not all, animals. Daniela talked a little about the limits but also possibilities of future research in this direction, as well as sharing her experience with the flood of media inquiries and what she has learned from this quite overwhelming experience.

Read more about her media experiences in the chapter „Just a dream?“.

11.07.2023

Raghavendra Gadagkar (Senior Fellow and member of the Scientific Advisory Board/DST Year of Science Chair Professor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

“Can we understand an insect society, and why should we care?”

Abstract

Many species of insects, such as ants, bees and wasps, organize themselves into societies comprising a few fertile queens and many sterile workers. Displaying features such as conflict, cooperation, altruism, division of labour, communication and much more, they parallel and sometimes surpass human societies. In this talk, he described our attempts to use observations and experiments to understand the workings of one such tropical insect society, the Indian paper wasp *Ropalidia marginata*, and reflected on why we should care about understanding them.

Leave it or change it?



Story with digital content

In 2023, the Zukunftskolleg's management commissioned the Staff Unit Quality Assurance of the University of Konstanz to evaluate the five funding instruments at the Zukunftskolleg for postdoctoral researchers: (1) Mentorship, (2) Independent Research Grant, (3) Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects Programme, (4) Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme and (5) Intersectoral Cooperation Programme. The focus of the evaluation was more on the perspective of postdoctoral researchers in the departments of the University of Konstanz who are not fellows at the Zukunftskolleg and less on the perspective of the funded fellows of the Zukunftskolleg. The nature of the evaluation was primarily formative and intended as a means of making data-based decisions for possible changes to the above-mentioned funding instruments. The guiding questions of the evaluation were:

1. How do early career researchers at the University of Konstanz assess the funding instruments of the Zukunftskolleg for postdoctoral researchers? What changes would they like to see in the existing funding instruments?

2. Are there overlaps to funding instruments of other units at the University of Konstanz (e.g. Committee on Research, International Office, Equal Opportunities Office) and if yes, which kind of overlaps?

3. Which additional funding instruments are interesting for early career researchers?

For the evaluation, quantitative as well as qualitative research methods were applied. The evaluation was based on the following sources of data and data collection methods:

- Document analysis (calls for funding, website of the University of Konstanz)
- User statistics provided by the Zukunftskolleg
- Postdoc Survey 2023 (number of responses with regard to the specific items 53 – 146)
- Five semi-structured interviews with administrative staff responsible for funding instruments (International Office, Equal Opportunities Office, Research Support, clusters)
- One focus group interview with two early career researchers who used at least one Zukunftskolleg funding instrument + one additional written feedback report from a participant who could not attend the focus group

Assessment of funding instruments

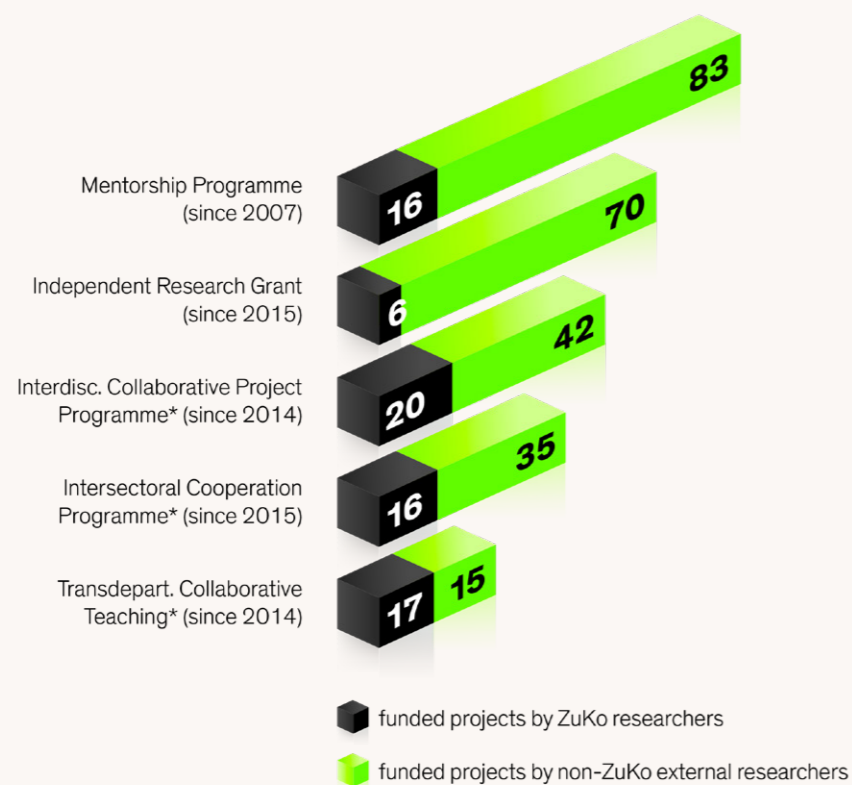


Figure 1: Use of Zukunftscolleg Funding Instruments

Source: User statistics provided by the Zukunftscolleg

* Absolute number of all leading project members (duplications if the programme was used more than once)

Figure 1 shows how often and by whom the different Zukunftscolleg funding instruments were used. In sum, 245 postdoctoral researchers not affiliated to the Zukunftscolleg profited from its funding instruments. In 2021 and 2022, around 7% of all postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz received funding from the Zukunftscolleg. In the period since 2014, the Independent Research Grant was the funding instrument with the highest number of users (n = 53). Least frequently used was the Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme (n = 15).

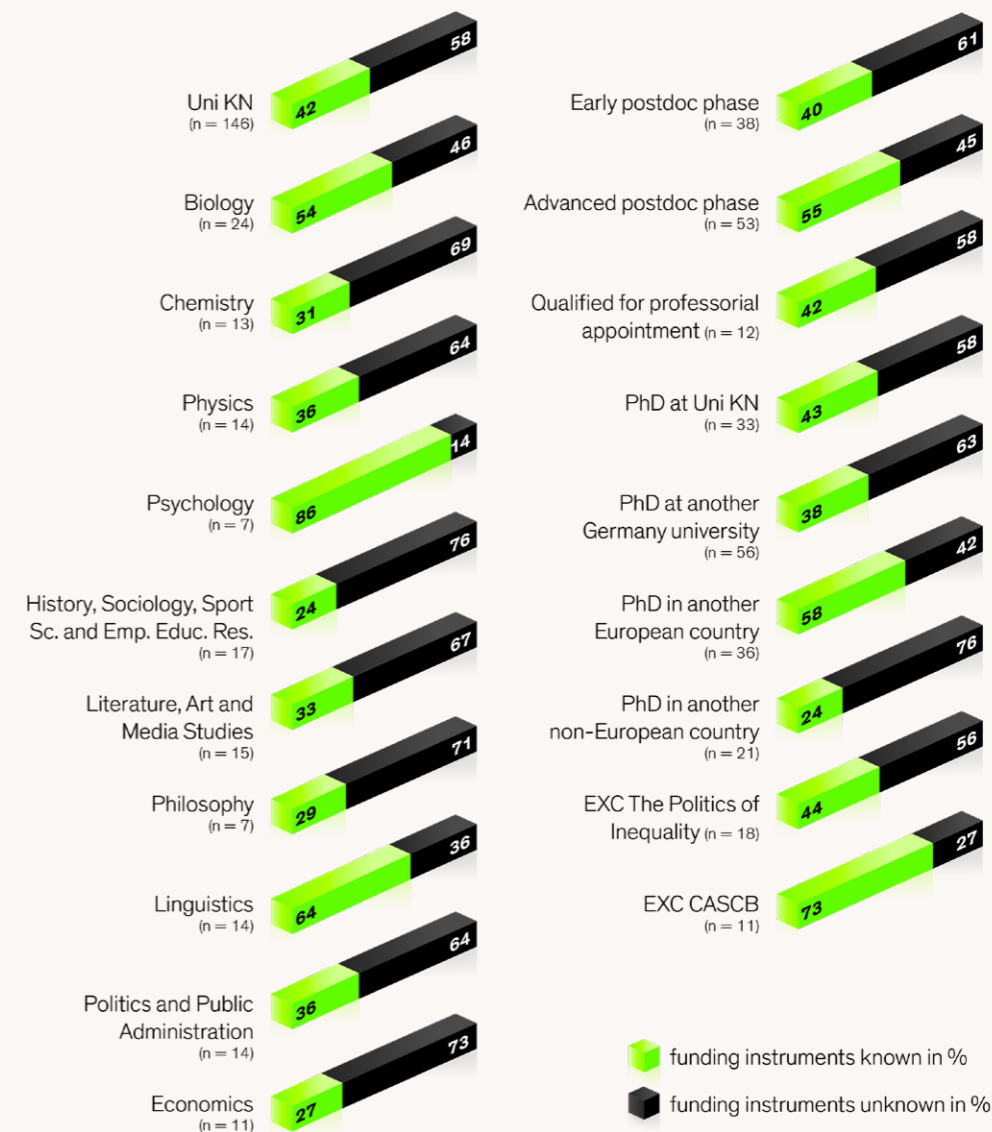


Figure 2: Awareness of Zukunftscolleg Funding Instruments

Source: Postdoc Survey 2023, filter: People who are not members of or affiliated to the Zukunftscolleg
Question: „Do you know about Zukunftscolleg funding instruments (e. g. Mentorship, Independent Research Grant)?“ (Illustration: Frequency of mentions in %)

In the Postdoc Survey 2023, the respondents who were not affiliated to the Zukunftscolleg as fellows had to answer the question whether they know its funding instruments (see Figure 2). The results clearly show that the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments are not sufficiently known among postdoctoral researchers outside the Zukunftscolleg. 42% of the respondents stated that they know the funding instruments. A more detailed data analysis shows major differences between subjects (Psychology: 86% know ZuKo funding instruments (n = 7), History, Sociology, Sport Science, Empirical Education Research: 24% (n = 17)). In addition, awareness of the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments is rather high among researchers in the advanced postdoctoral phase (55%), among postdoctoral researchers from European countries other than Germany (58%) and especially among postdoctoral researchers in the Collective Behaviour cluster (73%). Nevertheless, the small numbers must be taken into account (see Figure 2).

Assessment of funding instruments

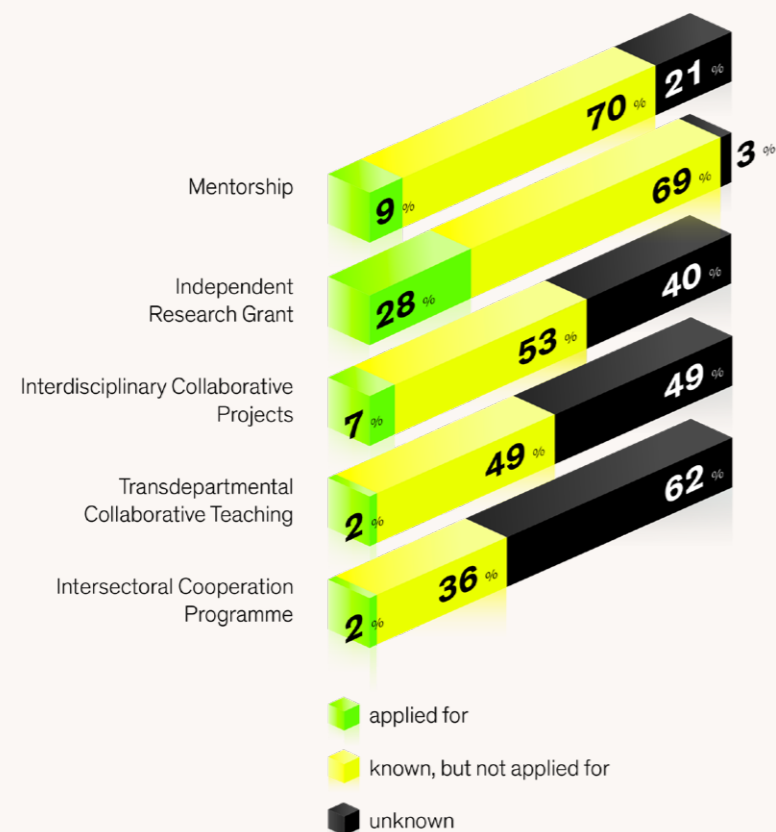


Figure 3: Use and Awareness of Zukunftscolleg Funding Instruments

Source: PostdocSurvey 2023, filter: People who are not members of or affiliated to the Zukunftscolleg
 Question: „Which of the following Zukunftscolleg funding instruments do you know about and which ones have you already applied for?“ (Illustration: Frequency of mentions in %)
 Number of cases: University of Konstanz: n = 53 - 58

In a follow-up question, those researchers who said they knew about Zukunftscolleg funding instruments were asked which one(s) they are aware of and which one(s) they have applied for (see Figure 3). The answers to these questions show a rather close similarity to the user statistics presented above (see Figure 1). Nearly all knew the Independent Research Grant and almost 80% knew the Mentorship Programme. Less than 50% were aware of the Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme or the Intersectoral Cooperation Programme. A more detailed analysis of the various programmes shows that there are some differences between the different groups of people. For example, the Mentorship Programme is least known in the two clusters (Inequality: 57%, Collective Behaviour: 63%) and is most frequently used in the departments of Faculty 2 (18%), among German researchers (14%) and among researchers who earned their doctoral degree in Konstanz (18%). The Independent Research Grant is of special interest for early career researchers in Faculty 1 (34% applied) – researchers in Faculty 3 applied less frequently (13%) and none of the researchers of the “Inequality” cluster applied for it. Data analysis also reveals that only a small minority (5%) applied for more than one funding format.

In the focus group interview, all interview partners knew that there were more funding programmes at the Zukunftscolleg than the one(s) they had experienced themselves. However, they were not able to name all five programmes (correctly) or describe these programmes in detail. The information on the programmes presented on the Zukunftscolleg website was assessed as sufficient. One out of three persons explained that they had learned about the funding instruments at the time of applying for the University of Konstanz. The additional funding by the Zukunftscolleg was perceived as positive for Konstanz as a location. **This indicates that the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments can be an attractor for the University of Konstanz in terms of the recruitment of excellent researchers.**

Experiences with Zukunftscolleg funding instruments

Positive experiences

Ideas/Recommendations

Great support opportunity for development of own research (profil)/seed money (12 entries)

Give opportunities to fund also doctoral students (not only student assistants) or predocs (4 entries)

Transparent/pleasant communication in the application process (4 entries)

Open funding programmes for doctoral students so they are in a better position in the contest for postdoctoral positions (2 entries)

Flexible use of funding (3 entries)

Eligibility criteria: expand time span after graduation (especially for non-German researchers and those who spend some time outside academia after graduation) (1 entry)

Collaboration with other people (1 entry)

Higher amount of funding (1 entry)

Funding amount (1 entry)

More (dedicated) funding in all research areas (1 entry)

Quick decisions on application (1 entry)

Better a few but flexible programmes than many restricted programmes (1 entry)

Easy application process (1 entry)

Inform about other projects and their results (1 entry)

Interdisciplinary character of the programme (1 entry)

More information on funding instruments and eligibility in the departments and the clusters* (1 entry)

Great job and well-streamlined processes*

More funding in structural elements (e.g. summer schools) than individual funding so more people can profit*

Keeping an eye on reconciliation processes for double application when other units are involved*

Avoiding the situation where researchers apply for Zukunftscolleg's funding more than once and motivation for applying for external funding*

Funding with stronger focus on long-term research perspectives*

Table 3: Experiences with Zukunftscolleg Funding Instruments

Sources: Focus group interview + interviews with administrative staff (see *) + Postdoc Survey, filter: People who have applied for funding. Questions: „What was good about the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments?“ and „What specific changes should be made to the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments?“

Asked about their positive experiences with the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments, 15 respondents entered free text in the Postdoc Survey 2023 (see Table 3). In combination with the answers from the focus group interviews and the interviews with administrative staff, it appears that the majority recognizes Zukunftscolleg funding as a great opportunity for postdoctoral researchers. Four people explicitly mentioned the transparent application process and good communication. With regard to recommendations toward the set-up of the funding programmes, there is no clear picture. Four people recommended opening up funding programmes in order to recruit doctoral students, who are better qualified and more independent than regular student assistants. Two people wished to open up the eligibility rules so that doctoral students themselves could apply for the Zukunftscolleg’s funding programmes.

In the focus group interview, all interviewees remarked that the effort required to apply was reasonable (“less effort is not really possible”, “reasonable effort in the context of the University of Konstanz”) and the financial support was adequate (“more is always better, but a good starting point at the beginning of an academic career”). Only one out of three people stated that the Zukunftscolleg research funding was decisive for their scientific career. It was mentioned that the Zukunftscolleg funding is less relevant for junior professors and more relevant for researchers who are starting to develop an independent research profile. One interviewee stated that the Zukunftscolleg’s funding helped a lot to increase one’s own self-confidence. This point was also highlighted in one of the interviews with administrative staff (“Zukunftscolleg’s funding encourages postdoctoral researchers to apply for the Young Scholar Fund”, “great chance to get a taste for pilot projects and self-employment, e.g. project management”).

Overlap to other funding instruments

Apart from the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments, there are 31 other funding programmes for postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz. Some of these programmes are only open to specific target groups, e.g. cluster members, females. Although the funding volume varies between the funding instruments, a certain overlap can be seen between the funding instruments of the Zukunftscolleg and of other units at the University of Konstanz. The overlap is not visible in both directions because the Zukunftscolleg funding instruments focus more on interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Still, projects that are not funded by the Zukunftscolleg have a chance in the application process of other units.

Outlook

Ideas for Further Funding Instruments

Area	Funding for (examples)
Individual funding (13 entries)	Own position* or position of PhD-student (also in remote version) Regular research semester for permanently employed postdoctoral researchers Termination of employment
Mobility (11 entries)	Conference grants travel grants also without a return pledge/possibility Research visits (outgoing/incoming) also between early career researchers
Publication (3 entries)	Open access publication Printing costs
Consulting/Supervision (2 entries)	Systematic supervision for teams/departments Organizational development Academic mentoring for one’s discipline* (career-oriented)
Qualification (2 entries)	Training in administrative/financial issues Training for habilitation
Transfer (2 entries)	Transfer in teaching Science communication Start-up support* Contacts to industry for researchers working in basic research*
Internal collaboration (1 entry)	Collaboration with researchers from other working groups (also within one’s own discipline)
Project-based funding (1 entry)	Small research grants
Administration (1 entry)	Secretariat to organize holiday applications, business trips, bookings for guests, orders, financial administration

Table 5: Ideas for Further Funding Instruments for Postdoctoral Researchers

Source 1: Individual interviews with administrative staff (see *), question: „Have you heard from young researchers whether, and if so, which support instruments are lacking at the University of Konstanz or could be further developed in order to better prepare young researchers for an academic/non-academic career?“

Source 2: Focus group interview, question: „Which funding instruments are lacking at the University of Konstanz?“

Source 3: Postdoc Survey 2023 (filter: People who are not members of or affiliated to the Zukunftskolleg; question: „What instrument for research funding is missing at the University of Konstanz or the Zukunftskolleg? Please enter your ideas here“)

Own aggregated compilation

In both the interviews and the survey respondents were asked whether they saw a need for further funding instruments for postdoctoral researchers or whether they had heard about them in their professional context. An overview of the answers is presented in Table 5. The most prominent aspects are funding for one's own position or funding for employing a doctoral student. Funding for mobility ranked third. In the survey, several people were of the opinion that there is no need for further funding instruments at the University of Konstanz. One person said that it would be helpful if the website with the funding instruments for postdoctoral researchers was more user-friendly (navigation). Another person wished for more flexibility in the handling of the funding instruments, e.g. in terms of eligibility.

Main findings and recommendations

1. Postdoctoral researchers who have experienced the Zukunftskolleg funding instruments are often very satisfied with it. In the course of the evaluation, only a few recommendations for change were mentioned. The two recommendations named most frequently were the desire to use the funding for doctoral students or predocs in order to recruit more qualified staff, and to open up access to the funding programme for doctoral students. The Executive Committee could consider these two points.

2. The Zukunftskolleg funding instruments are not all equally attractive to postdoctoral researchers (see Figure 3), and some people question the relevance of these instruments for the career prospects of postdoctoral researchers. As an Institute for Advanced Study aiming to encourage early career researchers for an academic career, this is especially true for the Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme and the Intersectoral Cooperation Programme. The Executive Committee should consider whether these programmes (TCTP, ICP) are still necessary, whether the money would be better invested in one of the other programmes or if the other programmes could be handled in a more flexible way to subsume their goals (innovative teaching, collaboration with the non-academic sector).

3. Although all Zukunftskolleg funding instruments were established more than eight years ago, they are not yet very well known among postdoctoral researchers (see Figure 2). There is still a need for regular information on the Zukunftskolleg's funding programmes (also on eligibility) in the departments.

4. There is some overlap between the funding programmes of the Zukunftskolleg and those of other units at the University of Konstanz. For most of the interview partners, this was not regarded as problematic since every unit has a special focus. The challenge for users to find the right funding instrument for their own research project was addressed in very few cases. The Executive Committee could try to initiate a process (on behalf of the Vice Rector for Research and Academic Staff Development) involving all units responsible for funding programmes in order to coordinate the funding programmes from a more user-centred perspective. It could be helpful to significantly reduce the overall number of funding programmes at the University of Konstanz and make them more flexible to meet different needs and objectives.

5. There is a lack of coordination between the different units at the University of Konstanz that are in charge of funding programmes for postdoctoral researchers. The Zukunftskolleg could play an even more active role in fostering this collaboration. It could at least regularly inform the other units and the clusters about its funding formats and calls, and it should respond appropriately in order to minimize the submission of multiple applications to different units.

Does **light** have **an impact** on **human health**?



Story with digital content

From 14 to 18 November 2022, we welcomed the Constructive Advanced Thinking group of Manuel Spitschan, Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics and Technical University of Munich, Germany; Laura Kervezee, Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands; Renske Lok, Stanford University, United States; Elise McGlashan, Monash University, Australia; and Raymond Najjar, National University of Singapore, to the Zukunftskolleg. They participated and were successful in the CAT call in 2020.

During their stay in Konstanz, they collaborated on their project “The impact of light on human health: What do we know?”



“This was our second research stay within the framework of the Constructive Advanced Thinking programme and an opportunity for four of our team members to meet in person. Due to health reasons, Manuel Spitschan was unfortunately unable to attend.

We primarily used our stay to work on our project that had previously started via Zoom and continued during our first NetIAS CAT stay at Aarhus University, Denmark. The ENLIGHT project aims to unify the reporting on light measures used in circadian and sleep sciences. For this purpose, we aimed to reach a consensus among experts in the field. We used a four-step Delphi process comprising four rounds. The first two entailed questionnaires regarding the importance of various light metrics while the third round entailed a synchronous discussion. We were able to set up and conduct the first three rounds before attending ZuKo. Results of our work stay at ZuKo include a nearly finished checklist on reporting light measures, newly written guidelines to accompany this checklist, excellent progress on the accompanying manuscript and the launch of our final round of feedback (Round 4).

We started the week with a tour of the ZuKo campus, after which we reviewed comments from our synchronous discussion sessions with experts and made changes to the checklist. On the Tuesday, we started writing the guidelines that will accompany the checklist. After a social lunch at the ZuKo, we presented our personal work and the goals we have for our NetIAS CAT project. The questions posed by attendees provoked exciting discussions on the effects of light on eye health, mental health and sleep, as well as the effect of daylight saving time on mental and physical health. On the Wednesday, we finalized the guidelines before having lunch with Daniela Röbler. Daniela then gave us a tour of her lab where she studies sleep in spiders, which was very interesting and admittedly a bit scary for some of us. On the Thursday, we finalized the checklist amendments and guidelines, after which the final questionnaire was designed and tested. At the end of that day, all participants received an email invitation to complete the last step (Round 4) of the Delphi process. Afterwards, we had a lovely dinner at Holly's with team members from ZuKo and the broader university. The Friday was dedicated primarily to writing the accompanying manuscript, and we also attended the talk by Yuko Ulrich via Zoom.

We are grateful to the team for welcoming us and for the opportunities that working at the Zukunftscolleg in Konstanz provided us. We enjoyed the various interaction opportunities during lunch, cake or dinner with people from the institute and the exciting and provoking discussions this led to. We are also grateful for the protected work time the CAT programme has provided us, as this has been very productive.

We would like to thank in particular Giovanni Galizia and Daniela Kromrey for receiving and welcoming us to the ZuKo, Michael Krausse for his technical support and all the fellows for being so friendly and engaging in such interesting conversations. Our stay here has resulted in tremendous progress in our NetIAS CAT network project and an excellent networking opportunity.”

Innovative CATs

In the latest Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) call (the deadline for applications was 15 October 2022), 12 applications were submitted, from which the following four innovative ideas were selected:

Alba Group on “Controversial tools: researching modelling practices in water governance”
Hosting IAS: Mak’it, SCAS, Paris, NIAS

Abstract

The development and use of quantitative models in water research and practice is both dominant and growing, importantly driven by recent technological developments. Although often presented as objective and neutral, models are controversial tools. They provide insights with which to predict future conditions of water systems and opportunities to foster an integrated approach to tackle water-related challenges while addressing complexities related to managing fugitive resources such as water. Yet, models and modelling are specific ways of knowing water on the basis of measurements and quantification. Foremost, models are profoundly shaped by the numerous, sometimes arbitrary, choices of the actors involved in the modelling process and by the context in which they are developed.

With this project, we seek to jointly research modelling as it is used to manage and govern water. The project strengthens the collaboration between an interdisciplinary and international group of early career researchers studying water modelling in various contexts and from different perspectives, methodologies and approaches. We are developing a reflexive approach to modelling that is helpful for making the ethical implications involved in modelling practices explicit and invites modellers, funders and users to act upon these. With this project, we seek to explore the challenges and opportunities to implement this novel approach through regular workshops, peer-to-peer learning and engagement with experts. Our efforts will culminate in a special issue published in a peer-reviewed journal, a series of blogs and a final public event.

Allasonnière-Tang Group on “Unravelling the interactions between culture and language: Does grammatical gender foster gender inequality and vice versa?”
Hosting IAS: Paris, IAS, MIAS, HIAS, Zukunftscolleg, NIAS

Abstract

The human cognitive system interacts with the cultural environment. Within this interaction, the interplay between grammatical gender and sociocultural gender represents a societal challenge. The presence of grammatical gender (such as masculine and feminine) in language has an effect on how men and women are perceived by humans. Most studies have compared languages with sex-based gender (such as masculine/feminine in Spanish) with languages that do not have a grammatical gender system (e.g. in English and Mandarin). However, other nominal classification systems such as noun classes (e.g. in Swahili) or classifiers (e.g. in Japanese) also categorize nouns of the lexicon into categories based on features such as animacy or shape. Furthermore, most languages considered in existing studies are Indo-European. Nevertheless, sex-based grammatical gender systems are not restricted to this language family. For example, grammatical gender systems are also found in languages such as Mian (Ok family, Papua New Guinea).

We expand the data pool for testing the effect of nominal classification systems on gender parity. Information on grammatical gender is extracted from the data already gathered during the respective

research by the project members. The sociocultural gender data will be extracted from D-PLACE. The preliminary database will then be developed through consultation at the targeted institutions. In terms of method, two main types of analyses are considered. At the synchronic level, we use generalized linear mixed effect models that search for phylogenetic and geographic non-independence of societies and conditional inference trees to capture the multilevel interaction between the variables. At the diachronic level, Bayesian phylogenetic methods and confirmatory path analysis are used to establish the robustness of correlated evolution and the underlying causal relationships between the variables. Additional methods for testing the interaction between grammatical gender and sociocultural gender will be developed by consulting experts at the visited institutions.

Lemoine-Schonne Group on “Metamorphoses of Law(s)? A critical exploration of planetary boundaries and their meaning for the law relating to the environment”
Hosting IAS: Paris, IIAS, Mak’it, Turin, NIAS, CEU

Abstract

Climate change is spiralling out of control, it is cascading ecological collapse and poses a serious threat to today’s societies. The consequences of climate change necessitate a transition to sustainability. One influential way of thinking about what sustainability means in more practical terms is the planetary boundaries framework. In the age of the Anthropocene, Earth system scientists identified a number of “planetary boundaries” in 2009. The concept refers to nine interacting biophysical thresholds, considered true boundaries that must not be crossed in order to avoid abrupt, non-linear, potentially catastrophic and largely unpredictable changes in the environment and on the planet. However, seven planetary boundaries have already been transgressed. The scientists proposed a shift away from the essentially sectoral analyses of limits to growth aimed at minimizing negative externalities towards the estimation of a “safe operating space” for human development. But how can this concept of planetary boundaries be operationalized in social sciences and law?

To explore the potential of the concept in social sciences and law, the team aims to highlight three key areas: Biodiversity & Climate Interactions, Health & the Environment, and Technologies & Science. For each issue, three critical reading grids of the law(s) relating to the environment, meaning different fields of international and national law that protect the environment, human rights law, economic law, etc., are applied, articulating the items: identification of actors, participation process and emergence of solutions.

The proposed interdisciplinary project (law and social sciences) is motivated by a sense of urgency to react across all disciplines.

The call allows the team to connect to researchers from various disciplines at the institutes, their research communities, and other stakeholders on site (NGOs, governments, public authorities and corporations). A science comic complements academic publications and blog posts at the end of the project to reach a broader audience.

Roberts Group on “A Transformation Framework for Artist Residencies, based on Internal Critiques, Alternative Histories and Emerging Practices”
Hosting IAS: MIAS (twice), Mak’it, HIAS

Abstract

Artist residencies are an increasingly essential infrastructure for creative production across the globe, supporting time and space for experimental or exploratory work, facilitating development of international networks and intercultural exchange and, given the financial precarity most artists experience, serving as temporary sources of income, or at least accommodation. While the field has been researched intensively by practitioners in arts and policy circles, especially in Europe (where funding for culture is most robust), it has garnered little attention from disciplines such as history, sociology or cultural studies. Our project begins to fill this gap by bringing together experts in the history and political economy of cultural institutions with stakeholders and early career scholars undertaking practice-based doctoral research on artist residencies. Methodologically, the project enacts a dialogue between more traditional forms of scholarly inquiry – emphasizing systemic and comparative analysis – and the experimental methods that have developed among scholar-practitioners.

The project asks how artist residencies can respond to today’s challenges around labour, ecology, and social and global justice while maintaining their central mission of supporting art and artists. The project has three parts. Through a meta-analysis of the robust internal critiques of residencies produced by individuals and groups in the past decade, followed by interviews with relevant authors and practitioners, we assess how residencies conceive contemporary challenges and how they have responded. In phase two, we explore the historical development of artist residencies, using data from our partner organization TransArtists. Acknowledging problems of definition (What is an artist residency?), this phase also explores counterhistories of travel and retreat that might help shape the residencies of the future. Phase three concretizes this future through an analysis of alternative and emergent residency practices, based on auto-ethnographies and artistic research.

During their project (up to three years), the groups will be hosted for a short research stay (up to two weeks) by five to six different European IAS. We are looking forward to exciting discussions and collaboration with the group led by **Marc Allasonnière-Tang** that will join the Zukunftskolleg for a research stay.

More information about the selected groups, the programme and participating IAS can be found here.

Constructive
Advanced Thinking.

cat.

The Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) initiative was founded in 2019 within NetIAS (Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study). It aims to foster networks of excellent early career researchers committed to developing new ideas in order to understand and tackle current or emerging societal challenges.

The CAT programme is designed for groups of three to five early career researchers of any discipline with less than ten years’ experience after earning a doctoral degree, including doctoral researchers. The principal investigator (team leader) must have a stable position for the duration of the project. The groups can include a representative of a stakeholder organization related to the theme of the project. In order to engage in fruitful discussions and mature their ideas, the groups are given the opportunity to meet for short stays (i.e. a maximum of two weeks) in different participating institutes and to engage with their fellows and local research communities. Projects can last up to three years (subject to positive mid-term evaluation).

Is design thinking the new brainstorming?



Story with digital content



During the 2023 summer semester, members of the Zukunftscolleg and the Martin Buber Society of Fellows took part in a joint symposium entitled "Design: Thinking, Making, Doing. Thinking about design and thinking with design to solve big questions" between 18 and 21 April at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and from 24 to 28 July the Martin Buber fellows came to Konstanz to continue working together on this exciting project.

Participants from the Zukunftscolleg included Anamaria Bentea, Cristina Ruiz Agudo, Abena Yalley, Eduardo Luerson, James Wilson, Giovanni Galizia and Daniela Kromrey. The Martin Buber Society of Fellows was represented by Idit Ben-Or, Carolin Müller, Katharina Palmberger, Jasmin Spiegel, Christian Wollin, Christopher Roser and Peter Zilberg.

After the first part of the workshop in Jerusalem, we talked to James Wilson and Eduardo Luersen about their experiences.



View of the Old City of Jerusalem from the campus of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



During the second part of the workshop in July in Konstanz, we asked the participants about their personal definition of "Design Thinking", the societal issues they discussed, how the method challenged and reflected their way of working, what their personal takeaway from the symposium was, and what they liked most during the workshop.

Listen here to their answers:

Testimonials by "Design Thinking" participants



Breaking down walls?



Story with digital content

On 17 and 18 July 2023, the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Zukunftskolleg took place at the University of Konstanz.



Malte Drescher

As we all know, small gifts keep friendship alive. This was not the only reason why the Scientific Advisory Board of the Zukunftskolleg – after being welcomed by Malte Drescher (Vice Rector for Research, Academic Staff Development and Research Infrastructure/Member of the Executive Committee of the Zukunftskolleg) – was first presented with a handful of gifts, but also in order to demonstrate the impressiveness and diversity of the fellows' research projects.



Ariane Bertogg



Anna Stöckl

Ariane Bertogg (History and Sociology) unwrapped the first present and spoke about “Staying sharp by sharing equally? Societal gender norms, gendered life courses and cognitive functioning in later life”. She was followed by Anna Stöckl (Biology), who talked about “Pretty useful: How insect pollinators detect and use flower patterns”, Jacob Bloomfield (Literature), who reported on “How the Zukunftskolleg has supported my research and helped my career development”, Abena Yalley (Politics and Public Administration/Literature), whose topic was “Abuse and humiliation in the delivery room: patterns and dynamics of obstetric violence in Ghana” and Gruia Badescu (History and Sociology), who spoke about “Cities after political ruptures: From post-war urban reconstruction to spatial memory-work”.



Jacob Bloomfield



Abena Yalley



Gruia Badescu

After the presentations by the fellows, Giovanni Galizia reported on changes in the Zukunftscolleg since last year's SAB meeting and perspectives for the future.

He emphasized that the Zukunftscolleg has so far focused on supporting people, rather than projects. The Zukunftscolleg aims to continue pursuing this strategy, however only via the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship. The 5-year Research Fellowship will be substituted by project-based funding (mainly due to the upcoming changes in Germany's "Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz" (Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act)). The intention is to launch the first call in October 2023. In addition, Giovanni Galizia highlighted the importance of maintaining diversity at the Zukunftscolleg and ensuring that the selection procedures are unbiased.

The budget was also discussed. The overall research budget in Germany is decreasing, and this reduction will have an impact on all research institutions nationwide. The Zukunftscolleg's budget has also been significantly reduced compared to the previous years.

One of the SAB members underlined the need to reinvent the Zukunftscolleg, even if it remains within the Excellence Strategy and secures funding. He pointed to the importance of constantly communicating the institute's mission, especially considering the influx of new researchers each year. Emphasizing that the Zukunftscolleg's purpose goes beyond research alone, he stressed the need to "break down the walls", dismantle barriers and foster collaboration between departments. In this endeavour, the fellows' active involvement is crucial. The fellows were encouraged to leverage their connections and use their colleagues as advocates to advertise and promote the Zukunftscolleg effectively.

Another SAB member said that it is important to inquire whether the fellows feel included in the academic environment at the university. Additionally, she suggested asking the fellows about their publication practices for their scientific research, as this is essential for promoting the institute. She stressed the significance of reaching a broader audience with scientific knowledge and actively disseminating it in society. Moreover, she raised the topic already discussed last year of potentially changing the name of the institute to FutureLab. She questioned the prevailing focus on the "future" in terms of careers and suggested shifting the emphasis to the fellows' projects. She believes that institutions like the Zukunftscolleg have the potential to create new foundations for the future, which is currently lacking in the institute's vision.

One of the SAB members pointed out that the uniqueness of the Zukunftscolleg lies in offering early career researchers opportunities for cross-disciplinary interaction. To maximize this advantage, he proposed strengthening informal and formal collaborations among researchers from various fields. Documenting these interactions and showcasing their outcomes can then be a compelling selling point for the institute.



It was also observed that many challenges are not exclusive to the Zukunftscolleg but shared among all Institutes for Advanced Studies. While the emphasis on young researchers is uncommon, it is not entirely unique. Discussing individualized career plans with each fellow was suggested, considering that a standardized approach may not suit everyone's needs. From the university's perspective, the Zukunftscolleg attracts talent in the shape of promising researchers and serves as an incubator. It is important to understand and accept that these fellows will eventually leave Konstanz. Despite their departure, they will remain valuable ambassadors for the Zukunftscolleg.

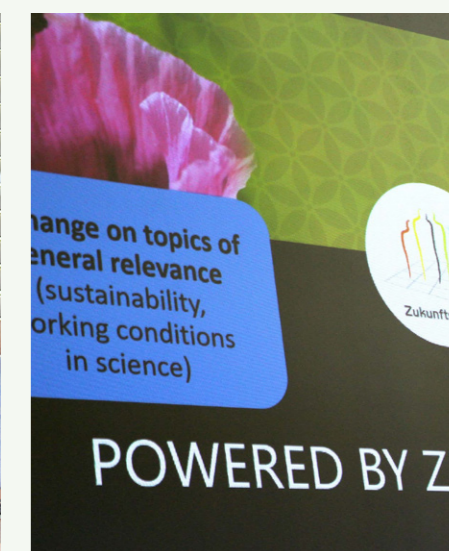
After the discussion with all fellows on Monday afternoon, the SAB held an open discussion with the Executive Committee on Tuesday morning, followed by an internal meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board. Afterwards, they shared their recommendations and gave feedback to the Executive Committee:

1. As the Zukunftscolleg will continue to be one of the pillars of the Excellence Strategy – as announced by Malte Drescher when opening the meeting –, the SAB recommended that Giovanni Galizia should take an active role in shaping and defining this pillar of the Excellence Strategy. He should speak on behalf of the Zukunftscolleg and liaise between the Zukunftscolleg and the rectorate.

2. The second recommendation referred to a culture change in the Zukunftscolleg and in the university that is already taking place. It is about a commitment to improve external communication. The SAB finds that fellows should learn better communication skills, which will have a positive impact on their career as Zukunftscolleg fellows. By communication, the SAB does not mean their presentations, but a more general level of clear communication about the Zukunftscolleg's values and why they chose the Zukunftscolleg for the next step in their early careers. The SAB discussed how the fellows can be supported in this more far-reaching change, and professional external support is highly recommended.

3. The SAB would like to be utilized in different ways and more often. It would appreciate being asked more and would like the Zukunftscolleg to prepare the ground for it to be able to provide feedback. For example, the SAB would welcome receiving a report on the Zukunftscolleg's progress and the university's decision regarding the Zukunftscolleg's role in the Excellence Strategy in October 2023. The SAB is very happy to deliver feedback and discuss with the Zukunftscolleg once the Excellence Strategy process starts.

Finally, Giovanni Galizia thanked everyone for their time, their thoughts and the amazing and unusual degree of concentration they contributed to the meeting. His thanks also went to the Executive Committee, the central office, the student assistants and all the hard work they invested in this fantastic meeting.



Members of the Scientific Advisory Board



Prof Raghavendra Gadagkar

Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India



Prof David Gugerli

Professor for History of Technology at ETH Zürich, Switzerland



Prof Sabine von Heusinger

Professor of Medieval History/ Late Middle Ages, University of Cologne, Germany



Prof Michael Matlosz

President of EuroScience, Strasbourg, France



Elke aus dem Moore

Curator, Former Director of the Academy Schloss Solitude



Dr Manuela Nocker

Senior Lecturer in Organisation and Sustainability, University of Essex, England, Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Zukunftskolleg (2017-2020)



Prof Jane Ohlmeyer

Erasmus Smith's Professor of Modern History at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland



Ursula Schwarzenbart

Former Director Global Diversity Daimler, Former Member of the University Council, University of Konstanz (03/2009-02/2018)



Prof Vinod Subramaniam

President of the Executive Board, University of Twente, Enschede, Netherlands, Member of the Excellence Strategy Council of the University of Konstanz, Germany



Dr Ingrid Wüning-Tschol

Head of the Robert Bosch Centre for Healthcare Innovation at the Bosch Health Campus, Stuttgart, Germany



Story with digital content

Who is new in our fellow community?

In the past year, the Zukunftskolleg community was enriched by numerous great people.

In this chapter, you will find our new members listed according to the different fellowships/support measures that we offer.

2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships and 5-year Research Fellowships from the 16th and 17th calls:

2-year Postdoctoral Fellows are in the early stage of their academic career and plan to develop and implement an independent research project.

5-year Research Fellows are researchers with significant work experience at postdoctoral level who are aiming for a career in academia. The fellows build their own academic identity by leading an independent research group at the University of Konstanz.

New **Postdoctoral Fellow** at the Zukunftskolleg



Daniel Skibra

started his fellowship in March 2023 and is affiliated with the Department of Philosophy.

Project

“Reassessing Desire for Mode and Content”

Daniel Skibra earned his doctoral degree at Northwestern University, USA. Prior to coming to the Zukunftskolleg, he had already worked at the University of Konstanz as a postdoctoral researcher on the project “Universal Preferences for Natural Concepts” in the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Philosophy.

His research project at the Zukunftskolleg – entitled “Reassessing Desire for Mode and Content” – has to do with desire, its peculiar representational properties, and how these differ from other psychological states such as belief, for example. “Typically, we’d say both belief and desire are representational states,” explains Daniel. “What this means can be illustrated by some examples. When I believe something (say, that Olaf Scholz is Federal Chancellor), I stand in relation to what philosophers have called the “content” of the belief, which we can think of as a representation of the way I take the world to be. In this case, that is a representation that Scholz is Federal Chancellor. In desiring something, I also stand in some kind of relation to content; one that characterizes how I would like the world to be. If I’m waiting in line at the polls, I may want it to be the case that Scholz is Federal Chancellor (and so I would vote accordingly). This results in a picture that analyzes these psychological states into a content (the representational component of the state) and a mode (the relation to the content you are in when you have this attitude).

This way of thinking about things leads to a simple and elegant picture of psychological states, which has been popular both in philosophy and neighbouring disciplines. And it also allows for a very neat interface between our thoughts and what we express with our language in communication. The problem is that this simple picture I described above is not articulated very precisely, and once we probe the details, complications quickly arise. Without going into the complications too much, I’ll simply say: desire content doesn’t really behave the way we expect representations to behave, and it behaves differently enough from belief content that we begin to suspect that this mode/content picture can’t provide the simple and elegant picture we hoped for. Maybe it is just the wrong way to think about psychological states.”

His project involves evaluating this mode/content account of desire by taking the challenges seriously. “And I have a suspicion that we can provide an account of desire that indicates this way of thinking of psychological states after all.”

Daniel is very happy to be at the Zukunftskolleg: “Not only am I happy to be able to continue the collaborations I already had the good fortune to start with my colleagues in Konstanz, I’m excited to start more.”

New **Research Fellow** at the Zukunftskolleg



Tobias Sutter

started his fellowship in June 2023 and is affiliated with the Department of Computer and Information Science.

Project

“Foundations of reinforcement learning”

Tobias Sutter earned a BSc and an MSc in mechanical engineering in 2010 and 2012 from ETH Zurich and a doctoral degree in electrical engineering at the Automatic Control Laboratory, ETH Zurich in 2017. He is currently a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer and Information Science at the University of Konstanz. Prior to joining the University of Konstanz, he held a research and teaching appointment with EPFL at the Chair of Risk Analytics and Optimization and at the Institute of Machine Learning at ETH Zurich.

His research interests revolve around control, reinforcement learning and data-driven robust optimization. He was a recipient of the 2016 George S. Axelby Outstanding Paper Award of the IEEE Control Systems Society and received the ETH Medal for his outstanding doctoral thesis on approximate dynamic programming in 2018.

Within the Zukunftskolleg, Tobias will work on the foundations of reinforcement learning – a discipline that lies at the intersection of computer science, statistics, information theory and mathematical optimization. Supported by the impressive recent successes when applying reinforcement learning algorithms to solving real world problems in various disciplines ranging from engineering, biology and economics to medicine and health care, reinforcement learning has emerged as the leading framework for studying sequential dynamical decision problems.

Senior Fellows

Senior Fellows are established guest scholars from the natural sciences, humanities or social sciences who join the Zukunftskolleg for a research stay and work with the fellows.



Philip Welch

University of Bristol, UK, joined the Zukunftskolleg in April 2023 and is affiliated with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Project

“Second order aspects of multiversism”

Fellow host: Carolin Antos-Kuby

Philip Welch holds a professorship at the Department of Mathematics at the University of Bristol, UK. He is currently the President of the British Logic Colloquium (the national society representing the study of logic in the UK) and the President of the European Set Theory Society (since 2022). He is regarded as an outstanding researcher in the field of mathematical logic, especially in set theory. His work on determinacy and inner models has shaped set theory in the last decades.

His research project at the Zukunftskolleg focuses on “Second order aspects of multiversism”.



Raghavendra Gadagkar

Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, joined the Zukunftskolleg in July 2023 and is affiliated with the Department of Biology

Specialization:

“Evolution of Social Life in Insects, Insect Ecology, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Social Organization and Division of Labour in Insect Societies”

Raghavendra Gadagkar obtained his BSc (Hons) and MSc in zoology from Bangalore University and his doctoral degree in molecular biology from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. During the past 40 years, he has established an active school of research in the area of animal behaviour, ecology and evolution. The origin and evolution of cooperation in animals, especially in social insects, such as ants, bees and wasps, is a major goal of his research. By identifying and utilizing crucial elements in India's biodiversity, he has added a special Indian flavour to his research.

Associated Fellows

Associated Fellowships are granted for the duration of one year on application only. Beneficiaries of the Zukunftskolleg's funding programmes or members of the University of Konstanz whose field of work is related to that of the research units represented in the Zukunftskolleg can also apply for an Associated Fellowship.

The current Associated Fellows (who joined the Zukunftskolleg in 2022/2023) are:



Yeliena Kovalska

History and Sociology/Methodology and Methods of Sociological Research, Faculty of Sociology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Visiting Fellow from 06/2022 to 03/2023; Associated Fellow since 04/2023

Research project

“Use of factorial design to determine the significance of personal social status characteristics (according to the Adapted for Ukraine Warner's Status Characteristics Index)”

Methodological principles of the factorial design method (FD) were described by German sociologists Katrin Auspurg and Thomas Hinz in “Factorial Survey Experiments” (2015). The FD method allows us to find both common social principles of judgements and differences of subgroups. Thus, it is intended for a deeper understanding of the principles of judgements of respondents.

The use of the FD method to study significance of different social status components has a promising cognitive potential. Indicators of social status highlighted in terms of FD provided according to Adapted for Ukraine Warner's Status Characteristics Index. Ukrainian sociologist Yeliena Kovalska has adapted Warner's index to the conditions of modern empirical research in Ukraine using the example of Kyiv. It consists of a wide range of characteristics, but is also calculated by means of a formula that measures the individual weight of each component. These weights were proposed on the basis of an expert survey, but this should be verified in a national survey to measure the significance of the subjective social status characteristics.

All the characteristics of the Adapted Warner's Index can be redesigned to factors, and scales can be redesigned to levels. The factorial research method assumes the presence in the questionnaire of one or a set of specific questions, which are called “vignettes” and in which a certain situation is formulated, from which the respondent needs to find a way out. “As part of our work, we will create vignettes based on the above factors and levels of the Adapted Warner's Index (located in Kyiv). After the sample of vignettes has been established, they will be distributed among the survey participants. There are many different ways to accomplish this, but we will use the R statistical environment. As our method we will use web research (using LimeSurvey)”, explains Yeliena.

Yeliena has been studying the living conditions, employment, lifestyle, leisure time, wellbeing and future plans of forced migrants from Ukraine in Germany, using the example of the City of Konstanz. Read more in the chapter „How do Ukrainians feel in Konstanz?“.



Tetyana Nikolaychuk

Economics/Economic Regulation and Management, Institute of Economic & Ecological Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Visiting Fellow from 04/2022 to 04/2023; Associated Fellow since 05/2023

Research project

“Post-war sustainable development in Ukraine: Innovative economic and environmental activities. (Cybernetic planning and chess business modelling: new rules, new tools)”

The Russian military invasion of Ukraine has led to numerous transformations in the social, economic, political, ecological and regulatory field. The formation of effective economic key drivers in the postwar period is the key to restoring civil society and market economy institutions in Ukraine. The invasion means destruction of existing markets, business collaborations and the formation of new vectors of military and civilian activities.

The aim of the study is to consider the economic and organizational feasibility and profitability of the postwar market. Chess business modelling will identify the most accessible business approaches for entities and the side effects for society and the environment. Chess business modelling could also be used as a tool for dealing with institutional traps.

The purpose of the study is to identify the main possible milestones related to the implementation of economic and environmental reform in the context of decentralization in the postwar period



Svitlana Podplota

Philosophy/ Preschool Education and Social Work, Bogdan Khmelnytsky Melitopol State Pedagogical University, Melitopol, Ukraine Visiting Fellow from 06/2022 to 06/2023; Associated Fellow since 07/2023

Research project

“Peer Tutoring in Higher Education Institutions”

Peer tutoring is learning and consultation among equals. Today, peer tutoring is common in many universities and becoming even more important especially at German universities. As opposed to rather classic situations in a university context in Ukraine where both learning and consultation take place between students and professors, peer tutoring creates an environment that does not involve an imbalance in power and authority. Peer tutors are not replacement professors but rather initiate and encourage their fellow students to reflect on their learning process and problems through the use of moderating and consulting techniques. For successful peer tutoring in Ukraine, it is vital that peer tutors undergo qualified training. An increased popularity of peer-assisted learning has triggered a growing interest in taking a closer look at how student tutors are trained to handle the task. Her future study will provide an overview of the tutor training strategies at different faculties in Germany. She is going to study professional training programmes in Germany that focus on both theoretical and practical aspects of the peer tutor’s work. Svitlana’s study will also attempt to investigate the concept of peer tutoring and its impact on learning.



Maryna Lytvyn

Economics/Associate Professor of Economic Theory and International Economic Relations Department, Director of Resource Centre for Sustainable Development of Dnipro University of Technology, Dnipro, Ukraine, Visiting Fellow from 11/2022 to 07/2023; Associated Fellow since 08/2023

Research project

“Global Challenges of Sustainable Development of the World Economy”

The research aims to prepare Ukraine for adjustment to the European Union. Germany’s experience in implementing policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be used for Ukraine. The first part of the research will substantiate the methodology for studying the global challenges facing the world economy’s sustainable development and define the SDGs for analysis. In particular, the following research questions will be raised and discussed. What is the role of quality assurance in the promotion of the SDGs? How do Ukrainian and German higher education institutions consider SDGs in their policies and procedures? What are the current practices of evaluation and monitoring of higher education’s contribution to sustainable development in Ukraine and Germany? What steps and action should be taken to enhance the contribution of quality assurance to the SDGs, taking the experience of Germany into account? The research will be based on case study, observation and questionnaire methods (Creswell & Poth, 2017). The second part of the research will examine the impact of global challenges on the economic aspect of sustainable development and the SDGs. The social dimension of the SDGs worldwide under the conditions of globalization will be analyzed. The influence of globalization processes on the ecological aspect of SDGs will be investigated. The third part of the research will be devoted to the analysis of national mechanisms for financing sustainable development in Germany. A model for ensuring sustainable development in other countries in the context of global challenges will be developed, taking into consideration the experience of Germany and the European Union. The fourth part of the research, the strategy for achieving sustainable development in Ukraine, will be developed, taking into consideration the experience of Germany.

ZUKOnnect & Herz Fellows

The Zukunftskolleg Konnect Fellowships support early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America who are associated with one of the thirteen departments at the University of Konstanz. ZUKOnnect Fellows can use this time to extend their research networks and familiarize themselves with the research environment at the University of Konstanz while keeping their position at home.

The following ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows joined the Zukunftskolleg on 1 July 2023 online for one year. They will be on campus for three to four months from the autumn of 2023 onwards:



Jennifer de Sousa Barros Pereira

Biology, Herz Fellow since 07/2023
Doctoral candidate from Brazil
Local hosts: Meg Crofoot/Dina Dechmann

Research project

“The influence of collective behaviour in energy expenditure and thermoregulation in Egyptian fruit bats”

Caves can be considered important natural laboratories, and it is well known that cave characteristics can favour physiological processes in bats. What remains unknown is the role of collective behaviour in energy expenditure during daytime in these habitats. Large colonies of bats in caves can be the perfect match between an optimal study model and a natural laboratory to address this question. *Rousettus aegyptiacus* is the only fruit bat found in Europe, and it relies on fruit from a variety of plants throughout the year. Cyprus is characterized by a seasonal climate resulting in changing vegetation, which potentially creates food bottlenecks for this tropical species, especially in winter, and studies have shown that these bats can change their sharing networks depending on the availability of resources and that energy is a limiting component in their diet. My main aim is to test whether and how collective behaviour influences energetic strategies of *R. aegyptiacus* in winter. I will use generalized linear models to test the relations between energy expenditure, temperature and collective behaviour. I expect to elucidate patterns and trades-off involved in energy expenditure and thermoregulation mediated by collective behaviour in *R. aegyptiacus*. This could contribute to a greater understanding of the factors that favour the occurrence of this species in Europe and its adaptability to changes in climate.



Israel Ehizuelen Ebhohimen

Chemistry, ZUKOnnect Fellow since 07/2023
Doctoral candidate from Nigeria
Local host: Alexander Bürkle

Research project

“In vitro evaluation of the molecular toxicity of carvacrol using the enzyme-modified Fluorimetric detection of Alkaline DNA Unwinding (emFADU)”

This research is aimed at evaluating the molecular cytotoxicity of carvacrol, a component of crude plant essential oils that have been observed to demonstrate appreciable antioxidant capacity in the storage of lipid-rich foods compared to butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). For the proposed research, the genotoxicity, apoptosis induction, capacity to induce DNA damage in plasmid DNA and the induction of DNA strand breaks by carvacrol will be compared to an established genotoxin and BHT. The apoptosis induction will be studied using Annexin V APC/PI flow cytometry. The detection of the DNA strand breaks and plasmid DNA damage will be studied using the enzyme-modified version of cell-based Fluorimetric detection of Alkaline DNA Unwinding (emFADU). The results of this research are important as they will shed light on the safety of carvacrol proposed as a natural alternative to synthetic antioxidant food additives.



Oscar Eduardo Escobar Lasso

Mathematics and Statistics, Herz Fellow since 07/2023
Postdoctoral researcher from Colombia
Local hosts: Stefan Frei/Reinhard Racke

Research project

“Implementation of *Aedes aegypti* control strategies in spatiotemporal dynamics using insect techniques”

For this research project, he proposes to extend a time-only dependent model with sex structure to a spatially distributed version (in a bi-dimensional domain) to design the control strategies based on releases of sterile male mosquitoes that account for this spatial heterogeneity. One of the objectives of this study is to reduce costs by indicating where to release more sterile males and where to release fewer or none.



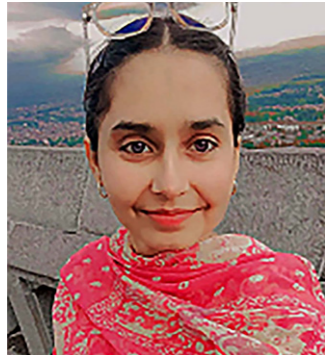
Nadia Martin

Literature, Art and Media, UKOnnect Fellow since 07/2023
Doctoral candidate from Argentina, Local host: Kirsten Mahlke

Research project

“Posthuman Landscapes in Latin American Art”

The project aims to study the emergence of a new way of conceiving and designing relationships between nature, culture and technology in twenty-first-century Latin-American arts from a materialistic and posthumanist viewpoint. The research focuses on a selection of socio-environmental themed works carried out in those artistic areas where there is experimentation by means of artefactualities and non-human agencies. These are works that get close to design, action and intervention, and that occasionally involve working on territories and with communities. In them, it is observed that the perception and experimentation modes of “nature”, which are ruled by the traditional landscape genre, become disorganized and give rise to what could be called “posthuman landscapes”: new spatial, sensitivity and relationality regimes between agents (human and non-human) and environment, guided by non-extractive logics of environmental intervention and the promotion of a non-anthropocentric sensorium. The research is interested in contributing to a historiographical, cognitive and categorical revision of contemporary art, moving away from the centre-periphery scheme towards a situated, de-centred and autonomous comprehension of the aesthetic, technological and conceptual programmes owned by these Latin-American productions.



Ashwinder Kaur

Physics, Herz Fellow since 07/2023, Doctoral candidate from India
Local host: Lukas Schmidt-Mende

Research project

“Perovskite solar cells for integrated self-charging supercapacitors”

Electrochemical devices (batteries and supercapacitors) are more sustainable and environmentally friendly and their hybridization has even favoured their use in modern electronics. Despite their efficiency, life is limited to a few thousand cycles. In order to obtain continuous power output, there is a need to develop a practical strategy to scavenge multiple types of energies (electrochemical, solar, etc.) simultaneously. In this regard, the concept of a self-charging energy system incorporating conversion cells (perovskite solar cells (PSCs)) and a hybrid supercapacitor for concurrently scavenging solar and electrochemical energies is proposed, so that the energy resources can be used effectively and complementarily. In this system, the supercapacitor plays a dual role of storing energy as well as balancing the solar energy fluctuations. There are challenges in fabricating the self-charging system, i.e. vulnerability of the perovskite material under moisture, thermal conditions, etc., when SCs with aqueous liquid electrolyte are used. Here, I propose to fabricate a system integrating a perovskite solar cell and a hybrid supercapacitor – a self-charging system – during this research programme. Briefly, the operation of this system can be described as follows: initially under illumination, solar energy captured by the solar cell will generate electricity, which will be stored immediately in the supercapacitor. This photo-charged PSC will provide electricity to power the external electrical devices whenever and wherever required. This work presents an easy approach for the fabrication of a self-charging system at normal temperature, enabling electricity supply for electrical devices in the future.



Sarveswaran Kengatharaiyer

Linguistics, Herz Fellow since 07/2023, Postdoctoral researcher from Sri Lanka, Local host: Miriam Butt

Research project

“Creating a Tamil treebank to support language application development”

The objective of this research is to create a high-quality computer-based resource known as a “treebank”, which systematically and computationally encodes the linguistic knowledge of a language. This resource is useful for the Tamil language in order to enhance natural language processing capabilities and facilitate linguistic analysis. The proposed treebank will be constructed using the Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) formalism, which offers a detailed method for capturing language features. While a small treebank already exists, it has limited coverage of language structures and vocabulary. Consequently, this research seeks to expand the existing resource, developing a larger, high-quality treebank with additional Tamil text to support language application development. Achieving this goal necessitates expertise in both linguistics and computer science. The study will also explore the use of machine learning techniques to aid in the development and evaluation of the new treebank. Eventually, the treebank will be made publicly available, allowing others to utilize and build on it. This treebank will serve as an invaluable resource for Tamil language



Khanyile Joseph Mlotshwa

Politics and Public Administration, ZUKOnnect Fellow since 07/2023
Postdoctoral researcher from Zimbabwe, Local host: Thomas Kirsch

Research project

“The colonial and apartheid roots of urban authoritarianism in South Africa”

In the country’s long history, the black African subject emerges as both expelled and alienated from the urban space. When cities were constructed under the colonial economy, the black subject was only accepted in the fringes as a labourer. Under apartheid, through a combination of laws and brute force, the black subject was maintained at the edge of the city in townships and other such abject spaces. In the post-apartheid period, this long colonial and apartheid history of the city sheds into the authoritarianism of the neoliberal rationality of the market. This research puts the concept of global authoritarianism in conversation with the decolonial concept of coloniality, with the aim of making sense of the history and the present of cities in relation to inequality, especially in the Global South. The focus here is on cities in South Africa. The research uses a combination of qualitative methods that include ethnography, interviews and archival research to collect data that are analyzed through a combination of critical discourse analysis, ideological analysis and psychoanalysis, among various methods. The research turns daily into genealogical work around representation and subjectivity.



Natasha Roth-Eichin

Educational Science, ZUKOnnect Fellow since 07/2023
Postdoctoral researcher from Chile, Local host: Jeanine Grütter

Research project

“Practices, experiences and aspirations at school”

Her five-year research project aims to investigate the relationship between family life, parenting styles and children’s dispositions within the educational context of Chile. Given a high focus on social class, reproduction and school choice in the local literature, this study seeks to challenge the assumption that the acquisition of class-based dispositions occurs automatically, highlighting the active role of both adults and children in the process. Employing a critical ethnography approach, the research goes beyond the automatic logics of social reproduction to explore agency and resistance. Through traditional ethnographic techniques such as observations and interviews, along with projective and narrative techniques, the complex relationships between families and schools are examined. This research is being conducted in a middle and lower-class district of Santiago, focusing on two public schools closely connected to their communities. Recognizing the socio-communitarian aspects alongside the family aspect, the research emphasizes the diversity within schools and the potential to challenge stereotypes associated with lower-class students.

Future networks?



Story with digital content

Although with four cohorts the alumni community of ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows is still relatively small, this year we have selected our first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors.

Since 2019, the Zukunftscolleg has welcomed a total of four cohorts of ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows. From our last call of 2023, we welcomed eight new ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows from countries such as Chile, Sri Lanka, Colombia and Nigeria – first online in July and from September/October 2023 in person at the Zukunftscolleg.

The ZUKOnnect Fellowships support early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, who conduct research that fits with one of the thirteen departments at the University of Konstanz.

Herz Fellowships – funded since 2020 by the Henriette Herz Award launched by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – are part of the ZUKOnnect Fellowships, the only difference being that Herz Fellowships are awarded upon nomination by professors of the University of Konstanz. Candidates cannot apply directly to this fellowship programme.

ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows can use their time as fellows to extend their research networks and familiarize themselves with the research environment at the University of Konstanz while keeping their position at home. The fellowships strengthen cultural diversity at the Zukunftscolleg and stimulate the intellectual and integrative discourse among its fellows. By broadening its academic horizons, the Zukunftscolleg aims to promote greater intercontinental dialogue in research.

Our ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows join the Zukunftscolleg online for one year and are on campus for 3 to 4 months in the autumn.

To ensure that our Herz and ZUKOnnect fellows remain a part of our academic family and create lasting ties, we particularly focus on building a community of alumni fellows. That is why we chose our first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors this year!

The Zukunftscolleg builds on earlier achievements of the university and ties in with the ambassador model by appointing alumni fellows as ambassadors. Appointed as “Herz/ZUKOnnect Ambassadors”, selected alumni (about 2 per cohort) carry out related activities on their return to their home institutions or in their next career steps at another institution, such as:

- (1) Providing advice for colleagues or doctoral researchers interested in a research stay in Konstanz**
- (2) Taking an active part in recruitment by disseminating the upcoming calls within their networks and encouraging peers and junior researchers to apply to the ZUKOnnect programme**
- (3) Returning to the University of Konstanz to create lasting ties and further strengthen research collaborations**

Creating alumni networks with Germany, but also between less-represented world regions, by actively promoting and filling them with life is essential to the Zukunftscolleg’s objective of establishing truly global networks and research partnerships on equal terms.

Thus, our ambassadors will share their knowledge about the fellowship gained during their own time as fellows, as well as take our active recruitment initiative home and contribute to the outreach of the pilot programme and sensitization towards the specific situation of researchers coming from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

ZUKONNECT

As a ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassador, our fellow alumni have the following benefits and obligations:

Benefits

- *University email address for the duration of their position (1 year, renewable) and access to digital services, communication and information linked to the university email account. Ambassadors will be equipped with brochures and merchandise for this task.*
- *One return research visit (travel costs only and limited to €1,000) to the University of Konstanz (supported by VEUK, the Alumni Association of the University of Konstanz)*
- *Invitation to Scientific Retreats of the Zukunftscolleg*

Obligations

- *Distribute and advertise upcoming calls via their networks/social media channels*
- *Participate in ZUKOnnect and Herz information sessions prior to annual call deadlines*
- *Organize virtual meetings with selected fellows at the beginning of their online fellowship and before coming to Konstanz to offer advice to newly selected fellows*
- *Give talks at their home university on the University of Konstanz/Zukunftscolleg and the fellowship programmes*

Our first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors are Mahsa Mozafary, Priyanshu Goel and Josiah Taru.



Mahsa Mozafary

Mahsa was a Herz Fellow from September 2021 onwards and affiliated with the Department of Computer and Information Science. Her project was entitled: "Various Colourings of Fractional Powers of Graph". For Mahsa, the fellowship was her first experience both of living abroad alone and of working at another university with a different language and subject culture.

"It was a great experience because I got to know other professors and other topics in different areas they were working on," says Mahsa. "Besides, I was introduced to other cultures by making friends with other visiting scholars from other countries. Now, I have decided to be an honorary ambassador in order to help other students and researchers to experience such opportunities and help them to pursue their careers. By being in another country and engaging with other professors, they can foster their independence and self-confidence, and I am sure many paths will then be open to them."



Priyanshu Goel

Priyanshu is also from the Herz Cohort 2021 and affiliated with the Department of Physics. His project is called: "Synthesis of highly efficient MOF and perovskite composite for development of stable and efficient optoelectronic device".

"One of the best parts of my fellowship was truly the Zukunftscolleg, which has a top-class research atmosphere with international as well as interdisciplinary collaboration," Priyanshu explains. "People and ideas in the Zukunftscolleg make this fellowship truly outstanding in that it provides worldwide opportunities for its members to realize new ideas with their cutting-edge research and help them in future collaborations."



Josiah Taru

Josiah is from the ZUKOnnect Cohort of 2020 and working on the project "Pentecostal Charismatic Christianity, cityscapes and urban form in Harare" with the Department of History and Sociology.

"Being a ZUKOnnect Fellow opened a lot of doors for me," says Josiah. "The collegiality and cosmopolitan atmosphere at the University of Konstanz is captivating. I want to make the University of Konstanz and the Zukunftscolleg visible in Zimbabwe through my role as a ZUKOnnect Ambassador."

We will be very pleased to welcome them back to Konstanz for their return research visits soon (supported by VEUK, the Alumni Association of the University of Konstanz).

Towards the end of the funding period of the Henriette Herz Award (2021-2024), the Zukunftscolleg asked the Staff Unit Quality Management of the University of Konstanz to evaluate the fellowship programme. The evaluation focused particularly on the support structures offered to the funded fellows, their online affiliation, the differences in the selection process between Herz and ZUKOnnect, the fellows' integration into the German academic system and the evaluation by the respective Local Hosts.

At the time of the evaluation, only two selection rounds for the Herz Programme had been completed. Within the evaluation, it was seen that processes and services for the fellows are continuously reviewed and further developed in order to better meet the needs of the fellows and those involved in the selection process. It can be assumed that with increasing experience there will be further optimization and the programme could establish itself accordingly at the Zukunftscolleg. The recommendations of the evaluation report can contribute to this:

- 1. The University of Konstanz's and the Zukunftscolleg's commitment to stronger networking with the Global South is highly valued by those researchers involved in the Herz Programme. They contest a high interest in continuing programmes that encourage this.***
- 2. Herz and ZUKOnnect Fellows are perceived as equals. Even researchers involved in the Herz Programme find it difficult to differentiate between Herz and ZUKOnnect Fellows.***
- 3. Only a few professors at the University of Konstanz stated that they have connections to the Global South and even fewer work collaboratively with early career researchers from the Global South. The accessible pool of candidates for the Herz Fellowship is therefore very limited and there is little competition between nominees. Most respondents admit that they have only limited time to search for suitable candidates for the Herz Fellowship Programme. There is no indication that this situation will change in the short or medium term.***

Recommendations

(i) The Zukunftscolleg could consider expanding the group of people allowed to nominate fellows. Including people at the advanced postdoctoral level is conceivable.

(ii) The Zukunftscolleg could consider informing professors about highly qualified applicants for the Herz Fellowship who could not prevail in the ZUKOnnect selection process. By opening a line of communication with them, they could possibly apply for a Herz Fellowship the following year.

(iii) The Zukunftscolleg could discuss with staff of the International Office and the representatives for internationalization in the departments about how to help professors to find excellent candidates (e.g. screening).

4. Herz and ZUKOnnect Fellows highly appreciate the support measures they participated in during their on-site visit. However, due to scheduling conflicts and unclear registration deadlines, it is not always possible for fellows to participate in such measures during the on-site visit.

Recommendation

(iv) The Zukunftscolleg could consider whether courses in the Career Kit Plus programme can also be offered online during the digital affiliation period (before and after the on-site visit). If possible, registration deadlines could be handled more flexibly or fellows could be informed earlier about registration deadlines.

5. Fellows appreciate the digital affiliation concept. Nevertheless, many practical issues limit collaboration with other researchers at the University of Konstanz (e.g. poor internet connection, different time zones, no virtual meetings in the departments). Access to library resources and the use of the university email address are particularly valued, with the latter having a highly positive effect on the fellows' career opportunities in application processes and publication procedures.

Recommendations

(v) The Zukunftscolleg could make the departments/Local Hosts even more aware of the need to add virtual components to events.

(vi) The Zukunftscolleg should try to extend the duration of use of the UKN email address for fellows beyond the time of their digital affiliation.

6. In most cases, there seems to be no collaboration between the Local Host and the Herz Fellow in the run-up to the selection process. The chances of integrating the Herz Fellows into the university on a greater scale is also rather low due to the limited duration of the on-site visit. Since most of the fellows are in Europe for the first time, they need time to find their bearings in their new surroundings.

Recommendations

(vii) The Executive Committee could pay more attention in the selection process to applications where collaboration between Local Host and nominee already exists.

(viii) The Zukunftscolleg could consider making the Herz Programme more flexible with regard to the duration of the on-site visit. One option would be to extend the on-site visit up to a maximum of six months. Another option might be to offer fellows the possibility for a second stay at the end of their fellowship.

(ix) The Zukunftscolleg could think about mentors for the fellows on doctoral or postdoctoral level who come from a similar cultural background and can help them to settle in.

7. The potential of the Herz Fellowship Programme for the university has not yet been fully realized at the meso and macro level. The university's primary goals for the programme do not yet seem clear. Is the intention of the Herz Fellowship to help the university strengthen its networks in the direction of the Global South and possibly also to attract interesting researchers to the university and to stimulate its own research? Or is it more a programme aimed at promoting democracy and supporting development in the Global South?

Recommendation

(x) The Zukunftscolleg should reflect on the goals of the Herz Fellowship Programme. If the goal is to strengthen research networks in the direction of the Global South, the Zukunftscolleg could implement measures to raise the potential of the Herz (and ZUKOnnect) Programme by creating stronger ties between the home universities of the fellows and the University of Konstanz. For example, events could be organized with the support of the fellows, where researchers of the University of Konstanz present their research at the fellows' home universities. In certain cases, the Zukunftscolleg could try to promote closer university partnerships (e.g. student exchange, research talks) with the fellows' home universities with the support of the International Office.

29

Events

More +

110

Talks

More +

25

Grants & distinctions

More +

48

Courses

More +

33

Media appearances

More +

75

Publications

More +

xxx



Story with digital content

Events organized by fellows

Gruia Badescu

4 October 2022

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Memory and Justice

Workshop with Prof Elizabeth Jelin, Konstanz (Germany), co-organized with Valeria Vegh Weis and Anke Höffler

4 November 2022

Decolonizing the Archive: Latin American Novels as Museums

Lecture by Prof Reindert Dhondt (Utrecht), Konstanz (Germany), co-organized with KoLaF

18 November 2022

Memories for the future: Contemporary memory debates in Barcelona

Lecture by Dr Kathrin Golda Pongratz, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya & Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Spain)

19 November 2022

Representing difficult pasts in museums

Workshop with Dr Simina Badica, House of European History, Brussels (Belgium)

6 July 2023

Memory, Space and Place

Panel at the Memory Studies Association Annual Conference, Newcastle (United Kingdom)

Armin Bahl

21 November 2022

Multi-photon and label-free microscopy

Workshop on light-sheet, Julia Ferrer Ortas (CNRS, Ecole Polytechnique) and Antoine Hubert, Sorbonne, Paris (France)

9 December 2022

Multiplication methods in the fly visual system

Workshop, Lukas Groschner, Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology (Germany)

24 February 2023

Emotions and motivated behaviour in zebrafish and *Danio rerio*

Workshop by Jakob von Trotha, PhD, TU Braunschweig (Germany)

Anamaria Bentea

3-4 July 2023

Heritage Language Syntax 4

Workshop, Wolkenstein-Saal, Kulturzentrum Konstanz (Germany)

Ariane Bertogg

1-3 March 2023

Brain health Policy - Population brain health as a new criterion to inform policymaking: Life-course and gender considerations

Workshop, University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg)

Gabriella Gall

1-14 August 2023

Decolonization of collective behaviour research: Empowering young South African scientists for engaging in field research, Field course at the Kalahari Research Centre (South Africa)

Bianca Gaudenzi

16 September 2022

L'opera da ritrovare

International workshop of the Working Group for the study and research on cultural property taken from the Jews in Italy between 1938 and 1945 as a result of the Racial Laws (Italian Ministry of Culture, Decree No. 323 of 17 July 2020), Sala Macchia, Central National Library, Rome (Italy)

Gisela Kopp

5 March 2023

Biological data from African rock art

Workshop, initiator and organizer, Frobenius Institute, Frankfurt (Germany)

12-14 June 2023

Animating ancient trade routes through primate lifeways

Workshop, Zukunftscolleg, Konstanz (Germany)

Eduardo Luersen

3 November 2022

The Internet as Museum of Computing

Public lecture, Speaker: Peter Krapp (Senior Fellow at the Zukunftscolleg and Professor of Film and Media Studies at the University of California, Irvine).

University of Konstanz (Germany)

4 November 2022

Scientific retreat at the Zentrum für Kunst und Medien (ZKM)

Karlsruhe (Germany)

Daniela Rößler

September 2022

Outreach seminar on spiders for 6th graders at the Integrierte Gesamtschule (IGS), Hermeskeil (Germany)

January 2023

Outreach seminar on rainforests for kindergarten children at the KiTa St. Martinus in Trier (Germany)

14-20 August 2023

Embracing diversity: comparative sleep research in non-model organisms

Symposium organization for the international "Behaviour" conference, invited speaker: Prof Dr Niels Rattenborg. Lead organizer: Daniela C. Rößler, co-organizers: Meg Crofoot, Pritish Chakravarty, Bielefeld (Germany)

Valeria Vegh Weis

14 September 2022

Southern Criminology and Crimes of the Powerful

Panel discussion, European Society of Criminology, Lausanne (Switzerland)

14 September 2022

Transitional Justice, State Crime and Qualitative Methods

Panel Discussion, European Society of Criminology, Lausanne (Switzerland)

4 October 2022

Memory and Justice
Workshop with E. Jelin, University of Konstanz (Germany)

22 December 2022

Abordajes jurídico-criminológicos de la violencia de género
Workshop, ABOGAR, Procuración del Tesoro de la Nación, Argentina

16 February 2023

Reparaciones para los Pueblos Latinoamericanos I
Workshop, Argentina-Spain-Germany, online

22 May 2023

Reparaciones para los Pueblos Latinoamericanos II
Workshop, Argentina-Spain-Germany, online

James Wilson

18-20 April and 24-25 July 2023

Design. Thinking, Making, Doing. Thinking about design and thinking with design to solve big questions
Workshop, joint Martin Buber and Zukunftscolleg Symposium, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) and the University of Konstanz (Germany)

12 July 2023

The Relations between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Countries
Public talk by Michael Köhler (EU Commission), University of Konstanz (Germany)

Abena Yalley

7 December 2022

Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room: Pattern and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana
Public lecture, University of Konstanz (Germany), hybrid

19-21 June 2023

Narrative Exposure Therapy for Trauma Victims
Symposium, University of Konstanz (Germany), hybrid

Grants and distinctions

Armin Bahl

- NIH U19 Collaboration Grant: with Florian Engert, Jeff Lichtman, and Marc Fishman (Harvard University): "The heart and the mind: an integrative approach to brain-body interactions in the zebrafish", 288,750 US-D
- ERC Starting Grant, "Neural basis of zebrafish collective decision-making", 1.5 Million EUR
- BBSRC International Partnerships funding with Robert Hindges (Kings College London): A closed-loop visual stimulation system to study neural circuits underlying animal behaviour, 44,448.46 GBP

Sidney Carls-Diamante

- Konstanzia Transition Fellowship, University of Konstanz, July-December 2023

Gabriella Gall

Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour Small Grant, "Communication between eggs and at the nest", 9,690 EUR

Violeta Ivanona Rohling

- EXCITE (Electron and X-ray microscopy Community for structural and chemical Imaging Techniques for Earth materials) Network (Funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101005611), „M-S-H formation from periclase", 3,500 EUR, November 2022
- EXCITE (Electron and X-ray microscopy Community for structural and chemical Imaging Techniques for Earth materials) Network (Funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101005611), „M-S-H formation from periclase (II)", 4,500 EUR, May 2023
- Young Scholar Fund (YSF) co-funding for research projects (UKON), "Control of the M-S-H Crystallization for Building a Green Future", 45,973 EUR, April 2023 - March 2024

Gisela Kopp

- University Council Award, (as member of the Ukraine Support Team), University Council of the University of Konstanz, 2022
- Workshop grant, "Animating ancient trade routes through primate lifeways", Wenner-Gren Foundation, 19,907 US-D, co-applicant: Prof N. Dominy/Dartmouth College (US)
- Internationalization measures grant, "Workshop Animating ancient trade routes through primate lifeways", International Office, 2,000 EUR
- University Konstanz, "Flexible working conditions for Postdocs with Family Duties", 2,460 EUR, February-December 2023
- Guest professorship in the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire(USA), as part of the Harris Distinguished Visiting Professorship Program, 25,000 US-D

Daniela Rößler

- Young Scholar Fund (YSF), „REM sleep in jumping spiders", 9,200 EUR, 2 years, 2022
- Granted funding for an outgoing research visit to STRI Panama (in November) by the Zukunftscolleg, May 2023
- Finalist of the 2022 PNAS Cozzarelli Prize (National Academy of Sciences) recognizing publications of outstanding scientific quality and originality

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

- DFG grant, „Deep learning methods with symmetry priors for problems in quantum computing", 241,804 EUR

Anna Stöckl

- Hector Research Career Development Award, Hector Foundation, ca. 175,000 EUR
- Young Scientist Fund, University of Konstanz, 97,000 EUR
- ERC Starting Grant, "Closing the loop in dynamic vision – from single photons to behaviour in extreme light environments", 1.5 Million EUR

Valeria Vegh Weis

- Tel Aviv University (Israel), „Transitional justice from below", 10,000 EUR, July-December 2022, funding co-obtained with Prof Dr Leora Belsky
- Critical Criminology of the Year Award, "Division of Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology"
- ProFiL Programme Fellowship, Germany

Abena Yalley

- University of Konstanz, "Obstetric Violence in Ghana: Health Workers and Women's Perspectives on Quality Care and Interventions", 5,130 EUR, August-September 2023
- Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, "Body Politics: Gender, Healthcare and Obstetric Violence in Nigeria", 152,283 EUR, October 2023 - June 2025

Media appearances

Gruia Bădescu

“Scena9 magazine #5”, invited contribution in one of Romania’s leading cultural publications, Scena 9, 15.05.2022

“Mâna lungă a Kremlinului incendiază din umbră Balcanii. „Există temeri serioase de război””, adevarul.ro, 22.08.2022

“Sudul și Estul României, mai afectate de sistematizare decât Vestul țării. „Nu era totul doar ideea lui Ceaușescu””, adevarul.ro, 14.01.2023

“Orașul de 15 minutes. Realități și capcane conspiraționiste”, Recorder (Podcast), 05.05.2023

“Cercetătorul Gruia Bădescu: „Intervenția NATO în Serbia, momentul-cheie când Rusia și-a pierdut încrederea în Vest””, adevarul.ro, 28.05.2023

“Gruia Bădescu, cercetător: „În urmă cu 40 de ani, Bosnia era un exemplu al diversității, acum este o țară a segregării””, adevarul.ro, 28.05.2023

Jacob Bloomfield

“The Library is Officially Open: Queer Culture Historian Jacob Bloomfield on His Century-Spanning Herstory of British Drag, beginning in the 1870s”, profiled in The Bookseller, Tom Tivnan, 25.11.2022

“History’s Most Incredible Drag Queens and Kings”, Matt Cain, Source for BBC Culture, 01.02.2023

“For Fun, the Camp, and the Giggle”: A Post-War Drag Revue’, Source for Museum of London, Jilke Golbach, 03.04.2023

“Drag: A British History”, Review of Drag: A British History in Publishers Weekly, 26.04.2023

“Drag: A British History”, included in The Bookseller, “September 2023: Non-fiction Previews”, 09.06.2023

Bianca Gaudenzi

“Consigli per acquisti di regime”, G. Polimeni, Il Venerdì (weekly supplement to La Repubblica), p. 74, book review of her latest book Fascismi in vetrina (Viella 2023), 26.05.2023

Gisela Kopp

“We have finally found the land of Punt, where pharaohs got their gifts”, Colin Barras, New Scientist, 14.12.2022

“Das Rätsel der heiligen Paviane”, Nathaniel J. Dominy, Spektrum der Wissenschaft, May 2023

Eduardo Luersen

“Ruínas do excesso: o design dos jogos digitais como renderização das ruínas da obsolescência programada”, Ávila, C., TCAv Indica, 27.08.2022

Morgane Nouvian

“Honeybees are less likely to sting in larger groups”, on the University of Konstanz and the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour websites, 15.09.2022

Daniela Rößler

Mentioning of my research in the popular German Quiz show “Wer weiß denn sowas?” on ARD (episode aired 1 February 2023)

Appearance in the German popular science TV show “Galileo” on ProSieben (episode aired 7 December 2022)

Listed among National Geographic’s “22 most amazing discoveries of 2022”, December 2022

Numerous (> 300) international news articles on our research on an REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders including:

“Spiders Seem to Have REM-like Sleep and May Even Dream”, Scientific American, 08.08.2022

“Do spiders dream? A new study suggests they do.”, National Geographic, 08.08.2022

“Do Spiders Dream? A New Study Suggests They Just Might”, Wall Street Journal, 08.08.2022

“To sleep, perchance they dream?”, Harvard Gazette, 09.08.2022

“Jumping spiders might be able to sleep—perchance to dream”, Popular Science, 12.08.2022

“Do Spiders Dream of Eight-Legged Sheep?”, The New York Times, 15.08.2022

“Do spiders dream?”, Science, 01.09.2022

“Dreaming: Why we hallucinate while asleep (and do spiders do it too?)”, Podcast, Tiny Matters, 21.09.2022

Valeria Vegh Weis

“Hacia un Juicio de la Verdad por los Fusilamientos de las Huelgas Patagónicas”, Telam, 14.06.2022

“Rise Up (against Neocolonial Activism)!” Left Berlin, 25.08.2022

“¿Qué hacer si no sale el juicio político?”, Página/12, 19.01.2023

“¿Qué hacer si no sale el juicio político?”, Radio 10, 20.01.2023

James Wilson

“Situating the crusades in Syrian history: a Q&A with James Wilson”, Edinburgh University Press, 31.07.2023

Talks

Gruia Badescu

“The city as a world in common: Syncretic place-making as a spatial approach to peace”, European International Studies Association (EISA) conference, Athens (Greece), September 2022

“The Heritage of War: Ruins, Reconstructions and Dealing with the Past”, Heritage, Memory, and Identity, International Symposium of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA), Santiago de Compostela (Spain), October 2022

“Of Islands and Bridges: Research (Ing) Islands across Regions and Continents”, Beyond the Mediterranean Islands and Transmediterraneity, MS ISLA Workshop, Regensburg (Germany), October 2022

“Reshaping Space, Reshaping Memory: International Actors and the Post-War Reconstruction of Cities”, History and Memory in International Relations, 12th Genealogies of Memory Conference, Warsaw (Poland), October 2022

“Post-War Reconstruction and Dealing with the Past”, invited lecture, Urbicide in Ukraine online talks, Centre for Urban Studies (University of Kyiv) and National Art Museum of Ukraine, 3 November 2022, online

“Reflective Reconstruction: Architects and Making Sense of War in the Former Yugoslavia and Beyond”, Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) annual conference, Chicago (USA), November 2022

“Beirut-Sarajevo Intersections”, Performance Lecture (with Sabine el Chamaa), Bard College, Berlin (Germany), November 2022

“A new Charter for Heritage: ICOMOS and the Redefinition of Policy and Practice in the Aftermath of Conflict and Beyond”, Contested World Orders, The Global Heritage Discourse and Practice in Times of Crises and Conflict, International Conference, Bamberg (Germany), December 2022

“Difficult heritage in Europe’s periphery: Memorializing sites of political violence in a transnational, intercultural perspective after 1989”, Interculturalities, Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS) conference, Santiago de Chile (Chile), December 2022

“Making Sense of Ruins: Post-War Reconstruction and Dealing with the Past”, Urban Traumas and Healings: Reconstructing cities in Ukraine, workshop, Brussels (Belgium), February 2023, online

“Reflexiones desde el campo urbano: investigando el imaginario espacial de Buenos Aires en un marco transnacional”, KOLAF Colloquium, Konstanz (Germany), 20 February 2023, online

“International Actors and the Post-War Reconstruction of Cities in the Levant”, Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage in the Middle East and North Africa, conference, Doha (Qatar), 7 March 2023

“The City as a World in Common? Contested Reconstruction, Syncretic Place-Making and Urban Memory in Beirut and Beyond”, invited lecture, Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies, University of Lund (Sweden), 21 March 2023

“Researching Cities in the Shadow of War”, invited lecture, “Cities, buildings, culture” programme, Vilnius (Lithuania), 23 March 2023

“Urban Geopolitics in Ordinary and Contested Cities”, invited lecture, University of Bamberg (Germany), 4 May 2023

“Cities and war: Dynamics and challenges of reconstruction”, 2023 Conference of the International Network for Urban Research and Action (INURA), Zurich/Salecina (Switzerland), 1-5 June 2023

“The Post-Socialist City. Perspectives from Bucharest”, invited lecture, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte (Brazil), 19 June 2023, online

“Architectural intentionality after destruction: Engaging with the memory of loss through place-making practice”, Memory Studies Association Annual Conference, Newcastle (UK), 3-7 July 2023

“Cities and war: Perspectives on the reconstruction of Ukraine from Southeastern Europe and beyond”, Die Ukraine und Europa, Ringvorlesung, Konstanz (Germany), 18 July 2023

Armin Bahl

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Takashi Kawashima, Weizmann Institute (Rehovot, Israel), on-site, 17 April 2023

“Imaging Structure and Function of the Zebrafish Brain Conference”, Neural basis of multi-channel information integration and decision-making, Trondheim (Norway), 30 July - 1 August 2022

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Limor Freifeld, Technion (Haifa, Israel), on-site, 13 April 2023

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Lilach Avitan, Hebrew University (Jerusalem, Israel), on-site, 21 April 2023

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Phoebe Reynolds, Robert Hindges lab, Kings College London (UK) 8 June 2023

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Ron Jortner, Cambridge University Science Improv (UK), on-site, 8 June 2023

“Correlated light and electron microscopy reveal recurrent circuit motives in the zebrafish hindbrain visual integrator network”, lecture, hosted by Dana Galili, Greg Jefferis lab, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge (UK), 9 June 2023

Anamaria Bentea

“Complex syntactic structures in heritage language development”, online lecture at the Cyprus Acquisition Team lab, March 2023

Ariane Bertogg

“To the Fifties and Back Again? Changes in Couples’ Breadwinning Arrangements Across Phases of the Covid-19 Pandemic”, Analytical Sociology: Theory and Empirical Applications, Venice (Italy), 14-17 November 2022

“Regional Transition Regimes? Cantonal Variance in Education Policies and Young Adults’ Family Transitions”, (Post-)Doc Colloquium, Gender Studies, University of Konstanz (Germany), 25 November 2022

“Gendered Life Courses and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: The Role of Gender Norms and Employment Biographies”, WIAS 15th Anniversary Symposium, Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, Tokyo (Japan), 13 December 2022, online

“Regional Transition Regimes? Cantonal Variance in Education Policies and Young Adults’ Family Transitions”, Kolloquium Empirische Sozialforschung, Department of Sociology, LMU München (Germany), 14 December 2022

“Regional Transition Regimes? Cantonal Variance in Education Policies and Young Adults’ Family Transitions”,

LIVES Colloquium, University of Lausanne (Switzerland), 7 March 2023

Commentary on the piece "Einfache Leute" (by Anna Gschritzer), public talk at Theater Konstanz (Germany), 21 May 2023

Jacob Bloomfield

"Joie de Vivre Amidst Repression and Danger: Case Studies from Histories of Male* Cross-Dressing, 18th-20th Centuries", WIAS 15th-Anniversary Symposium, Waseda University, Tokyo (Japan), December 2022

"An Introduction to the History of British Drag Performance", Waseda University (Japan), January 2023

"Gay Icons: Public Talk in the Framework of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia on 17 May", University of Konstanz (Germany), 17 May 2023

Sidney Carls-Diamante

"The Octopus and Consciousness: What Can We Learn?", Early Lunch Philosophy, University of Konstanz (Germany), 8 December 2022

"Know Thyself: Bipolar Disorder and Self-Concept", Psychosocial Medicine Colloquium, University of Heidelberg (Germany), 17 January 2023

"Are we equipped to work interdisciplinarity? On the lack of philosophical education for neuroscientists", invited panel discussant, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Paris (France), 10 July 2023

Gabriella Gall

"Group coordination and decision making", Department Seminar, University of Auckland (New Zealand), 3 October 2022

"Pūkeko (Porphyrio melanotus) vocal signalling at the nest", Institute Seminar, MPIAB, Konstanz (Germany), 26 May 2023

Bianca Gaudenzi

"Fascismi in vetrina. Pubblicità e modelli di consumo nel Ventennio e nel Terzo Reich", invited lecture and Q&A with B.A. and graduate students about her new book (Viella 2023), with Francesco Torchiani and Matteo Di Tullio, Collegio Ghislieri, University of Pavia (Italy), 2 May 2023

"Consumi e cultura di massa", "Cent'anni dopo. Il fascismo nella storiografia e nella sfera pubblica", national conference, Istituto Storico Parri and Department of History, Culture & Civilisation, University of Bologna (Italy), 11 May 2023

"Das ehemalige Ghetto Roms, 1870 bis heute", invited lecture with walking tour for the Gremiensitzung and the Kuratorium of the Thyssen Foundation, Rome (Italy), 18 June 2023

Gisela Kopp

"Wie geht es Hannah in anderen OECD-Ländern? Reformoptionen für wissenschaftliche Karrieren", panel discussion, OECD Berlin Centre (Germany), 10 January 2023, online

"Analyzing non-invasive, historic, and ancient DNA to trace the history and behaviors of primates", AcadeMIX of the

Israel Young Academy, Jerusalem (Israel), 18 May 2023

"Adulis and the transshipment of baboons during classical antiquity", workshop Animating Ancient Trade Routes through Primate Lifeways, Konstanz (Germany) 12-14 June 2023

"Zukunft der BBAW", panel discussion, Leibniztag of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), Berlin (Germany), 16 June 2023

Eduardo Luersen

"Heating Clouds: The Thermal Mediations of Gaming Infrastructure in Times of Streaming Platforms", invited talk at the Medienwissenschaftliches Postdoc/Doc-Kolloquium der Universität Konstanz (Germany), 8 October 2022

"Paradoxes of Sustainable Gaming through Cloud Platforms: Is Infrastructure the Elephant in the Room?", workshop on Video Games and Environmental Issues: Current and Future Challenges, presented at the Central and Eastern European Game Studies Conference (CEEGS 2022), Tallinn (Estonia), 13 October 2022

"Overheating Media: Gaming in the Cloud and the Thermal Entanglements of Digital Infrastructure", talk at the Zukunftskolleg, Konstanz (Germany), 12 December 2022

"Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining: Through the Cracks of Cloud Gaming Infrastructure", International Conference of the Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA 2023), Seville (Spain), 21 June 2023

Noelia Martinez-Doallo

"La agencia intencional prospectiva de Alan Gewirth y la titularidad universal de los derechos humanos", Simposio Internacional: Los Nuevos Derechos Humanos: Teoría Jurídica y Praxis Política, University of A Coruna (Spain), 13 October 2022

"A Kelsenian-Inspired Explanation of Patients' Right to Informed Consent", annual workshop on the Vienna School of Jurisprudence and the Pure Theory of Law, organised by the Hans Kelsen Research Group, University of Freiburg, St. Peter im Schwarzwald (Germany), 4 April 2023

"The Protection of Health Rights in Europe: Enduring and Post-Brexit Challenges", Konstanz delegation – Plenary Symposium, Yerevan/Erasmus and visit to the University of Essex, Colchester (UK), 24 April 2023

"To want to know or To NOT want to know", NetIAS Debate Series: Health. Interdisciplinary, Ethical and Alternative Approaches, IMéRA, Aix-Marseille University, Marseille (France), 25 May 2023

"Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Semantics", Logic Colloquium, University of Konstanz (Germany), 12 June 2023

Morgane Nouvian

"Individual consistency and social regulation of honeybee stinging behaviour", Club de Neurobiologie des Invertébrés, Toulouse (France), 7 April 2023

Daniela Rößler

"Strong behavioral evidence of a REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders.", Hot Topic Symposium at the closing session of the European Sleep Research Society (ESRS) conference in Athens (Greece), invited by Prof Dr Tom de Boer, 30 September 2022

“All animals sleep—do all animals dream?”, biology colloquium at Goethe University Frankfurt (Germany), invited by Prof Dr Lisa Schulte, 18 October 2022

“All animals sleep—do all animals dream?”, Seminar series at the Centre for Behaviour and Evolution at Newcastle University (UK), invited by Dr Vivek Nityananda, 25 October 2022, online

“All animals sleep—do all animals dream?”, invited lecture in Contemporary Questions in Behavioral Ecology course at LMU Munich (Germany), invited by Prof Dr Niels Dingemans, 9 November 2022, online

“All animals sleep—do all animals dream?”, biological seminar series Trier University, (Germany), invited by Prof Dr Stefan Lötters, 19 December 2022, online

„Sleep diversity—what can we learn from non-model organisms? An eight-legged example“, seminar series at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, invited by Dr Alfonso Aceves, 6 July 2023, online

“Hidden in plain sight? Testing eye camouflage in jumping spiders“, poster presentation at the Behaviour conference in Bielefeld (Germany), 15 August 2023

„Ontogenetic changes of REM sleep in the jumping spider *Portia fimbriata*“, symposium talk (Embracing diversity: comparative sleep research in non-model organisms) at the Behaviour conference in Bielefeld (Germany), talk held as a substitute for my student Nadja Geiger, 16 August 2023

Introduction talk to the symposium „Embracing diversity: comparative sleep research in non-model organisms“ at the Behaviour conference in Bielefeld (Germany), 16 August 2023

„Shake that thing! Abdominal bobbing as a dynamic visual signal in a jumping spider“, poster presentation at the Behaviour conference in Bielefeld (Germany), 17 August 2023

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

“Nucleation mechanism of Magnesium-Silicate-Hydrate (M-S-H) cement“, Microscopy Conference 2023, Darmstadt (Germany), 3 March 2023

“Nucleation and early growth of Magnesium Silicate Hydrate“, Goldschmidt 2023, Lyon (France), 14 July 2023

Daniel Skibra

„Assessing Desires for Mode and Content“, at the Agency and Intention in Language 3 (AIL3) workshop, University of Göttingen (Germany) & Harvey Mudd College, California, (USA), 9 March 2023, online

Valeria Vegh Weis

“DESCA y Salud Mental“, Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos (Brazil), 1 August 2022

“Decolonizing Transitional Justice: History and Contributions on the Crime of Forced Disappearances“, ECPR, Vienna (Austria), 24 August 2022

“Marxism and Criminology: A History of Criminal Selectivity, Fritz Sacks 90“, Geburtstag des Kriminologischen Journals, 1 September 2022

“Criminalization of Activism“, book presentation, European Group Conference, Turin (Italy), 6 September 2022

“Crimes of the Powerful Reloaded: Is the Savage-Victor-Saviour (SVS) Metaphor still valid to Study Atrocity Crimes in Germany Today?“, European Group Conference, Turin (Italy), 8 September 2022

“Criminalization of Activism“, book presentation, European Society of Criminology, Málaga (Spain), 22 September 2022

“Southerning Transnational Criminal Regimes“, an Analysis of the Counter-Terrorist Northern Policies in Argentina, European Society of Criminology, Málaga (Spain), 23 September 2022

“Criminalization of Activism“, book presentation, Netzwerk Kriminologie, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), 2 November 2022

“Criminalization of Activism“, book presentation, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg (Germany), 24 November 2022

“Criminalization of Activism“, book presentation, Universität Konstanz (Germany), 10 January 2023

“75 years after Nuremberg Re-Assessing Accountability in Post-Holocaust Germany, in Uses and Abuses of History from post-WWII trials to the Russian War in Ukraine“, Tel Aviv University (Israel), 5 December 2022

“Debatiendo la obra de R. Zaffaroni“, Mesa Redonda, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe (Argentina), 12 December 2022, online

“Green Criminology“, Padova University (Italy), 11 February 2023, online

“The Argentinean Transitional Justice Process“, international intensive seminar on Political Crimes and Transitional Justice, KU Leuven (Belgium), 24 March 2023, online

“El papel de la memoria, la verdad y la justicia en Argentina y su relevancia para Alemania“, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Berlin (Germany), 24 March 2023

“Resistance to Atrocities from the Bottom-Up“, workshop on Resistance to Mass Atrocities, The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies (Norway), 3-4 May 2023

“Universal Jurisdiction. International Criminal Justice in the Italian Perspective“, training course for Judges and Prosecutors, Università degli Studi di Milano (Italy), 12 May 2023

“What do we know about Resistance? A Systemic Review“, seminar Prof Anke Hoeffler, University of Konstanz (Germany), 14 June 2023

“Criminalization of Activism“, workshop, London South Bank University (UK), 15 June 2023, online

“Introduction: David O. Friedrichs and State Crime Criminology“, State Crime Criminology Seminar, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), 19 June 2023

“A Victim-Driven Approach to Transitional Justice“, workshop “All things change the same? Inception workshop of the research network“, Bayreuth Universität (Germany), 22 June 2023

“Othering: subtle shortcomings in Germany’s process of dealing with the past“, International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference, Universidad de Barcelona (Spain), 11 July 2023

“Southerning Blue Criminology. The Argentine Navy and the abolitionist initiatives in the prosecution of illegal fishing“, Third International Conference Punishment in Global Peripheries, Mumbai (India), 18 July 2023

“Who can organize and exercise effective resistance? A southern criminology perspective on the victimology of state crime?“, European Group Conference for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, University of Turku (Finland), 29 August 2023

“What does Lawfare mean in Latin America? A new framework for understanding the criminalization of progressive political leaders?“, European Group Conference for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, University of Turku (Finland), 30 August 2023

James Wilson

“Tracing the routes of modern Crusader Orientalism”, Zukunftskolleg Jour Fixe, Konstanz (Germany), 17 January 2023

“Translating Arabic Crusade Chronicles in 19th Century France”, Konstanz Mediterranean Platform, Konstanz (Germany), 3 May 2023

“The colonial era roots of the Medieval Islamic ‘Counter-Crusade’”, International Medieval Congress, Leeds (UK), 5 July 2023

Abena Yalley

“Restitution is equal to What? The return of the head of Badu Bonso II to Ghana”, International Conference on Negotiating the Human, University of Geneva (Switzerland), 16 September 2022

“Restitution is equal to What?”, Interdisciplinary Workshop on Memory and Justice, University of Konstanz (Germany), 4 October 2022

“Body Politics, Gender and Obstetric Violence in Ghana”, Development Research Group Colloquium, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz (Germany), 13 October 2022, hybrid

“Restitution is equal to What? The Implications of the Restitution of the Head of Badu Bonso II on the Ahanta People in Ghana”, Anthropology Colloquium, Department of Sociology, University of Konstanz (Germany), 6 December 2022, on-site

“Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room: Patterns and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana”, Public Lecture in the Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich (Germany), 25 January 2023, hybrid

“Obstetric Violence Research in Ghana”, Erasmus Exchange in the University of Essex (UK), 24 April 2023

“It is a Coup: Feminism, protests and Feminist Movements in Contemporary Nigeria”, 9th European Conference on African Studies, University of Cologne (Germany), 31 May 2023

“Gender, Afrocentrism and African Feminisms: The Struggle Towards Equality”, Diversity Days in University of Konstanz (Germany), 12 June 2023

“IT IS A COUP”: Feminism, protests and feminist movements in Contemporary Africa”, Round Table on Shaping Protests: Activist practices to form resistance, 9 December 2022, online

“Gender Clash: Hostile masculinity and feminist performance in researching policing domestic violence in Ghana and Nigeria”, Ethnographies with the Police: Workshop on Intersectionality and Ethnographic Research, University of Warwick (UK), 7 July 2023, hybrid

“We beat them to help them push: midwives’ perspectives on obstetric Violence in Ghana”. EADI CEa General Conference 2023: Towards New Rhythms of Development, University of Lisbon (Portugal), 11 July 2023, hybrid

Courses

Gruia Badescu

- Winter semester 2022/23: “Dealing with the Past: Memory and Justice in Eastern Europe and Latin America” (course, BA/MA, co-taught with Valeria Vegh-Weis, Department of Law), University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Territory and the Politics of Space”, MA course, SNSPA Bucharest (Hungary)
- Summer semester 2023: Research colloquium on Eastern European History, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Remaking cities between imperial and national imaginations: From the ‘Paris of the East’ to Transylvania and the Black Sea” (course with excursion component BA/MA), University of Konstanz (Germany)

Armin Bahl

Winter semester 2022/23 and summer semester 2023:

- Lecture series on Animal Physiology and Neurobiology for Bachelor Students, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Advanced course in Behavioral Neurobiology for Master students, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Zebrafish Journal Club for Bachelor, Master, and Ph.D. students, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Neurobiology Seminar for all group members from the neurobiology groups at the Biology Department, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Anamaria Bentea

- Winter semester 2022/23: “Psycholinguistique et acquisition du langage”, lecture, University of Zürich (Switzerland)

Ariane Bertogg

- Winter semester 2022/23: “Social Inequality and the Welfare State”, sociology seminar, Universität Zürich (Switzerland)
- Winter semester 2022/23: “Post-Covid Gesellschaft(en)”, MA Soziologievorlesung, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Winter semester 2022/23: “Ungleichheit im Wohlfahrtsstaat”, MA Soziologie Seminar, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Winter semester 2022/23: “Globale Gesellschaft”, MA Soziologie Kolloquium, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Herausforderungen Alternder Gesellschaften”, BA Soziologie Vorlesung, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Herausforderungen Alternder Gesellschaften”, BA Soziologie Übung zur Vorlesung, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Zwischen Ageismus und Silver Consumers”, MA Seminar, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “Forever Young? Lebensläufe in der Postmoderne”, BA Soziologie Übung Spezielle Soziologische Gebiete, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Übung zur Bachelor- und Masterarbeit, BA/MA Soziologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)

Svetlana Boycheva-Woltering

- Summer semester 2023: VTK in Plant Physiology: Supervision of 1 student for 6 weeks, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: “GWAS overview and application in plant biology”, lecture, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Supervision of 1 bachelor student – 12 weeks (ongoing since June 2023), University of Konstanz (Germany)

Jacob Bloomfield

- Winter semester 2022/23: "A History of Drag", (adult learners), Bishopsgate Institute, London (UK), online

Sidney Carls-Diamante

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Know thyself: Bipolar disorder and self-concept", guest lecture, University of Primorska, Koper (Slovenia)

Gabriella Gall

- Winter semester 2022/23: Tools to measure individual behaviour in the wild and in the lab, Guest lecture to 3rd year BSc course at Plymouth University (UK), online
- Summer semester 2023: Introduction to animal behaviour, ethics and data collection methods, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Introduction to GPS and remote sensing data collection and analysis, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Bianca Gaudenzi

- Winter semester 2022/23: Summer School 'Venedigs Kulturgüter in und nach den Kriegen des 20. Jahrhunderts – Schutz, Abtransport, Rückführung', compact course for MA and PhD students, taught with PD Dr Lutz Klinkhammer (DHI Rom), funded by the Thyssen Foundation, Deutsches Studienzentrums in Venedig
- Winter semester 2022/23: Spring school "Mediterranean History", BA course organised by Prof Manuel Borutta and Sven Reichardt, Department of History & Sociology, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Gisela Kopp

- Winter semester 2022/23: Advanced Course Environmental Genomics (performing, 6 weeks full time lecture with colloquium & internship, in person, co-teaching with Prof Epp), University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Lecture Evolutionary Organismal Biology - section Sociality & Evolution (performing, 1 lecture/term in lecture series, in person), University of Konstanz (Germany)

Noelia Martinez-Doallo

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Law & Biomedicine", lecture, Department of Law, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Morgane Nouvian

- Winter semester 2022/23: „Honeybee physiology“, lecture given as part of the course on Bees and bee pathologies, Veterinary school of Nantes (France)
- Winter semester 2022/2023: Supervision of PhD student Daniela Ramirez-Moreno, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: „Pheromones and pheromone processing“, lecture given as part of the Advanced Course in Behavioural Neurobiology, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Supervision of the BSc thesis of Johanna Ott, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Daniela Rößler

- Summer semester 2023: "From natural history observations to experiments", seminar, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Atomic Force Microscopy", MA lecture in Nanochemistry and analytics, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: "Atomic Force Microscopy", BA lecture in Materialanalytik, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Anna Stöckl

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Basic Skills in Biology", 2 Practical Days and Lectures, Bachelor, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: Contribution to VTK Neurobiology, Masters, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Valeria Vegh Weis

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Memory and Justice", Seminar, DAAD Hilde Domin Programme, programme for students with a refugee status, co-coordinated by Anke Hoeffler, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Winter semester 2022/23: "Gender Violence, Course, LLM in Administrative Law, Escuela del Cuerpo de Abogados del Estado (post-graduate) (Argentina)
- Winter semester 2022/23: "Green Criminology", LLM in Criminal Justice, Bologna University (Italy)
- Winter semester 2022/23: "Criminology", MA in Criminology, Quilmes National University (Argentina)

James Wilson

- Summer semester 2023: "Crusading in the Medieval Mediterranean", Course, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Abena Yalley

- Winter semester 2022/23: "Gender, Race and Migration: An Afrocentric Perspective", European Identities Winter School
- Summer semester 2023: "Gender and Development", Advanced Bachelors Seminar, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz (Germany)
- Summer semester 2023: "African Feminisms", Research and Development, Advanced Bachelors Seminar, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz (Germany)

Publications

Gruia Badescu

Bădescu, G. 2022: The City as a World in Common: Syncretic Place-Making as a Spatial Approach to Peace. In: Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. doi: 10.1080/17502977.2022.2132093

Bădescu, G. 2022: Urban Geopolitics in 'Ordinary' and 'Contested' Cities: Perspectives from the European South-East. Geopolitics. 1-26. 10.1080/14650045.2022.2129010.

Bădescu, G. 2022: From Urban Image to Urban Imaginary: Shaping the Paris of Latin America in a Global Perspective. In: SALMON, Carole, ed., 2022. Paris in the Americas: Yesterday and Today. Wilmington, DE:Vernon Press. ISBN 978-1-64889-505-0

Armin Bahl

Voigt FF, Reuss AM, Naert T, Hildebrand S, Schaettin M, Hotz AL, Whitehead L, Bahl A, Neuhauss SCF, Roebroek A, Stoeckli ET, Lienkamp SS, Aguzzi A, Helmchen F. 2023: Reflective multi-immersion microscope objectives inspired by the Schmidt telescope. Nat Biotechnol. 2023 Mar 30. doi: 10.1038/s41587-023-01717-8.

Vohra, Sumit K., Philipp Harth, Yasuko ISEO, Armin Bahl, Haleh Fotowat, Florian Engert, Hans-Christian Hege, Daniel Baum, 2023: A Visual Interface for Exploring Hypotheses about Neural Circuits. In: IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics. IEEE. ISSN 1077-2626. eISSN 1941-0506. doi: 10.1109/TVCG.2023.3243668

Anamaria Bentea

Bentea, A., Theodoros M., 2022: Multiple wh-interrogatives in child heritage Romanian: On-line comprehension and production. In: *Frontiers in Psychology*. Frontiers Research Foundation. 13, 2022, 1018225. eISSN 1664-1078. Available under: doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2022.1018225

Bentea, A., Durrleman, S., 2022: Person Matters: Relative Clauses in the Acquisition of French. In: *Isogloss: Open Journal of Romance Linguistics*. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. 8(5), 2022, 2. eISSN 2385-4138. doi: 10.5565/rev/isogloss.214

Bentea, A., Shlonsky, U. & Durrleman, S. 2023: Towards a hierarchy of featural mismatch effects in the acquisition of A'-dependencies: A comprehension study with French children. *Proceedings of the 47th Annual Boston University Conference in Language Development*

Ariane Bertogg

Bertogg, A., 2023: Needs or obligations? The influence of childcare infrastructure and support norms on grandparents' labour market participation. In: *Journal of European Social Policy*. 33(1), S. 17-33. ISSN 0958-9287. doi.org/10.1177/09589287221115668

Bertogg, A.; Leist, A. K. 2023: Gendered life courses and cognitive functioning in later life: the role of context-specific gender norms and lifetime employment. In: *European Journal of Ageing*. 20(7), online first. doi.org/10.1007/s10433-023-00751-4

Bertogg, A.; Settels, J. 2023: Dependent on One's Past? How Lifetime Employment Shapes Later Life Work-Care Reconciliation. In: *Community, Work, and Family*, in press. 10.1080/13668803.2023.2229002

Jacob Bloomfield

Bloomfield, J., 2022: Vincent L. Stephens: Rocking the Closet: How Little Richard, Johnnie Ray, Liberace, and Johnny Mathis Queered Pop Music. In: *Cultural History*. Edinburgh University Press. 11(1), 2022, pp. 112-114. ISSN 2045-290X. eISSN 2045-2918. Available under: doi: 10.3366/cult.2022.0258

Bloomfield, J., 2023: *Drag: A British History*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN 9780520393325

Sidney Carls-Diamante

Carls-diamante, S., 2022: Where Is It Like to Be an Octopus? In: *Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience*. Frontiers Research Foundation. 16, 2022, 840022. eISSN 1662-5137. doi: 10.3389/fnsys.2022.840022

Carls-diamante, S., 2022: Know thyself: bipolar disorder and self-concept. In: *Philosophical Explorations*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. ISSN 1386-9795. eISSN 1741-5918. doi: 10.1080/13869795.2022.2147982

Carls-diamante, S., 2022: The argument from Evel (Knievel): daredevils and the free energy principle. In: *Biology & Philosophy*. Springer. 37(5), 2022, pp. 37-44. ISSN 0169-3867. eISSN 1572-8404. doi: 10.1007/s10539-022-09872-z

Gabriella Gall

Averly, B., Sridhar, V.H., Demartsev, V, Gall, G., Manser, M. Strandburg-peshkin, A., 2022: Disentangling influence over group speed and direction reveals multiple patterns of influence in moving meerkat groups. In: *Scientific reports*. Springer Nature. 12(1), 2022, 13844. eISSN 2045-2322. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-17259-z

Bianca Gaudenzi

Gaudenzi, B., 2023: *Fascismi in vetrina: Pubblicità e modelli di consumo nel Ventennio e nel Terzo Reich*. Roma: Viella. ISBN 979-12-5469-296-7

Gaudenzi, B., 2023: Competing memories? The Holocaust and colonial atrocities in German history, with contributions by David Blackburn, Rita Chin, Gustavo Corni, Marie Muschalek, Sven Reichardt, Hannah Tzuberi, *Passato e Presente* 118, 18-52, doi: 10.3280/PASS2023-118002

Gaudenzi, B., 2023: Cultural Restitution and the 'Rediscovery' of the Holocaust in Italy, 1989–2003. *Journal of Modern European History*, 21(3), 377–394. Doi: 10.1177/16118944231180426

Gisela Kopp

Kopp, Gisela H., Riashna Sithaldeen, Franziska Trede, Franziska Grathwol, Christian Roos, Dietmar Zinner, 2023: A Comprehensive Overview of Baboon Phylogenetic History. In: *Genes*. MDPI. 14(3), 2023, 614. eISSN 2073-4425. doi: 10.3390/genes14030614

Kopp, Gisela H., Riashna Sithaldeen, Franziska Trede, Franziska Grathwol, Christian Roos, Dietmar Zinner, 2023: A Comprehensive Overview of Baboon Phylogenetic History. In: *Genes*. MDPI. 14(3), 2023, 614. eISSN 2073-4425. doi: 10.3390/genes14030614

Holzappel, M., 2023: *Young Scientists - 30 Forschende und ihre Wege in die Wissenschaft*. Die Junge Akademie (ed). Hanser Verlag

Eduardo Luersen

Luersen, EH., 2022: Entrelaçando design e ficção científica: O caso de Daleko. In: *Prometeica - Revista de Filosofia y Ciencias*. Universidade Federal de São Paulo (Especial), 2022, pp. 91-111. eISSN 1852-9488. doi: 10.34024/prometeica.2022.Especial.13471

Da Silva de Paula, B., Luersen, EH., 2023: Gambiarra and the In(ter)dependent Condition: Ecological Relationships in the Construction of Experimental Musical Instruments. In: *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture*. University of California Press. 4(2), 2023, pp. 143-157. eISSN 2688-867X. doi: 10.1525/res.2023.4.2.143

De Paula, BS., Luersen, EH. 2023: Gambiarra e a Condição In(ter)dependente: Relações Ecológicas na Construção de Instrumentos Musicais Experimentais. In: *Castanheira, JCS et al. Poderes do Som: Borderline Sonorities*. Florianópolis: Insular Livros. (In Press).

Conference proceedings (accepted)

Luersen, EH., 2023: Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining: Through the Cracks of Cloud Gaming Infrastructure. In *Proceedings of DiGRA 2023 Conference - Limits and Margins of Games*. Digital Games Research Association: DiGRA.

Translated article (in Press)

Fuchs, M. 2023: Sintonizado em quê? O assustador renascimento da estetização da política. Translated to Portuguese by Eduardo Luersen. *Líbero*, Vol. 25, n. 52. ISSN 2525-3166. (In Press).

Journal Articles / Book Chapters (submitted / under review)

Luersen, EH., 2024: Sound Design and Memory in the Instantiation of Digital Game Worlds: An Essay on Iconophonics. *Syn-Thèses: Intermedial Crossovers in Audiovisual and Interactive Arts*, Vol. 15. eISSN: 2585-2647. (Abstract Accepted. Full manuscript to be submitted by October).

Luersen, EH., 2024: Above and Within the Earth: Flight Simulator and the Metabolic Connections Between a Simulated World and its Twin Systems. In: *Joyeux-Prunel, B., Vaillancourt, T., Bekirov, A., and Monico, RL. The Struggle for Digital Images: An Agonistic Perspective of New Media Floods*. University of Geneva. (Invited Author / Under review).

Luersen, EH. and Paula, J., 2023: Exoplanetary Exploration and the End of the World in 22 Minutes: Philosophical Fiction in Outer Wilds. *Games and Culture*, Vol. 18, no. 8. ISSN 1555-4120. (Under review).

Noelia Martinez-Doallo

Martínez-Doallo, N., (under review). The Human Rights Basis for Patients' Right to Informed Consent: A Theory of European Human Rights Norms. Law and Philosophy.

Martínez-Doallo, N., (under preparation). The Issue of Bodily Rights Alienation. In: J.-A. Seoane and O. Vergara (eds.), *The Discourse of Biorights. Bioethics, Biopolitics, Biolaw*. Springer International Publishing Switzerland.

Martínez-Doallo, N., 2023: La teoría de los principios de Robert Alexy. Algunas notas acerca de su interpretación. In: G. Villa-Rosas et al. (eds.), *Derecho, argumentación y ponderación. Ensayos en honor a Robert Alexy*. Bogotá: Universidad Externado de Colombia, pp. 287–318.

Morgane Nouvian

Scarano, F., Deivarajan Suresh, M., Tiraboschi, E., Cabirol, A., Nouvian, M., Nowotny, T., & Haase, A., 2023: Geosmin suppresses defensive behaviour and elicits unusual neural responses in honey bees. *Sci Rep.* 2023;13(1):3851. Published 2023 Mar 8. doi:10.1038/s41598-023-30796-5

Nouvian, M., Foster, J. J., & Weidenmüller, A., 2023: Glyphosate impairs aversive learning in bumblebees. *Sci Total Environ.* 2023; 898:165527. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.165527

Daniela Rößler

Longbottom, C., Falk, J. J., Greenway, E. V., Johnson, M. G., Ramos, C., Rößler, D. C., et al. 2022: Why does the matador bug, *Anisocelis alipes* (Hemiptera: Coreidae), wave its brightly colored legs? *Journal of Insect Behavior*, 35(5-6), 171-182. doi:10.1007/s10905-022-09809-0.

Rößler, D. C., Kim, K., De Agrò, M., Jordan, A., Galizia, C. G., & Shamble, P. S. 2022: Regularly occurring bouts of retinal movements suggest an REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 119(33), e2204754119. doi:10.1073/pnas.2204754119

Kikuchi, D. W., Allen, W. L., Arbuckle, K., Aubier, T. G., Briolat, E. S., Burdfield-Steel, E. R., Cheney, K. L., Daňková, K., Elias, M., Hämäläinen, L., Rößler, D. C., Exnerová, A. 2023: The evolution and ecology of multiple antipredator defences. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, (early view).

Plate, J. & Rößler, D.C., (in press): Variation in predator recognition across three species of jumping spiders (Salticidae). *Animal Behavior and Cognition*

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

Liu, X., Feng*, P., Ruiz-Agudo, C.*, Sun, H., Yu, X., Avaro, J., Huang, J., Hou, D., Ran, Q., Hong, J., Liu, J., Miao, C., Cölfen, H.*: Nacre-like Ultra-tough Calcium Silicate Hydrate (C-S-H) Composite towards Elastic Cementitious Materials (submitted to *Advanced Functional Materials*).

Ruiz-Agudo, C.* and Cölfen, H.*: Sustainable Cement and Concrete (submitted to *Chemical Reviews*).

Ruiz-Agudo, C.*, Emminger, y. h., Mause, j., debus, c., Ruiz-Agudo, e.: co-precipitation of boron and magnesium during amorphous calcium carbonate formation (submitted to *chemical geology*).

Ruiz-Agudo, C., Ibañez-Velasco, a. Ruiz-Agudo, c., Bonilla-Correa, s., Elert, k., Rodriguez-Navarro, C.: Damage to porous building materials by sodium carbonate crystallization and the effect of additive (submitted to *Construction and Building Materials*)

Marsiske, M., Köser, R.R., Bäumle, B., Ruiz-Agudo, C.* 2023: Uncovering the Early Stages of Magnesium Silicate Hydrate Formation: A Non-classical Multistep Pathway. *ACS Applied Engineering Materials.* 1 (1), 696–707

Daniel Skibra

Frühauf, F., Hadil K., Todor K., Natasha K., Doris P., Daniel S., 2023: Vanilla Rules: The 'no ice cream' construction. *Sinn und Bedeutung* 27. Prague, Sep 14, 2022 - Sep 16, 2022. In: 2023 Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 27. Konstanz: University of Konstanz. eISSN 2629-6055

Anna Stöckl

Stöckl, A., Foster J. 2022: Night skies through animals' eyes — quantifying night-time visual scenes and light pollution as viewed by animals. *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 16:984282. 10.3389/fncel.2022.984282

Richter, R., Dietz, A., Foster, J., Spaethe, J., Stöckl, A. 2023: Flower patterns guide bumblebee approach flights and landings for improved foraging efficiency. *Funct. Ecol.* doi: 10.1111/1365-2435.14262

Valeria Vegh Weis

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: Justicia Transicional y Derechos de los Pueblos, in: *Tratado Ecofeminista de Derechos Humanos y Derechos Económicos Sociales y Culturales*, Lubertino (ed.), Rubinzal, pp. 393-420.

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: El Lawfare como Golpe por Goteo. Un Análisis desde la Criminología Crítica sobre Democracia, Sistema Penal y Medios en Latinoamérica, in: *El lawfare en América Latina y su Impacto en la Vigencia de los Derechos Humanos*, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Argentina (ed.), SAIJ-INFOJUS, pp. 49-80.

Vegh Weis, V., Katz and Martínez 2022: El Povo Organizado. El Caso Andalgala, in: *Introdução à Criminologia Verde: Perspectivas Críticas, Descoloniais e do Sul*, M. Budó et al. (eds.), Tirant Le Blanch.

Vegh Weis, V. 2022: Criminalizing Atrocity: The Global Spread of Criminal Laws against International Crimes (Review). In: *Legal History*, Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Mark S. Berlin, Rg.

Vegh Weis, V., Zaffaroni, E. Raúl, Caamaño, C., 2022: *The Criminalization of Democratic Politics in the Global South*, Brill, 2022. Republished in paperback. Haymarket Books, 2022

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: Kriminalisierung des Bösen. Book Review: *Criminalizing Atrocity: The Global Spread of Criminal Laws against International Crimes*, by Mark S. Berlin, in *Legal History*, Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, vol. 30, pp. 1-3.

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: Who Can Organize and Exercise Effective Resistance? A Victim-Driven Approach to Confront State Crime, *Theoretical Criminology*, online first.

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: What Does Lawfare Mean in Latin America? A New Framework for Understanding the Criminalization of Progressive Political Leaders, *Punishment & Society*, online first. Republished in: *Vegh Weis (2023) Revista LEX de Criminología & Vitimologia* 3, no. 7, pp. 133-158.

Vegh Weis, V., 2022: La Memoria como Narrativa para la No Repetición. Reflexiones acerca de las Transiciones en Colombia y Argentina, *Revista de Estudios Psicosociales Latinoamericanos* 4, pp. 146- 163.

Härter and Vegh Weis, V., 2022: *Transnational Criminal Law in Transatlantic Perspective (1870-1945): Introductory Notes, Initial Results and Concepts*, *Rechtsgeschichte* 30, pp. 84-95.

Vegh Weis, V., 2023: La Prefectura Naval Argentina y el "Cambio de Paradigma" en la Persecución de la Pesca Ilegal. *Una mirada desde las Criminologías Verde y Azul*, *Delito y Sociedad*, 55.

Vegh Weis, V., 2023: The rejection of immunities for international crimes. A solution for the survival of the International Criminal Justice Project?, in: *Domesticating International Criminal Law: Reflections on the Italian and German Experiences*, Jeßberger, Meloni and Crippa (eds.). Routledge.

Vegh Weis, V., 2023: Toward a Criminology of the Holocaust?, *Kriminologisches Journal* 55, no. 1, 38-52.

Vegh Weis, V., 2023: Exploring the World's First Successful Truth Commission: Argentina's CONADEP and the Role of Victims in Truth-Seeking, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, online first, XX, 1-18.

Zaffaroni, R., Caamaño, C., & Vegh Weis, V., 2023: *Lawfare: The Criminalization of Democratic Politics in the Global South*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004535152>

Teitel R., Vegh Weis, V.: (forthcoming) *Transitional Justice and Human Rights*, in: *History of Latin American Law in Global Perspective*, Duve and Herzog (eds.). Cambridge.

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Why the Zukunftskolleg?



Story with digital content

Each fellow has their own motivation and reasons for being a Zukunftskolleg fellow. We wanted to know from our fellows what the Zukunftskolleg's unique selling point is, why they think their research is important and why Konstanz is the best place to undertake a project. Here are their answers:



Tobias Sutter
Research Fellow, Computer and Information Science



Ariane Bertogg
Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology



Philipp di Dio
Research Fellow, Mathematics and Statistics



Svitlana Podplota
Associated Fellow (former Visiting Fellow), Philosophy



Noelia Martínez-Doallo
Postdoctoral Fellow, Law



Daniela Rößler
Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology



Eduardo Luersen
Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature



Valeria Vegh Weis
Research Fellow, Law & Literature



Gabriella Gall
Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology



Maria Cruz Berrocal
Associated Fellow (former Research Fellow), History and Sociology



Jacob Bloomfield
Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature



Sidney Carls-Diamante
Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy



Yeliena Kovalska
Associated Fellow, History and Sociology



Armin Bahl
Research Fellow, Biology



James Wilson
Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology



Gruia Badescu
Research Fellow, History and Sociology



Mohsen Jenadeleh
Associated Fellow, Computer and Information Science



Anamaria Bentea
Research Fellow, Linguistics



Violeta Ivanona-Rohling
Postdoctoral Fellow, Physics



Cristina Ruiz Agudo
Research Fellow, Chemistry



Daniel Skibra
Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy



Gisela Kopp
Research Fellow, Biology

1. Why is my research important?

Tobias Sutter

Research Fellow, Computer and Information Science

The field of reinforcement learning has observed impressive progress recently, which led to a technological “miracle” embedded in sequential decision-making methodology in 2017, when a reinforcement learning-based algorithm managed to successfully play Go without any human knowledge. This success highlights the tremendous opportunities in deploying data-driven systems in more demanding interactive tasks, including self-driving vehicles, distributed sensor networks and agile robotic systems, tasks that were traditionally addressed with optimal control theory methods, as they require mathematical guarantees regarding safety and reliability, for example – certificates that in general are not available in reinforcement learning. Surprisingly, we still have a very limited understanding of various aspects of reinforcement learning, including correlated data structures, approximation errors, out-of-sample policy guarantees, etc., which is why there are no methods that are guaranteed to work for all or even most problems, but there are enough methods to try on a given challenging problem with a reasonable chance that one or more of them will be successful in the end.

Ariane Bertogg

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

Because it helps understand newly developing inequalities between and among different age groups that slowly unfold in ageing societies.

Philipp di Dio

Research Fellow, Mathematics and Statistics

My research in mathematics tries to combine two large but mostly separate areas in mathematics. From the interaction of both fields, we hope to obtain a deeper insight into these fields and over time maybe even establish a completely new research area.

Svitlana Podplota

Associated Fellow (former Visiting Fellow), Philosophy

My research on “Enhancing Learning Outcomes through Peer Tutoring in German Higher Education Institutions: Experience for Ukraine” is important for several reasons:

- Educational improvement: Peer tutoring has shown promising results in various educational settings and studying its potential impact on learning outcomes in German Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can provide valuable insights into its effectiveness. Implementing successful peer-tutoring programmes can lead to improved learning experiences for students in Ukraine.
- Knowledge transfer: Ukraine can benefit from the best practices and experiences of German HEIs in peer tutoring. Understanding the mechanisms and strategies that contribute to successful peer tutoring can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and foster educational collaboration between the two countries.
- Addressing challenges: Ukraine's higher education system faces challenges related to limited resources, large group sizes and diverse student backgrounds. Peer tutoring offers a cost-effective and scalable approach to address some of these challenges and improve learning outcomes.
- Research gap: While peer tutoring has been explored in various contexts, there might be limited research on its application in the specific context of German HEIs and its adaptability to Ukraine. This research can bridge the existing gap in the literature and provide evidence-based recommendations.

Noelia Martínez-Doallo

Postdoctoral Fellow, Law

Within democratic societies, creating spaces for debate and reflection about the ethical implications of involvement in communal undertakings is of vital importance. In my postdoctoral project, I looked at the case of human participation in biomedical research to rethink the foundations of the current practice from the premises of the principle of justice. My research has the potential to contribute to the consolidation of the democratic debate and the flourishing of human communities through the reassessment of certain social institutions' dynamics.

Daniela Rößler

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

In order to comprehensively understand aspects of life such as sleep and dreams, we need a taxonomically broad framework to unravel all aspects of these behaviours, including their evolution. Studying sleep in chronically understudied and underestimated creatures such as spiders not only broadens our understanding of sleep in general but also increases tangibility, curiosity and fascination about the natural world and other beings.

Eduardo Luersen

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

Since 19th-century submarine telegraph cables, which used latex from gutta-percha trees as insulators, and before that, global telecommunication systems have been dependent on complex combinations of artificial and organic materials. It is no different today. With the 1.5 million kilometres of laid undersea cables that connect continents to a worldwide network of computer terminals and data centres, the internet is a composite material system from frontend to backbone. As are media services, which are nowadays more and more based on globally connected platform models.

Nevertheless, digital media have for a long time been imagined and described as immaterial, ephemeral and cold. This presents a particularly paradoxical situation insofar as it becomes clear that the internet not only has very physical underpinnings but also depends on short-lived obsolescent equipment and has a significant carbon footprint. In my view, therefore, it is important to tackle this paradoxical conceptual problem, whereas on an empirical level it is just as important to understand to what extent this physical infrastructure really impacts Earth systems. Considering that the carbon footprint associated with information and communication technologies is already comparable to that of the aviation industry, and growing, I believe that research on the materialities of digital media has a significant contribution to make to discussions on anthropogenic environmental impact, for instance. Observing the development of cloud gaming services, in particular, as some of the most energy-intensive applications and one of the drivers of such infrastructure also appears highly relevant on that point. I understand that the research topic also touches peripherally on other critical debates for contemporary societies in regard to digital infrastructure, digitalization and sustainability, internet governance, media-as-a-service, platformization, to mention just a few.

Valeria Vegh Weis

Research Fellow, Law & Literature

My research focuses on the strategies developed by victim networks to confront atrocity crimes. Today, as the world once again faces the destructive consequences of war in the heart of Europe, in Ukraine, there is an urgent need for us as scholars to focus on how mass violence can be resisted, contested and prevented.

Gabriella Gall

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

In my research, I investigate the interplay between individual social signalling and coordinated group behaviour from the embryo stage onwards. In social species, the ability of individuals to coordinate with others and influence their actions via the formation or dispersal of groups can be crucial for their survival. Investigating how communication behaviour used for coordination develops and depends on the social environment individuals experience will help to identify key mechanisms facilitating the evolution of group living.

María Cruz Berrocal

Associated Fellow (former Research Fellow), History and Sociology

Early European colonialism in the Pacific is an underresearched topic with implications for the history, ecology, demography and current political and social situation of the Pacific islands.

Jacob Bloomfield

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

My research thus far has mostly been concerned with historical attitudes towards male femininity. I argue that sexual and gender nonconformity have historically, under certain circumstances, not always precluded individuals from being tolerated, accepted, or even celebrated by the mainstream. My work ties into much-discussed present-day issues such as controversies over drag shows for children, LGBTQ-inclusive curricula in schools, and accommodations for gender nonconforming children. I have drawn on my research to comment on current affairs. For example, I recently published an article in The Telegraph, one of the UK's most prominent media outlets, that placed recent controversies over drag performance in a historical context. The article is entitled "'They Helped Win the War': The Surprisingly Mainstream History of Drag'.

Sidney Carls-Diamante

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

My research complements empirical findings by examining how psychiatric conditions (particularly bipolar disorder) affect lived experience. It thus provides humanistic, person-oriented perspectives on the effects of psychiatric conditions and symptoms.

Yeliena Kovalska

Associated Fellow, History and Sociology

My research is important for understanding the peculiarities of the perception of social structure in Ukrainian society. I study the weight of individual characteristics of social status in determining an individual's position in the social structure. The results of this study will help create a unified instrument for measuring social status in Ukrainian society for national samples.

Armin Bahl

Research Fellow, Biology

How brains accumulate sensory evidence and use such information to execute perceptual decisions is a longstanding question in systems neuroscience. A better understanding of the underlying circuit mechanisms is fundamentally important to explain the general computational principles of brain dynamics, how working memories are formed and maintained, and how sensations are transformed into motor outputs.

James Wilson

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

My research project at the Zukunftskolleg looks at the way in which medieval Arabic historiographical texts were translated by 19th-century 'orientalist' scholars. Translations from this period laid the epistemic foundations for almost all research on Christian-Muslim relations during the Middle Ages, and non-Arabists still rely on some of these translations today. Yet, the translators made a series of editorial decisions (e.g. linguistic choices and editorial omissions) that potentially distort the underlying meaning of the original texts. My project questions whether these should be viewed as stylistic choices made by the editors or as evidence of orientalist or colonialist sentiments, which are transmitted into modern scholarship through a continued reliance on these 19th-century translations.

Gruia Badescu

Research Fellow, History and Sociology

My research examines places with difficult pasts, specifically cities undergoing transformations after war and dictatorship. I am interested in how various actors reshape the built environment and how this reconfigured urban space impacts social practices – in other words, how the built environment and social processes influence each other in times of upheaval. This research is important as it sheds light on critical aspects of urban transformation, particularly in post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts. My work contributes to urban studies as well as to history and memory studies, offering a valuable perspective on the interplay between urban spaces and historical ruptures and violence. Moreover, my research has relevant policy implications, and it can help urban planners, policymakers and various stakeholders to make informed decisions when it comes to post-war reconstruction and post-dictatorship urban development as well as societal healing, leading to more resilient and inclusive cities.

Mohsen Jenadeleh

Associated Fellow, Computer and Information Science

Image and video quality assessment play a pivotal role in shaping compression techniques. It enables the finetuning of methods, the optimization of the balance between file size reduction and visual quality preservation, the guidance of real-time adjustments, the improvement of encoder/decoder design, and the facilitation of rigorous benchmarking and evaluation for superior compression solutions. Ultimately, visual quality assessment metrics are instrumental in guiding the compression and streaming process, ensuring its efficiency and elevating the overall user experience.

Anamaria Bentea

Research Fellow, Linguistics

My research focuses on the development of the first (heritage) language in speakers with a migration background and the impact that the dominant (societal) language has on heritage language outcomes. It is important not only because it addresses the increasing multilingual reality of today's society but also because it tries to better understand how the societal language interacts with and shapes the acquisition and development of minority or heritage languages in child and adult multilingual speakers. From a more practical perspective, my research is important because it can inform teachers (and parents of multilingual children) about the factors that influence heritage language development, and at the same time it raises awareness towards the importance of maintaining the heritage language in the family.

Violeta Ivanova-Rohling

Postdoctoral Fellow, Physics

My research aims at using machine-learning techniques to improve aspects of quantum computing and make general-purpose quantum computers a reality.

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

Research Fellow, Chemistry

My research focuses on the crystallization of alternative cements, such as magnesium silicate hydrate (M-S-H). M-S-H cements are known for their potential to be more environmentally friendly compared to traditional Portland cement, which is a major contributor to carbon emissions (approx. 7-10% of total anthropogenic CO₂ emissions). Understanding and improving the properties of M-S-H cements can lead to more sustainable construction materials.

My project focuses on controlling M-S-H's crystallization to tailor its nanostructure and develop a competitive material. My group studies the crystallization of M-S-H from its basic building blocks. It identifies means for tuning or modifying this process at will to tailor the nanostructure using additives. The knowledge obtained will aid in developing a novel binder that could mimic conventional Portland cement but be less aggressive to the environment.

Daniel Skibra

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

I am interested in the relationship between language and thought. More specifically, I am interested in how our psychological states of desire or wanting something impact or constrain how language allows us to talk about and represent these things. There is a good deal of research on the "thought" side and on the "language" side. There is considerably less work on both together and how they interact. My research aims to fill part of this gap.

Gisela Kopp

Research Fellow, Biology

My research falls completely into the category of "basic research", hence the answer to this question is probably the same as for many other basic researchers: it is a merit in itself to pursue purely curiosity-driven research without any direct "impact" or "applicability" in mind. That being said, there are several important points I can think of. For example, my research on sociality and evolution builds a bridge between two research fields in biology that are still pretty detached from each other, on the one hand behavioural ecology and on the other hand macroevolution. Integrating these fields has the potential to shed light on the importance of behavioural variation in macroevolution, which so far has not been considered as a major force in the processes that shape biodiversity. Methodologically, my research pushes the frontiers of non-invasive genomics in the wild and the use of natural history collections in genomic research, which will open up new avenues in the study of non-model organisms in the wild.

2. Why is Konstanz the best place for this?

Tobias Sutter

Research Fellow, Computer and Information Science

As a small university, Konstanz offers an exceptional environment for interdisciplinary work, which is of utmost importance for my research project at the intersection of computer science, statistics and mathematical optimization. I find great satisfaction in the fruitful interactions I have with individuals from the Department of Computer and Information Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Specifically, I have already benefited from the profound and world-leading expertise in real algebraic methods and polynomial optimization available in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. This enriching collaboration significantly enhances the quality and scope of my research.

Ariane Bertogg

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of my research, it has found a home in a place where interdisciplinarity and a culture of creativity are essential pillars of the support for young scholars.

Noelia Martínez-Doallo

Postdoctoral Fellow, Law

For me, it is the Zukunftscolleg that makes the University of Konstanz so special.

Daniela Rößler

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

Konstanz unites animal behaviour researchers from various fields, enabling an unmatched scientific and methodological exchange, boosting and motivating my own research further.

Eduardo Luersen

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

Before finishing my doctoral degree, I already thought that my research interests were stretching beyond the limits of the discipline in which I had been working in recent years. When I finished it, I had two projects in mind, both needing refinement before they were submitted. One of them, the one I am developing now, was at its core very interdisciplinary, so it was not that easy to find a department or open position that would be supportive of it – as interdisciplinarity often seems more debated than funded. For this reason, I started looking for institutional profiles that could be open to the kind of proposal that I wished to develop. It was then that I learned about the concept of Institutes for Advanced Study (IAS). While reading more about the IAS at the University of São Paulo, I found the open call for 2-Year Postdoctoral Fellowships at the Zukunftscolleg, and the description looked very welcoming to the kind of project that I had in mind, so I decided to apply.

Moreover, when I initially contacted Professor Beate Ochsner as a prospective local host in Konstanz, I was aiming at the wider perspective on gaming that she develops here, as a phenomenon to be observed also from a framework of science and technology studies. I was very happy to learn that she would be submitting a project on serious gaming, or "taking gaming seriously", which seemed to converge with my interests in studying gaming and media from a more relational perspective, beyond ludic aspects or other theoretically generalizable frameworks. Furthermore, I learnt that the Centre for Cultural Inquiry (ZKF) at the university also had projects leaning towards infrastructure studies and that could point towards new potential collaborators.

Valeria Vegh Weis

Research Fellow, Law & Literature

The University of Konstanz has leading professors and scholars in a wide range of disciplines who are open to fruitful collaboration. Among many other activities, I have the pleasure of taking part in the workshops for female legal scholars organized by Professor Woerner and the weekly seminar on political violence organized by Professor Anke Hoeffler. I also have the honour of teaching a module in a DAAD programme for refugee students organized by Professor Hoeffler. I am also coordinating an interdisciplinary research group on colonization with my generous and inspiring host, Professor Kirsten Mahlke.

Gabriella Gall

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

The University of Konstanz is an "Exzellenzuniversität" and as such a well-known research institution. In addition, the university has close ties with the MPIAB. Together, they provide an excellent working environment with a high density of world-leading academics covering a broad range of research topics. The different university departments (e.g. Biology, Computer and Information Science, and the Zukunftskolleg) and the MPIAB together form a global hotspot for interdisciplinary research on collective behaviour and integrating data collected using cutting-edge technology with novel analytical methods. The lab of my host, Dr Strandburg-Peshkin, which is part of the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, provides a stimulating environment for me to undertake the intended research. The research currently being conducted is at the forefront of both technological and analytical progress. Dr Strandburg-Peshkin, a Zukunftskolleg Fellow herself, studies the mechanisms and consequences of collective behaviour, and in particular how these are affected by the communication strategies employed by different group members. I will greatly benefit from her and her lab's expertise in processing and analyzing large multi-modal datasets using machine-learning algorithms, while my extended expertise on meerkat group coordination (one of her group's main research topics) is of great value to her and her lab members.

María Cruz Berrocal

Associated Fellow (former Research Fellow), History and Sociology

Konstanz is strong in the study of European colonialism and gave me the opportunity to expand this research tradition by adding the Pacific to the research areas.

Jacob Bloomfield

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

The University of Konstanz is a vibrant intellectual hub that provides great support to faculty and students. For example, as a cultural historian, I have appreciated the events and networking opportunities provided by the Centre for Cultural Inquiry (ZKF) and the Colloquium Modern History. In addition to attending events organized by these research networks, I have also organized talks by Professor Frank Mort (University of Manchester) and Professor Eric Lott (CUNY Graduate Center) for the Centre for Cultural Inquiry (ZKF) and the Colloquium. The subject librarians in the Communication, Information, Media Centre (KIM) have been wonderfully responsive and helpful to me throughout my time at the university.

I have been grateful for opportunities to give back to the university community. For instance, in 2022 and 2023 I presented talks at the university to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

The City of Konstanz has offered valuable outlets for me to engage the public in my research. For example, I have presented film screenings in collaboration with the city's Queergestreift Film Festival. In September 2021, for instance, I introduced a screening of the film *Pink Narcissus* (1971) to mark the film's fiftieth anniversary.

Sidney Carls-Diamante

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

The University of Konstanz fosters an environment conducive to interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research that addresses novel and important research questions. The university supports research independence through its numerous funding opportunities for project exploration and development.

Yeliena Kovalska

Associated Fellow, History and Sociology

My research is based on the factorial design method, which is actively used and developed at the Department of Sociology of the University of Konstanz, in particular by Professor Hinz (who is a mentor in my research).

Armin Bahl

Research Fellow, Biology

I have chosen the University of Konstanz for my research. This location is interesting for me because there is a major focus on the study of behaviour in various animal models, ranging from different species of fish to many other vertebrate and invertebrate systems. The availability of animal species that are not standard in neuroscience is very exciting for me, providing unique opportunities for collaboration. This allows me, for example, to develop novel decision-making paradigms in animal groups and to study the underlying neural basis of such behaviours, which I could not do anywhere else in the world.

James Wilson

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

There are several factors that make Konstanz the best place for me. Firstly, I have a number of colleagues at the Zukunftskolleg and in various departments across the university who are working on similar subjects, so their feedback and collaboration helps to improve my project. This is especially true of the Department of History and my local host.

Konstanz is also a wonderful place for my wife and myself to raise our children, which has a hugely beneficial impact on my research. My wife and children are German speakers and so are very happy and settled here.

Finally, Konstanz is also quite close to the archives that are central to my research project.

Gruia Badescu

Research Fellow, History and Sociology

I came to Konstanz as a Humboldt Fellow, hosted by Jan and Aleida Assmann, who are arguably the most important scholars in the field of memory studies in Germany. Their Balzan Prize project "Reconstructing memory in the city" was a perfect match for my research interests. As such, I chose Konstanz for its strong memory studies reputation. Moreover, the chairs of Eastern European History and Mediterranean History in the Department of History as well as the Konstanz Forum of Latin American studies provided excellent research communities that are also connected to the areas I study. Above all, the Zukunftskolleg offers the perfect framework for interdisciplinary work, and the 5-year Fellowship has been superb in allowing me to develop my multi-sited research project.

Mohsen Jenadeleh

Associated Fellow, Computer and Information Science

The Multimedia Signal Processing (MMSP) group at the University of Konstanz has a strong reputation, which ensures that collaborating with experienced experts will significantly enhance the quality and relevance of my research. Additionally, the university provides robust computational resources essential for my research, particularly in video processing and deep learning model development. The University of Konstanz supports independent, innovative and multidisciplinary research through programmes such as the Zukunftskolleg and AFF, expanding research horizons and professional networks, and opening doors to collaboration opportunities that can broaden my research scope and network. Moreover, CRC-TRR-161 (Quantitative Methods for Visual Computing) and the Centre for Human, Data, Society (CHDS) facilitate collaborations and offer opportunities to explore various aspects of my research, potentially leading to new research directions.

Furthermore, the City of Konstanz offers an excellent quality of life for researchers. Its picturesque location on Lake Constance, combined with a vibrant cultural scene and an excellent work-life balance, makes it an attractive destination for scholars.

Anamaria Bentea

Research Fellow, Linguistics

Konstanz hosts a leading centre for research on multilingualism at the Department of Linguistics, which provides a strong intellectual environment and a network of experts that help me advance (and enhance) my research. Moreover, Konstanz has all the infrastructure necessary for carrying out my research, as well as offering access to a large Romanian diaspora, which is the focus of my current project.

Violeta Ivanova-Rohling

Postdoctoral Fellow, Physics

Professor Burkard, who is a leading name in the field of quantum computing, is in Konstanz and was open to hosting me and collaborating on the topics that interest me. In addition, he later suggested additional topics that it might be possible to study using the methods I am developing, and he helped me to expand my profile.

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

Research Fellow, Chemistry

The University of Konstanz provides me with the best conditions to conduct my research in the shape of the Department of Chemistry, which stands out for its high level of interdisciplinarity and the latest technology and research equipment. The Department of Chemistry houses various outstanding facilities, benefiting researchers across the university. Our state-of-the-art laboratories are fully equipped for investigating nucleation. The titration methodology developed within the Cölfen Group (my host) is central to investigating nucleation processes. Solid materials can be characterized by atomic force, scanning, and transmission electron microscopy. In the Particle Analysis Centre (PAC), the researchers have access to static and dynamic light scattering, zeta potential measurements, analytical ultracentrifugation, light microscopy, and small and wide-angle X-ray scattering. In addition, we have several cutting-edge NMR spectrometers.

Topic-wise, the Department of Chemistry at the University of Konstanz has many years' experience in working on the factors that control the crystallization of industrially relevant materials and especially on the use of organic additives as crystallization modifiers.

Daniel Skibra

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

My research involves a good deal of interaction between philosophy and linguistics, for which the University of Konstanz is ideal for two reasons. First, there is a history of cooperation between the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Philosophy, in a way that is actually pretty rare in most universities across the world. Second, the history of the Department of Linguistics is an important one. In spite of (or perhaps because of) the relative newness of the university, it became an important focal point for work done in formal semantics and generative linguistics in the 1970s through to the 1990s (and remains so today).

Gisela Kopp

Research Fellow, Biology

During the last years, Konstanz has developed into one of Germany's most important research hubs in the area of animal behaviour, uniting scientists with expertise on many different vertebrate species. Similarly, there is a strong research community in evolution and genomics, providing an excellent conceptual and methodological community for my research questions. In addition, the high degree of interdisciplinarity shapes a stimulating intellectual environment.

3. What does the Zukunftskolleg contribute to my research?

Tobias Sutter

Research Fellow, Computer and Information Science

Thanks to the generous financial support from the Zukunftskolleg, I have been able to start conducting my research project effectively. Additionally, this funding has provided me with the opportunity to engage with other fellows and researchers across various departments, fostering a collaborative and intellectually stimulating environment. As a further advantage, I have the privilege of recruiting a doctoral researcher with funding from the Zukunftskolleg, which will significantly accelerate the progress on my research question, making it a truly valuable investment in advancing my work.

Ariane Bertogg

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

It enables me to develop my own research programme, start collaborations, apply for funding and be flexible with my time.

Philipp di Dio

Research Fellow, Mathematics and Statistics

In my opinion, the ZuKo gives me the two things any research requires: time and money. These might seem obvious, but they are absolutely essential. Time is given not only by a 5-year contract but also by not needing to teach (even if teaching is highly appreciated especially for academic development). Money is provided by a more than moderate allowance of €3,000 a year, which allows me to visit at least two international conferences a year where I can present my research.

Besides these two most important ingredients, the ZuKo additionally provides assistance and support in applying for further funding, career planning, and exchange with fellow postdoctoral researchers at the same career stage from the same and other fields, which allows me to gain academic experience faster.

Svitlana Podplota

Associated Fellow (former Visiting Fellow), Philosophy

The Zukunftscolleg significantly contributes to this research in the following ways:

- Research support: The Zukunftscolleg offers a vibrant and interdisciplinary research environment that encourages innovative research ideas. As a fellow at the Zukunftscolleg, researchers gain access to various resources, including funding opportunities, workshops and seminars, which can help advance the research on enhancing learning outcomes through peer tutoring.
- Networking opportunities: Being part of the Zukunftscolleg community allows researchers to connect with scholars from diverse disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach can enrich the research and offer fresh perspectives on the potential impact of peer tutoring.
- Data access: The Zukunftscolleg has access to relevant educational data or collaborations with local institutions, which can facilitate data collection and analysis for the research.
- Dissemination support: The Zukunftscolleg encourages the dissemination of research findings through conferences, publications and public engagement. This support can help ensure that the research outcomes reach a broader audience.

Noelia Martínez-Doallo

Postdoctoral Fellow, Law

Interdisciplinarity is one of the leading principles of the Zukunftscolleg's mission. While it is certainly important to explore those areas and approaches falling between academic disciplines, the current system does not foster interdisciplinary research, probably because it is characterized by being time-consuming and less predictable. The Zukunftscolleg bridges this gap by offering both financial and institutional support for early career researchers willing to take the risk to explore new pathways.

Daniela Rößler

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

Besides the valuable scientific exchange, the Zukunftscolleg offers the very substrate for my research by offering unparalleled scientific freedom and independence as well as monetary support. All this is offered with minimal bureaucracy and genuinely supportive and friendly staff, who create an incredibly motivating and inspiring research environment where I can thrive.

Eduardo Luersen

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

The Zukunftscolleg pursues the idea of supporting bold, experimental research at an early stage of researchers' careers. In my view, the level of independence that you have to try out new things is very beneficial and quite special, as it makes a contribution not only in terms of supporting but also catalyzing new research ideas. In addition, nourishing a culture of interdisciplinarity is not only an institutional discourse but also works on a community level: by working with talented colleagues with diverse expertise, I am able to learn more about the science happening in different disciplines and have a wider panorama of current debates, dissensus and advances in other areas, which I consider very enriching in terms of epistemological thinking and in my development as a permanently curious scientist. Fortuitous encounters with other disciplines are also allowing me to explore pathways that I did not consider before arriving in Konstanz: I am organizing a workshop together with a colleague from the Department of History, and I have potential collaborations to be discussed with colleagues in economics and limnology.

In sum, I do not know of that many institutes which would give you a position as an employee to test pilot research ideas right after your doctoral degree. This is a pretty pragmatic statement, but the particular combination of having a position as an independent researcher and the stimulus to try different, experimental projects while still at an early career stage indeed contributes very directly to research. It works particularly well in my case as a researcher who wishes to develop a new research agenda after

their doctoral degree. When you have the support and are provided with the infrastructure to conduct inceptive research, you feel reassured about exploring novel terrain and boundary objects extending beyond the fringes of your discipline. Of course, being part of a lively, multidisciplinary community of fellows and having an administration supportive of the idea also feeds into that. In addition, support for travelling to conferences to present provisional results and to organize workshops and scientific retreats with external collaborators has also been very beneficial for mid- to long-term research prospects.

Valeria Vegh Weis

Research Fellow, Law & Literature

The Zukunftscolleg offers an interdisciplinary, international and creative atmosphere that allows me to pursue my individual research while engaging in inspiring and nourishing collaborations with my peers in an outstandingly beautiful environment and with the support of dedicated staff. Among many other activities, I had the opportunity to co-teach a seminar, design an interdisciplinary research project and organize an international workshop with various colleagues from the ZuKo.

Gabriella Gall

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

Aside from financial support (i.e. paying my salary together with the CASC, which is extremely helpful!), the Zukunftscolleg has given me a number of advantages and supported me over the last couple of years. Among these are mental support, fascinating insights across many disciplines, support for an outreach and teaching project (Decolonialization of collective behaviour research: Empowering young South African scientists for engaging in field research) as well as a research visit to New Zealand to study Pūkeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*) and to foster new collaborations with James Quinn of McMaster University, Canada, and Dr Kristal Cain of Auckland University, New Zealand. Furthermore, on multiple occasions I benefited from close interactions with senior fellows and visiting researchers at the Zukunftscolleg, e.g. through collaborations or discussions/feedback.

María Cruz Berrocal

Associated Fellow (former Research Fellow), History and Sociology

The Zukunftscolleg contributed stability to my research work, which is very important because planning and developing field work in faraway areas is a medium- and long-term task in itself. The Zukunftscolleg also has a variety of financial means, as well as expertise in different fields that I could absorb into my research through conversations with colleagues and by learning about new research fields that have turned out to be very relevant for me, e.g. tropical ecology.

Jacob Bloomfield

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

The Zukunftscolleg has provided me with the time, freedom and financial resources necessary to carry out ambitious writing and research initiatives. As a Zukunftscolleg Postdoctoral Fellow, I have published a book based on my doctoral thesis, carried out research for my new postdoctoral project and started producing published outputs (e.g. my second academic monograph) based on my new postdoctoral project, among other endeavours.

The freedom and resources provided by the Zukunftscolleg have ensured that my published outputs are of high quality. For example, as a Zukunftscolleg Fellow, I was able to devote two years to turning my thesis into a monograph. The arguments in my book are significantly sharper and better articulated, and the prose is more readable, compared to my thesis. If I had been working under a tighter deadline, such as the one imposed by the one-year Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship to which I was

accepted around the same time I was accepted to the Zukunftscolleg, my monograph would have been less impactful.

The Zukunftscolleg has furnished me with networking opportunities and a dynamic intellectual environment. For example, through the Zukunftscolleg's Senior Fellowship programme I was able to bring Professor Eric Lott to Konstanz. Professor Lott has been a valuable mentor to me during and after his Senior Fellowship period. As a scholar of the history of blackface minstrelsy, Professor Lott has offered me particular insights regarding the dimensions of my postdoctoral project pertaining to African American studies.

Sidney Carls-Diamante

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

The interdisciplinary environment of the Zukunftscolleg provides access to knowledge bases outside my own field. In turn, this exposes me to different perspectives, ideas and questions that feed back into my own research.

Yeliena Kovalska

Associated Fellow, History and Sociology

For me, the Zukunftscolleg has become the place where my research was born, a place where all my research ideas are supported, where I am helped in their implementation and where my career is developing. This is a place where you, as a scientist, are truly important, you can be independent, free and follow your own ideas.

Armin Bahl

Research Fellow, Biology

The Zukunftscolleg provides an exceptional platform for interdisciplinary scientific exchange across the natural sciences and the humanities. This stimulating intellectual environment allows me to put my zebrafish decisionmaking models into a larger context and enables the testing of new ideas in broader collaborations. Furthermore, the outstanding funding support measures provided through this institution largely facilitate my research and help to explore unconventional perspectives that would not be possible otherwise.

James Wilson

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

The Zukunftscolleg provides the best possible conditions for independent postdoctoral research. We are given space and time to develop our research, as well as opportunities for funding which were above and beyond any of my past experiences before I arrived in Konstanz. We also have no teaching obligations, which means we can take a semester off to focus on key projects if necessary.

A special community feeling exists at the Zukunftscolleg, encouraged by the Central Office and the fellows. This is fostered through collaborative activities and seminars. This produces an excellent environment for researchers while also acquainting us with new methodologies, approaches or mindsets that are applied in different academic disciplines, which specialists working exclusively in their own individual fields can often miss out on.

Gruia Badescu

Research Fellow, History and Sociology

The Zukunftscolleg offers a fantastic environment – the research support team is wonderful, dedicated and helpful, and, also important, upbeat, friendly and conducive to a great atmosphere (even via Zoom, which marked the first 18 months of my fellowship). I started during the pandemic lockdowns, and our first year was online, and I have been so happy to return to in-person exchange. The research fellowship and the research allowance are instrumental to conducting the project, doing archival and field research and travelling to conferences. The best aspect is that the funds can be used flexibly for research costs and conference trips, allowing the project to transform and develop and not committing sums years in advance. Through co-funding, I was able to publish two particular pieces open access that reflected the voice of interlocutors I really wanted to be public. Through the Intersectoral Cooperative Programme funded by the ZuKo, I was able to take my research on Beirut and Sarajevo further and shape a visual project together with film maker Sabine el Chamaa. The Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching programme allowed for innovation in the classroom in a class on memory and justice co-taught with law fellow Valeria Vegh-Weis. Through the Senior Fellowship programme, I was able to invite Professor Alexander Etkind, a renowned expert on Russia whom I knew from my doctoral degree studies in Cambridge, to join us at the Zukunftscolleg. The Zukunftscolleg also sponsored the stay of Paula Tesche from Chile, with whom I have collaborated since 2018, and of the CAT group on memory of transitions led by Ksenia Robbe. Various trainings and a personalized coaching programme provide insights into the intricacies of the academic world, as well as approaches to diversity and leadership. From 2021 to 2023, I was part of the Executive Committee of the Zukunftscolleg, on which I was very happy not only to be able to contribute to the broader workings of the institute and the community but also to learn the intricacies of academic administration.

Mohsen Jenadeleh

Associated Fellow, Computer and Information Science

The Zukunftscolleg played a crucial role in the success of my application to the German Research Foundation by providing essential financial support for my initial research during the proposal writing phase. Moreover, it promotes interdisciplinary research through regular Jour fixe meetings, seminars, networking opportunities, and by encouraging collaborations among Zukunftscolleg fellows and other researchers.

Anamaria Bentea

Research Fellow, Linguistics

In addition to the financial support needed to conduct my research, the Zukunftscolleg offers me the unique opportunity to do research in a truly interdisciplinary environment and thus to obtain input from different disciplines and to make the findings of my research relevant to a broader community of scientists. Conducting my research at the Zukunftscolleg gives me the opportunity and motivates me to search in more depth for links between my research and that of other fellows and facilitates the possibility of creating interdisciplinary collaborations which would otherwise not be envisaged. Moreover, the Mentorship Programme and the Senior Fellowships will allow me to establish collaborations with internationally renowned scholars.

Violeta Ivanova-Rohling

Postdoctoral Fellow, Physics

The Zukunftscolleg has made my interdisciplinary research possible in the first place, given that I come from a computer science background but want to work with theoretical physicists. The Zukunftscolleg finances conferences and visits.

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

Research Fellow, Chemistry

The project I proposed for the ZuKo was at the interface between chemistry, material sciences and engineering (as I am). I decided to broaden my path after my postdoctoral degree to apply the skills I gathered during my doctoral and postdoctoral degrees on the topic of cement, where this research approach covering nano and microscales in the very early stages of crystallization has yet to be used extensively. The ZuKo allowed me to do it, to move away from what I knew and start from scratch. This was a risky decision on the part of the ZuKo (and perhaps by me); not many institutions would have trusted this turning point in my career.

Daniel Skibra

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

It provides a unique opportunity for me in several ways. All my training was in the US context, where the funding model for early career researchers is very different. I came out of this context having little idea of how to put together a promising application for my own project for third-party funding in the German and European context. That is, I knew how things worked in Germany, but I would have been unlikely to be able to do it myself. Added to this is the challenge of doing interdisciplinary work; though interdisciplinary work is often spoken about as being desirable, there is also the risk that members of neither discipline will recognize it as terribly important to their own intra-disciplinary concerns. The ZuKo is giving me the opportunity to develop and pursue my own project in a way that would not have been realistic for me otherwise and to take the time to develop the interdisciplinary connections in such a way that they become an asset rather than a liability to the project.

Gisela Kopp

Research Fellow, Biology

The freedom and independence at the Zukunftscolleg allow me to flexibly shape my research programme and not be constrained by tight-knit work packages that need to be fulfilled. Examples are the possibilities to receive co-funding to explore new and promising research directions or to invite distinguished collaborators who can serve as valuable counterparts and mentors. The interdisciplinary peer group at the Zukunftscolleg helps you to augment your horizon and situate your own research ideas in a broader picture and always challenge your own viewpoint or perspective.

4. What advice would you give to Zukunftscolleg applicants with respect to a position/fellowship at the ZuKo?

Tobias Sutter

Research Fellow, Computer and Information Science

Submit your application to the Zukunftscolleg – it is a fantastic organization!

Ariane Bertogg

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

Be bold in your proposal, dare to think outside the box and most importantly – choose a topic that you are truly interested in: you will spend the next years married to it.

Philipp di Dio

Research Fellow, Mathematics and Statistics

I advise possible applicants to the ZuKo to be open-minded with respect to other scientific fields. While time spent with other fields might seem at first to be unnecessary and lost, from the exchange with postdoctoral researchers from other fields at the same academic age you can gain a lot of academic experience and identify possibilities for forming your own career path or just learn how to deal with everyday university duties.

Svitlana Podplota

Associated Fellow (former Visiting Fellow), Philosophy

For Zukunftscolleg applicants seeking a position or fellowship, consider the following advice:

- Demonstrate excellence: Showcase your academic achievements, research experience and any relevant publications or contributions to your field. A strong track record can strengthen your application.
- Collaboration potential: Highlight your ability and willingness to collaborate with other researchers at the Zukunftscolleg. Emphasize how your expertise can complement ongoing projects or initiatives within the institution.
- Unique perspective: Emphasize the unique perspective you can bring to the research community and how your background and experiences can enrich the intellectual diversity of the Zukunftscolleg.

Noelia Martínez-Doallo

Postdoctoral Fellow, Law

Zukunftscolleg fellowships offer many advantages to winners, yet it is important to have a clear idea of the objective and to pursue and trace a roadmap as soon as possible in order to successfully navigate the postdoctoral phase. For instance, the ZuKo offers a high degree of independence and freedom to its fellows which is beneficial in numerous senses. However, it is very important to establish sufficiently strong connections with departments at the university, otherwise there is a risk of finding yourself conducting research in isolation.

Daniela Rößler

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

Do it!!! :) For everyone seeking scientific freedom and independence, this is the programme for you to grow as a researcher.

Eduardo Luersen

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

The advice I have already been giving to fellow researchers looking for a position as a postdoctoral fellow is to apply with the projects they believe to stretch the margins of their previous studies or their current interests – especially if they present a more experimental character. As the Zukunftscolleg offers good financial and non-monetary support to develop fresh ideas and to cooperate with new people, applicants can expect a useful platform to develop their research, but also their proposals for longer-term projects, with support from the community, the institute and the university. I would also advise them to think in advance of interesting international researchers with whom they would like to collaborate because the ZuKo offers excellent possibilities to kickstart such cooperations, and these could nurture enduring scientific partnerships.

Especially for international colleagues coming from afar: continuing a career on a different continent sometimes looks like starting completely anew. It poses unimagined challenges and risks, career-

wise and on a personal level, but also opens up new and unexpected opportunities. So decisions go beyond research subjects, and several issues need to be balanced. In the end, it looked clear to me that the academic conditions I would find suited very well to the agenda that I wanted to start pursuing in my career, and that balancing other factors would be an issue. In this sense, the outstanding working conditions that the institute offers were also very important for my decision to move to Konstanz. Furthermore, the institute and the university offer the opportunity to have a good work-life balance, and this has a positive impact not only on your personal life but also on your research. Putting all this into perspective, I think that the fellowship offered me a superb opportunity to take the professional and personal risks that such a complex relocation process encompasses. I would advise applicants everywhere, but especially international ones, to take this into consideration.

Valeria Vegh Weis

Research Fellow, Law & Literature

Explore the wide range of possibilities and scholars working at the university and assess how can you better engage with them through your research. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for you!

Gabriella Gall

Postdoctoral Fellow, Biology

Apply. If you get it, enjoy the opportunities and independence, engage with the people at the ZuKo and your host institute.

María Cruz Berrocal

Associated Fellow (former Research Fellow), History and Sociology

I would encourage anyone needing to invest a great deal of time just to set up appropriate conditions to develop particular research topics to apply for a position at the Zukunftskolleg as it is probably a unique institution in Europe in this regard for postdoctoral researchers.

Jacob Bloomfield

Postdoctoral Fellow, Literature

I would wholeheartedly recommend the Zukunftskolleg to any scholar looking to develop their research in a vibrant academic community, whether through a short-term or longer-term fellowship. My main, not particularly novel, advice would be: join the Zukunftskolleg with a specific plan and specific goals in mind. Freedom to pursue your own research agenda is a great feature of the Zukunftskolleg, but this freedom must be used effectively. The Zukunftskolleg presents scholars with a valuable and unique opportunity to develop their networks, research, and publication record; you must take care not to squander that.

Sidney Carls-Diamante

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

The foremost advice I would give is to be prepared to present research, in written and oral form, in ways accessible to as diverse an audience as possible. This will allow fruitful engagement with colleagues from different disciplinary backgrounds who each view research questions from different angles.

Yeliena Kovalska

Associated Fellow, History and Sociology

Try and apply, don't be afraid of your ideas (even the most daring ones) because the Zukunftskolleg is the place where real science lives, no matter where you are from (geographically and scientifically).

Armin Bahl

Research Fellow, Biology

Try something new and be bold enough to leave your academic comfort zone. Research across disciplines is a lot of fun, and you will gain new perspectives on scientific research in general.

James Wilson

Postdoctoral Fellow, History and Sociology

Developing a strong professional connection with your host department is really important and actually reinforces the benefits of the Zukunftskolleg.

There are some practical things about living in Konstanz. For example, it can be difficult to find accommodation in Konstanz, and there are specific deadlines in the spring for registering your children at local Kindergartens that it is important to be aware of.

Gruia Badescu

Research Fellow, History and Sociology

Find a host who is not only interested in your research but also supports your integration in the department here, learning German helps a lot. My experience of being well integrated both at the ZuKo and in the department has been truly valuable and enjoyable.

Mohsen Jenadeleh

Associated Fellow, Computer and Information Science

I would advise Zukunftskolleg applicants to apply for financial support for conducting preliminary research, as this is instrumental in crafting strong proposals for third-party funded projects.

Anamaria Bentea

Research Fellow, Linguistics

The Zukunftskolleg represents a great opportunity to advance your own research and offers generous support measures to do so. However, it is a highly interdisciplinary institute, thus Zukunftskolleg applicants should identify the interdisciplinary aspects of their research and how these could fit into the existing fellow community.

Violeta Ivanova-Rohling

Postdoctoral Fellow, Physics

The Zukunftskolleg is a unique programme with respect to the flexibility and support of researchers. Make use of the large spectrum of tools and support provided by the Zukunftskolleg.

Cristina Ruiz Agudo

Research Fellow, Chemistry

1. Talk to the host first and think about what it would be like in their working group if you are accepted.
2. Talk to a current or a former fellow in your department to see how integration within the department works.
3. Take part in the Executive Committee (EC) as soon as possible. It is a good learning process of how things work within the ZuKo.
4. Make use of the funding schemes from the very first day. Time flies.

Daniel Skibra

Postdoctoral Fellow, Philosophy

I think the fit with and the relationship to your host matters. I am not sure that my application would have been successful if I had not already had a close and productive relationship with my host(s), which could be reflected in my application materials.

Gisela Kopp

Research Fellow, Biology

Zukunftskolleg fellowships are different from normal postdoctoral fellowships. They come with more freedom and many opportunities, but also the need for a lot of proactiveness, an interest beyond the own research project, appreciation of enlarging your horizon and willingness to always challenge yourself.

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