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# Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 02/2022



Dear fellows and friends,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer in Konstanz. We are very happy to be back in person for our winter semester with the Jour fixe, lectures and other events.

The Zukunftskolleg has launched a new call for applications for Research and Postdoctoral Fellowships. Application deadline is 31 October 2022, 11:00 a.m. (Konstanz time)

In July, Yuko Ulrich, a biologist at the Max Planck Institute

## Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 02/2022

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- › We welcome Annamaria Bentea to the Zukunftskolleg

### News review

for Chemical Ecology in Jena, was the first recipient of the Zukunftskolleg's new research award. She is studying the spread of diseases and disease resistance in social insects. "The Zukunftskolleg Research Award" acknowledges outstanding young researchers and supports their careers.

In addition, on 14-15 July our new Scientific Advisory Board met for the first time since its election last year to talk about career paths, digitalization, mobility, and the mission and relevance of the Zukunftskolleg.

We also warmly welcome five new fellows from the 16th call for applications: Anamaria Bentea, Anna Stöckl, Itay Kavalier, Eduardo Luersen and James Wilson.

Finally, we wish you a great start to the winter semester!

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

- › Improv at the Long Night of the Sciences
- › International early career researchers meet in Konstanz
- › New People, New Ideas
- › Yuko Ulrich receives first Zukunftskolleg Research Award

### Review of events

- › Jour Fixe summer semester 2022
- › NetIAS Lecture Series

### Forthcoming events

- › Jour Fixe winter semester 2022-23
- › Executive Committee meetings in the 2022/2023 winter semester

### Careers, distinctions and grants

- › Assistant professorship (with tenure track) for Julián Torres-Dowdall
- › Gisela Kopp elected to Board of Die Junge Akademie
- › Double funding for Sidney Carls-Diamante
- › Assistant professorship for Alice el-Wakil at the University of Copenhagen
- › Huge media response....

# New call for applications

## 2-year Postdoctoral and 5-year Research Fellowships for 2023

The new call for applications for Research and Postdoctoral Fellowships has been launched. **Application deadline is 31 October 2022, 11:00 a.m.** (Konstanz time).

**2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships** are for all those in the early stage of their career who plan to develop and implement an independent research project.

Within the Synergy Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, we offer the possibility for (academic) partners to apply. This programme allows two researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds to work on a single project, each contributing their own subject-related or methodological expertise, while having the opportunity to sharpen their individual research profile. Each researcher will be awarded an individual Postdoctoral Fellowship. The preferred start date is 1 May 2023.

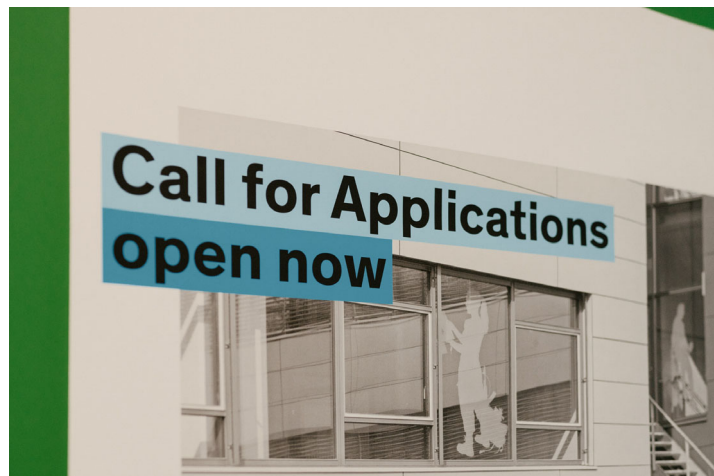
You can find more information on the call, the application process and FAQs [here](#).

**5-year Research Fellowships** support researchers with significant

work experience at postdoctoral level who are aiming for a career in academia. Research Fellows build their own academic identity by leading an independent research group at the University of Konstanz.

Within the Synergy Research Fellowship Programme, we offer the possibility for (academic) partners to apply. This programme allows two researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds to work on a single project, each contributing their own subject-related or methodological expertise, while having the opportunity to sharpen their individual research profile. Each researcher will be awarded an individual Research Fellowship. The preferred start date is 1 June 2023.

For more information on the call, how to apply and FAQs, please click [here](#).



## Visiting Fellowship 2022

In 2022, the Zukunftskolleg has established research fellowships for early career researchers from Ukraine who are threatened by the current war (“scholars at risk”).

Our first nine Visiting Fellows from Ukraine are **Hanna Klipkova** (Politics and Public Administration), **Yaroslava Muravetska** (Literature), **Tetyana Nikolaychuk** (Economics), **Bohdan Shumylovych** (History and Sociology), **Anatolii Koval** (Philosophy), **Yeliena Kovalska** (History and Sociology), **Kateryna Osadcha** (Computer and Information Science), **Svitlana Podplota** (Philosophy) and **Andrii Zhorniak** (Politics and Public Administration).

For more information on our Visiting Fellows please click [here](#).

**We are currently not accepting applications for 2022, as we have fully exhausted our capacities. We hope to be able to accept new incoming applications for 2023 in the near future.**



*From left to right: Hanna Klipkova, Kateryna Osadcha, Yeliena Kovalska, Svitlana Podplota, Yaroslava Muravetska, Bohdan Shumylovych, Andrii Zhorniak, Tetyana Nikolaychuk and (without picture) Anatolii Koval*



# Recent calls for applications

## New ZUKOnnect and Herz Cohort at the Zukunftskolleg

We welcome the following ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows, who joined the Zukunftskolleg on 1 July 2022 virtually for one year. They will be on campus for three to four months from the autumn of 2022 onwards:

**Deepanshu Bhatt** (Chemistry; doctoral candidate from India; research project: “Electrochemically active, luminescent and biocompatible Polymer@Metal-Organic Framework Composites for potential biosensor applications”; local host: Helmut Cölfen)

**JinKiong Ling** (Physics; doctoral candidate from Malaysia; research project: “Polymer-embedded Metal Halide Perovskites for Enhanced Stability of Blue Light Emitting Diode”; local host: Lukas Schmidt-Mende)

**Emma Mavodza** (History and Sociology; doctoral candidate from Zimbabwe; research project: “Digital financial service innovation for inclusion of women in the Global South: Examining mobile money use in Eswatini’s traditional informal markets in Manzini”; local host: Boris Holzer)

**Diego Fabián Morales Navarrete** (Biology; postdoctoral researcher from Chile; research project: “Cell signalling data mapping into cell trajectories from live imaging”; local host: Patrick Müller) – digital only.

**Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz** (Manfred Ulmer Fellowship; Computer and Information Science; doctoral candidate from Chile; research project: “Development of continuous improvement QSAR models to predict sorption of organic pesticides in soils at field conditions”; local host: Andreas Spitz)

**Pedro Panhoca Silva** (Literature, Art and Media; postdoctoral researcher from Brazil; research project: “Studying literary adaptation for the gamebook format. The case of Apuleius’ Metamorphoses”; local host: Barbara Feichtinger)

**Kanuengnit Wayo** (Biology; postdoctoral researcher from Thailand; research project: “Introduced plant-pollinator interactions across a gradient of anthropogenic landscapes”; local host: Mark van Kleunen)

**Yuqi Zou** (Biology; postdoctoral researcher from China; research project: “The fitness consequences of collective coordination during predator mobbing”; local host: Iain Couzin/ Michael Griesser)





*From left to right: Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz, Emma Mavodza, Deepanshu Bhatt, JinKiong Ling, Kanuengnit Wayo, Yuqi Zou, Diego Fabián Morales Navarrete, Pedro Panhoca Silva*

We are very happy to welcome new people from different countries – such as Chile, Malaysia, Thailand and Zimbabwe – and from various disciplines, ranging from Literature, Art and Media to Computer and Information Science as well as Biology.



# Welcoming members to the Zukunftskolleg

## We welcome James Wilson to the Zukunftskolleg

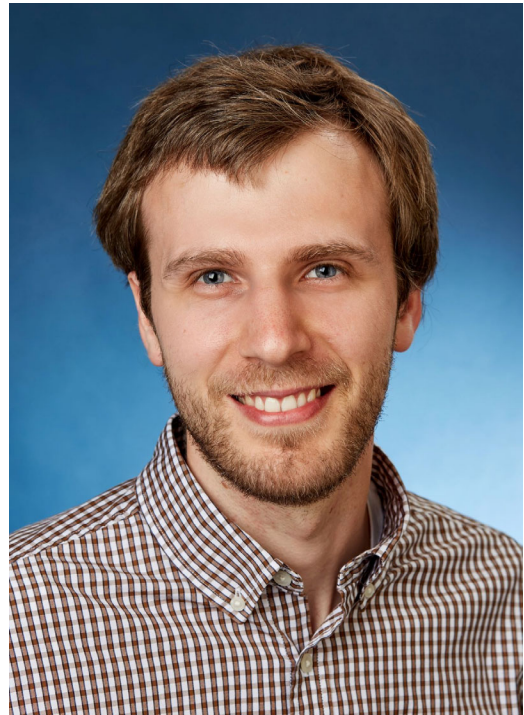
**James Wilson** is one of our new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 16th call for applications for fellowships. He started his fellowship in June and is affiliated with the Department of **History and Sociology**.

James Wilson earned his doctoral degree at the School of History at Queen Mary University of London, UK. After his doctorate, he had a short-term (six-month) research scholarship at the Trier College of Middle Ages and Modern Times (TRIKO) at Trier University before coming to the Zukunftskolleg.

His research project at the Zukunftskolleg – which is entitled “**Colonialism, the ‘Counter-Crusade’ and the early development of Crusader studies**” – examines the extent to which colonial attitudes influenced the edition and translations of several key medieval Arabic chronicles relating to the Crusades. Many Crusade historians still rely on these

French translations even today, which were mostly published in the nineteenth century.

“The project aims to evaluate the editors’ linguistic decisions by comparing these editions and translations with the original Arabic manuscripts, seeking thereby to better understand the approaches underpinning their compilation,” explains James. “It will then review how this editorial process has impacted modern scholarship, written by historians who have long depended on these materials. There are two main research questions. Firstly, whether these editors did take a colonialist approach to the editing and translation of these sources (and, if so, how exactly this approach impacts on the texts in question). Secondly, if evidence of colonialist attitudes can be identified in the editions and translations, then how has this influenced everything written by scholars relying on these texts in later years?”



In focusing on the means by which Arabic sources – interpreted through a nineteenth century lens – were integrated into the academic study of the Crusades, this project not only aims to provide nuanced insight into the field but also explores the latent challenges which anachronous editorial practices present to those engaging with difficult texts from the medieval past.

Additionally, James is currently also writing a book with the title “Medieval Syria and the Onset of the Crusades” (which will be published by Edinburgh University Press).



## We welcome Eduardo Luersen to the Zukunftskolleg

**Eduardo Luersen** is one of our new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 16th call for applications for fellowships. He started his fellowship in June and is affiliated with the Department of **Literature**.

Eduardo completed his doctoral degree in the Communication Sciences programme of Unisinos University in São Leopoldo, Brazil. During his degree, he also had the opportunity to undertake a short research stay (five months) at the Centre for Digital Cultures at Leuphana Universität Lüneburg.

“The defence of my doctoral thesis was scheduled for early March 2020, but due to the pandemic it had to be postponed to July 2020,” reports Eduardo. “As the opportunities and conditions for conducting research on an international level were too uncertain at the time, I started preparing a revised research agenda for my first postdoctoral project – fortunately, this project was later selected by the recruitment committee of the Zukunftskolleg.”

Apart from that, he worked on translating articles by prominent researchers in the field of media studies in order to have them published and made available to Portuguese-speaking readers. He also coordinated an interdisciplinary (remote) study group called “Technopolity: Design, Infrastructure, Geopolitics”. The weekly meetings brought together young Brazilian scholars from the fields of international relations, design, philosophy, arts, communication and literature to debate the tensions and overlaps of the technical and aesthetical dimensions of digital media with issues of governance and political geography.



His current project – entitled “**Cloud gaming atlas: from Earth’s metabolism to the longing for radiant infrastructures**” – is aimed at the development of transnational telecommunication infrastructures to support cloud gaming platforms. “What interests me more specifically is observing how these infrastructures are intertwined with the management of natural resources in local and wider environmental settings. With the project, I am seeking to explore to what extent media are ingrained within Earth systems, while at the same time questioning the regimes of visibility/invisibility of these material infrastructures. I believe these questions are important not only for their epistemological value. Assessing how the environmental and aesthetic dimensions of media phenomena intermingle in a time when the so-called creative industries are migrating to a platform model based on high energy-demanding streaming services might be particularly significant.”

Moreover, Eduardo is associated with and cultivates various forms of research cooperation – mostly regarding the aesthetic dimension of gaming – with two particular research groups, [Audiovisualities and Technoculture](#) (TCAv) at Unisinos University and Leuphana University’s [Gamification Lab](#). Since last semester, he also started collaborating with the Department of Literature, Arts and Media Studies of the University of Konstanz and more specifically with the university’s GameLab.



## We welcome Anna Stöckl to the Zukunftskolleg

**Anna Stöckl** is one of our new Research Fellows from the 16th call for applications for fellowships. She started her fellowship in June and is affiliated with the Department of **Biology**.

Anna completed her doctoral degree in the Vision Group at Lund University, Sweden, before moving to Aalto University in Finland for a one-year postdoctoral position. In the past four years, she has developed her own research programme as a research associate at the University of Würzburg. It centres on understanding how the visual system of insects extracts spatial and temporal information from their natural environment – and how this information is used to guide behaviour. “Our key model are hawkmoths,” she says. “They are extremely agile fliers with a unique ability: they hover in front of flowers to suckle nectar like hummingbirds. Their high-resolution compound eyes can extract fine details, while also providing nocturnal species with the high sensitivity required to see well even in starlight. Thus, these fascinating insects allow us to study fundamental principles of night vision, spatial vision, motion vision and locomotion control, and thereby contribute to the general understanding of how neural processing gives rise to visual percepts and actions based on them.”



Anna's research project at the Zukunftskolleg will examine the **neural basis of a key aspect of spatial vision: the perception of patterns**. With essential functions in object recognition, navigation and communication, it constitutes a fundamental pillar of animal vision. "Given that our brain dedicates several hundred million neurons to this task, it is all the more astonishing that insects, with brains smaller than a grain of rice, recognize and memorize visual patterns as well. Some insect pollinators even possess the ability to generalize pattern features across colours, contrasts or orientations. They thus provide a model to study the neural implementation of invariant pattern recognition with limited computational resources."

While insect pattern discrimination behaviour has been studied extensively, very little is known about its neuronal implementation. Anna plans to close this gap, using hawkmoths as a tractable model to dissect the invariant pattern vision circuits of insects from photons to behaviour. "This will help us understand how insect pollinators with their tiny brains recognize patterns and how they use these to interact with flowers."



## We welcome Annamaria Bentea to the Zukunftskolleg

**Anamaria Bentea** is one of our new Research Fellows. She started her Fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg in August. She is affiliated with the Department of **Linguistics**.

Anamaria completed her doctoral degree in General Linguistics at the University of Geneva. During her doctoral degree, she also spent a year as visiting doctoral student in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Maryland.

After completing her doctoral degree, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences of the University of Reading. "Here I had the opportunity to start a research programme in bilingual language acquisition thanks, in part, to a fellowship awarded by the Swiss National Science Foundation," Anamaria reports. "I recently joined the Department of Linguistics at the University of Konstanz as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, and I am continuing to work on language acquisition and processing in multilingual speakers."

Her research project at the Zukunftskolleg tackles a central question in the field of multilingualism concerning **the nature and the extent of cross-linguistic influence**, that is, whether the various languages that a person is acquiring or speaking influence each other in a significant way. "Specifically, it



investigates 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, as these have been shown to be highly heterogeneous,” she explains. “The project thus aims to break new ground in our understanding of how the societal language interacts with and shapes the real-time comprehension and production of the heritage language in child and adult multilingual speakers. In doing so, the project focuses on Romanian as heritage language and compares the acquisition and processing of complex syntactic structures across various multilingual groups in Germany, the UK and Romania.

To this end, the project uses (i) visual world eye-tracking tasks to investigate online sentence comprehension as well as (ii) sentence production tasks in the heritage language. The systematic comparison across different groups of multilinguals makes it possible to determine whether the presence (or absence) of similar linguistic properties in the majority language facilitates (or delays) the acquisition of the same properties in the heritage language. Therefore, if any differences emerge in the way the various bilingual groups comprehend or produce the heritage language, then these differences can be attributed to cross-linguistic influence from the majority language. The findings of the project can thus have important implications for theoretical models of bi/multilingual syntactic processing as they can shed light on how cross-linguistic influence might impact the cognitive mechanisms that implement grammatical operations (e.g. whether grammatical rules or constraints are represented independently or jointly for each language). Moreover, the project will have practical implications for heritage language teaching and, more broadly, for foreign language teaching. Understanding what aspects of heritage language development are affected by the dominant societal language can help develop teaching methods and materials which facilitate their acquisition in the heritage language.”




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## News review

### Improv at the Long Night of the Sciences

On Saturday, **14 May**, the **Long Night of the Sciences** took place at the university, the Bodenseeforum, HTWG (Hochschule Konstanz – University of Applied Sciences) and PHTG (Pädagogische Hochschule Thurgau).

The Zukunftskolleg staged an improv entitled “**Impro(ve) the future**” at the university’s studio theatre, in which **Gabriella Gall** (Biology), **Noelia Martinez Doallo** (Law) and **Jacob Bloomfield** (Literature) presented their research that was improvised by performers from Improtheater Konstanz.

The starting point for the improv was these abstracts:

**Gabriella Gall:**

Many animals live together in social groups and benefit from this community, for example, through reduced predation pressure or increased reproductive success. However, such a community also means that animals with different needs have to adapt to each other



and compromise accordingly to remain in the group. To make and influence group decisions, many animals use acoustic signals. In my project, I seek to understand how the ability to coordinate with others and to influence others with their own signals evolves, what the mechanism of such coordination is, and how far individual differences in coordination ability affect animal survival and reproductive success. I am investigating these questions in pheasants and chickens because it is possible to raise, observe and manipulate them in the laboratory under controlled conditions right from the egg and then either release them (in the case of pheasants) or keep them in the field (in the case of chickens) and thereby measure the effect of experience on animal survival and reproduction, particularly in the case of pheasants.

#### **Noelia Martínez Doallo:**

Is there a moral duty to participate in (bio)medical research? Insofar as (bio)medical research has the potential to improve the quality of life of the whole of society, it is to be considered as an important scientific activity that everyone should support. Nonetheless, the existence of healthcare and pharmaceutical markets with a focus on making economic profit, along with certain ethically questionable practices, has led to mistrust towards (bio)medical science practices in general, and (bio)medical research in particular. The advancement of (bio)medical sciences certainly requires collective efforts, as human testing exemplifies. Yet the construction of a genuinely fair scheme of cooperation requires the democratization of (bio)medical sciences as a prior step, since all the parties involved deserve to be placed in conditions of material equality. Uncontroversially, a fair-minded scheme of cooperation can be built on the culture of universal human rights, theories of justice and democratic values. In my postdoctoral research, I will set the main pillars of this enterprise from an interdisciplinary perspective, i.e. merging moral and political philosophy, law, economics and (bio)medical sciences in an effort to foster a holistic slant.

#### **Jacob Bloomfield:**

Tutti Frutti: Little Richard, Sex, Gender, and Transgression in America and Europe investigates the extraordinary career of musician Little Richard. Covering the years 1955-64, the project explores a wide range of facets regarding Richard's career through its examination of a central question: How did the singer become one of the most successful figures in mid-twentieth-century popular music, achieving groundbreaking popularity with cross-racial audiences in the US and Europe, while consciously predicating his persona on male effeminacy and the suggestion of same-sex desire?

Using Richard's career, music, and image as a case study, I illuminate how post-war Western audiences interpreted gender nonconformity, sexual difference, black masculinities, contemporary popular music, and Americana.



## International early career researchers meet in Konstanz

On **2 July**, the theatre was a venue for the first time for a new precious commodity: young researchers from all over the world. The Zukunftskolleg organized a **post-conference symposium in cooperation with and following the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting**. Thirty outstanding young researchers from 13 countries took part, including a delegation from Pakistan.

“This diversity of nationalities among early career researchers is a perfect fit for the University of Konstanz and the Zukunftskolleg. International early career researchers are an important part of our strategic tradition of promoting creativity and providing freedoms for researchers early



in their careers. This priority is ingrained in our institutional identity,” said Professor Malte Drescher, Vice Rector for Research, Academic Staff Development and Research Infrastructure, in his welcome speech.

The Zukunftskolleg’s aim was to bring these outstanding researchers to Konstanz and familiarize them with the university – in particular the Zukunftskolleg and, this year, the Department of Chemistry – and to strengthen cooperation with Lindau.



## New People, New Ideas

On **14-15 July**, the Zukunftskolleg’s **new Scientific Advisory Board** met in Konstanz for the first time.





*From left to right: David Gugerli, Jane Ohlmeyer, Ingrid Wüning-Tschol, Ursula Schwarzenbart, (on the screen) Raghavendra Gadagkar, Vinod Subramaniam, Manuela Nocker and Elke aus dem Moore.*

The new members are **Raghavendra Gadagkar** (Professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), **David Gugerli** (Professor for the History of Technology, ETH Zurich), **Sabine von Heusinger** (Professor of Medieval History/ Late Middle Ages, University of Cologne), **Michael Matlosz** (President of EuroScience), **Elke aus dem Moore** (Director, Akademie Schloss Solitude), **Jane Ohlmeyer** (Erasmus Smith's Professor of Modern History, Trinity College, Dublin), **Ursula Schwarzenbart** (Director, Global Diversity Office, Daimler, former member of the University Council, University of Konstanz (03/2009-02/2018)), **Vinod Subramaniam** (President of the Executive Board, University of Twente) and **Ingrid Wüning-Tschol** (Senior Vice President Health and Science, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Germany). **Manuela Nocker** (Senior Lecturer in Organisation and Sustainability, University of Essex) represents continuity in the Scientific Advisory Board of the Zukunftskolleg, as she was already a member from 2017 until 2020.

The Rector of the University of Konstanz, Katharina Holzinger, opened the meeting. This was followed by an introduction of the members of the SAB. Afterwards, the fellows and SAB members gathered in discussion groups to talk about career paths, digitalization, mobility, and the mission and relevance of the Zukunftskolleg. The next day, the SAB discussed the challenges and possible changes for the Zukunftskolleg with the Executive Committee.



## Yuko Ulrich receives first Zukunftskolleg Research Award

**Yuko Ulrich** from the **Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena** is the **first recipient of the new Zukunftskolleg Research Award of the University of Konstanz**. The prize recognizes the scientific achievements of young researchers and helps them to further develop their personal profile. Yuko Ulrich also represents these hopes and beliefs that young researchers who are given encouragement and support can start a great career.

Yuko Ulrich, biologist, studies the spread of diseases and disease resistance in social insects. She earned her doctoral degree at ETH Zurich, where she studied the evolutionary ecology of bumblebees under the supervision of Professor Paul Schmid-Hempel. As a postdoctoral researcher in Professor Daniel Kronauer's group at Rockefeller University, New York, she helped to



*Giovanni Galizia awards to Yuko Ulrich the Research Award*

establish the raider ant as a model for studying social behaviour. She founded an independent research group at the University of Lausanne, which moved to ETH Zurich and finally to the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena.

With the new award, the University of Konstanz is building on sound traditions: "The University of Konstanz has always pursued unconventional paths. Very early on, we made it our mission to support young scientists and offer them the best educational opportunities. The Zukunftskolleg was born out of this endeavour," says Katharina



Holzinger, opening the award ceremony. It took place on Friday, 15 July 2022, in the Chestnut Garden on Mainau Island, which was decorated with beautiful and colourful ants made by children from the university's Kinderhaus especially for this event.

The [Zukunftskolleg Research Award](#) honours young researchers who have accomplished outstanding scientific achievements in their field. This includes networked thinking and research, convincing, solution-oriented methods, and approaches to how we will master the challenges of tomorrow.

The Zukunftskolleg Research Award comprises a three-month research stay in Konstanz, in the framework of which the prize winner receives research funding of €3,000, reimbursement of travel costs as well as an accommodation allowance. The award enables its recipients to augment existing research projects, pursue novel experimental approaches, explore new questions and/or forge further links in their academic networks. Over the years, the Zukunftskolleg Research Award will invite nominations from all subject areas at the University of Konstanz.



# Review of events

## Jour Fixe summer semester 2022

### **Malte Drescher (Vice Rector for Research, Academic Staff Development and Research Infrastructure)**

“Current plans of the university for creating more long-term perspectives and transparent career paths for postdoctoral researchers”

The Zukunftskolleg invited Malte Drescher, Vice Rector for Research, Academic Staff Development and Research Infrastructure, to talk about “Current plans of the university for creating more long-term perspectives and transparent career paths for postdoctoral researchers” at the first hybrid Jour fixe in 2022 on Tuesday, 12 April.



### **Alexander Etkind (Senior Fellow / Dept. of History)**

“Surviving the Anthropocene: The New Political Economy of Virtual Coloniality”

On Tuesday, 19 April 2022, Alexander Etkind (Senior Fellow / Dept. of History) reported on “Surviving the Anthropocene: The New Political Economy of Virtual Coloniality”.

Abstract:

*A virtual sequel to his Nature’s Evil. A Cultural History of Natural Resources, this talk addressed the new transformation of the European political economy in the age of the Anthropocene. Constructing its “barbell model” (juxtaposed to the popular “doughnut model” by Kate Raworth), Etkind questions the issue of online-offline interactions from a fresh perspective: Is cyberspace a “colony” that is producing growth for the stagnating “metropolis” of the physical world? And, if so, what would its decolonization look like? Relying on this virtual-colonial metaphor, he conceptualizes “ghost emissions”, defined as the amounts of CO2 saved by digital interactions; “virtual growth”, which could (and already does) compensate for physical degrowth that is required by climate action; and, finally, “digital prosumers” (virtual producers-consumers who “emigrate online”) as the settlers of the New Virtual World. His model proceeds from a hypothesis that decarbonization works as a push factor for the economy which would survive the Anthropocene and that digitalization works as a pull factor. While the COVID-19 pandemic intensified this double action, Russian military aggression aims at resisting and reversing it. Despite these and other contingencies, the double action of decarbonization and digitalization will remain the strategic direction of further developments. From the perspective of post-pandemic and post-war Europe, the hope is that the Green (and Blue-Yellow?) Recovery will produce not the gloomy “1.5-metre society, 90% economy” predicted by pundits, but instead a deep and progressive transformation that will make nature cleaner, people safer, and economies richer.*

**Felix Hamborg (Associated Fellow / Dept. of Computer and Information Science) and Franziska Weeber (Dept. of History and Sociology)**

“Towards Semi-Automated Content Analysis: Using Deep Learning to Assist Manual Annotations”

On Tuesday, 26 April 2022, Felix Hamborg (Associated Fellow / Dept. of Computer and Information Science) and Franziska Weeber (Dept. of History and Sociology) spoke about “Towards Semi-Automated Content Analysis: Using Deep Learning to Assist Manual Annotations”.

Abstract:

*Much research in the social sciences relies heavily on manual annotation, e.g. of textual documents such as party manifestos or news articles. And for good reason because only humans can reliably recognize subtle nuances in texts and read between the lines. However, these analyses are fairly costly and can take considerable time since they are conducted manually. This talk gave an overview of Hamborg and Weeber’s previous and future research on making these analyses more efficient by using state-of-the-art natural language processing techniques, such as BERT. Specifically, they summarized their prior work on the automated identification of media bias in news articles. They then outlined their current research project, in part funded by the Zukunftskolleg, which will extend their approach to further use cases in social science research.*

**Philipp di Dio (Research Fellow / Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics)**

“Time-Dependent Moments”

In the hybrid Jour fixe on Tuesday, 3 May, Philipp di Dio (Research Fellow / Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics) spoke about “Time-Dependent Moments”.

Abstract:

*First, Philipp di Dio gave an introduction to the field of his mathematical research: moments. From the current state of the art and applications in this field, he showed how his research approach contributes. He presented novel results and an unforeseen new research direction which he will explore. Since his research lies in the combination of partial differential equations and (real) algebraic geometry, he showed how he can connect both well-developed mathematical fields and also show difficulties in the field of mathematics. At the end, he discussed his experiences and learnt about the audience’s experiences of interdisciplinary working.*

**Eric Lott (Senior Fellow / English and American Studies, City University New York Graduate Center, USA)**

“Blackface from Time to Time”

On Tuesday, 10 May 2022, Eric Lott (Senior Fellow / English and American Studies, City University New York Graduate Center, USA) spoke about “Blackface from Time to Time”.

Abstract:

*Ethnic drag in the form of white performers in blackface seems to exist in some kind of eternal present: instances of its performance go back centuries, come into commercial popularity in the US in the 1820s and '30s, dominate popular entertainment on stage in the form of the “minstrel show” throughout the 19th century, then migrate to Hollywood film for much of the 20th century. And it was a global phenomenon, extending from Great Britain to South Africa, Japan to Australia. The official censoring of blackface in the 1960s has coincided with its “vernacular” reappearance in Halloween costumes, fraternity parties and college yearbooks to this day, where – from time to time – blackface makes its inevitable return. Recent cases of white activists and scholars passing for Other (Rachel Doležal, Jessica Krug, Andrea Smith) only thicken the plot. Lott talked about the time-to-time temporality of blackface’s ongoing present and why American culture seems to require the racial, sexual and gendered interventions of its eternal returns.*

### **Research Visit Fellows**

On Tuesday, 17 May 2022, our two Research Visit Fellows Paula Tesche (Literature and Linguistics) and Ekaterina Mikhailova (Politics and Public Administration) gave a presentation.

#### **Paula Tesche’s talk was entitled “Resistance memories of the catastrophe in the city of Concepción, Chile”**

Abstract:

*This research describes the effects of the socio-political catastrophe of the military coup (1973) and the dictatorship (1973-1990) in Concepción, Chile. From a current day perspective, the study analyzes the political resistance memories present in five places in the city of Concepción. These places are: Vicaría de la Solidaridad, the torture and detention centre in the former fort “El Morro” and the memorials “23 de Agosto”, “La Ronda de la unidad”, Memorial de los Detenidos Desaparecidos y Ejecutados Políticos de la región del Biobío y del Cementerio General de Concepción.*

#### **Ekaterina Mikhailova’s talk was entitled “Refugee Processing Systems in Konstanz and Kreuzlingen: Institutional and Societal Transformations over Time”.**

Abstract:

*The presentation looked at Konstanz and Kreuzlingen as border twin cities and contextualized their efforts in working with refugees and migrants, with the challenges and opportunities border twin cities typically face in the field of migration and integration. In addition, the talk presented preliminary findings on how refugee processing has evolved in Konstanz and Kreuzlingen from the so-called Arab Spring of 2010-2012 to the war in Ukraine in 2022. More specifically, it outlined the constellation of stakeholders participating in refugee processing at the local level on the German-Swiss border and their most recent activities in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees. To conclude, the presentation named future research avenues identified with this exploratory study.*

#### **Giora Hon (Dept. of Philosophy / University of Haifa, Israel)**

“Universal aspects of scientific practice: Commitment, methodology and technique”

Senior Fellow Giora Hon (Dept. of Philosophy / University of Haifa, Israel) gave a presentation (virtually) entitled “Universal aspects of scientific practice: Commitment, methodology and technique”.

Abstract:

*The thesis proposed in this talk is a contribution to philosophy of science from the perspective of the practice of science. He seeks general and indeed universal features which characterize scientific practice, that is, features that are inherent to the practice of science. He has discerned three salient universal features of scientific practice: commitment, methodology and technique. He claims that these three features can invariably be found in any scientific practice, be it in constructing a theory, conducting an experiment, or exploring a new scientific domain. In most general terms, commitment plays the role of presupposition, methodology constitutes the inferential mode and*

*technique facilitates the transition from the general to the specific. His claim is that scientific practice is essentially a judicious engagement with these three components, where the goal is to draw conclusions and thereby to contribute to the corpus of scientific knowledge. He illustrated the thesis with the case of Maxwell's contribution to electromagnetism, whose theory of electrodynamics changed fundamentally the perception of reality since the time of Newton.*

**Joint virtual session with our cooperation partner in Tokyo – the Waseda Institute of Advanced Study (WIAS)**  
 “The Anthropocene”

On Tuesday, 31 May 2022, the Zukunftskolleg extended an invitation to a joint virtual session with our cooperation partner in Tokyo – the Waseda Institute of Advanced Study (WIAS). The topic of the joint session was “The Anthropocene”.

*The Jour fixe was structured as follows:*

*Welcome – 10 min. (Toshi Arimura and Giovanni Galizia – directors of WIAS and ZuKo)*

*Round table – 45 min. (4 x 7-10 min. lightning talks by Udith Dematagoda (WIAS / former Zukunftskolleg Fellow), Susumu Annaka (WIAS), Alexander Etkind (Senior Fellow / Zukunftskolleg), Eduardo Luersen (new Postdoctoral Fellow / Zukunftskolleg), moderated by chair Toshi Arimura*

*Q&A session – 25 min. (4 breakout rooms for smaller group discussions with matched moderators – Dematagoda/Bloomfield, Annaka/el-Wakil, Etkind/Xu, Luersen/Kong); closing session – 10 min. (Satomi Yamamoto, Associate Director at WIAS)*

**Visiting Fellows from Ukraine**

Our first four Visiting Fellows from Ukraine, Hanna Klipkova (Politics and Public Administration), Yaroslava Muravetska (Literature), Tetyana Nikolaychuk (Economics) and Bohdan Shumylovych (History and Sociology) gave a presentation.

**Hanna's talk was entitled “The Impact of the War on State-Institutional Building Processes in Ukraine”.**

Abstract:

*The Russian invasion in February 2022 raised new challenges for researchers in post-Soviet states.*

*The Russian invasion in February 2022 raised new challenges for researchers in post-Soviet states. One could consider the post-Soviet state as a specific type of state that cannot be described just as a transition stage from the authoritarian regime to the democratic one. We propose to consider the post-Soviet state as a self-sufficient phenomenon and research instrument for trajectories of political regimes and state institutions. The post-Soviet state can be described as a stable constellation of formal and informal state and political institutes. Instead of being a temporary frame for describing transition, the post-Soviet state emerged as a new, relatively sustained type of state with its own arsenal of governing techniques. More than 30 years of state-building in Ukraine, like in other post-Soviet countries, seems to have brought unsuccessful results. The outcomes of democracy, sovereignty and the whole political system were qualified in terms of neopatrimonialism (Fisun 2016, Hale 2016) and explained with the low quality of the institutional system. The lack of mature and legitimate institutions for the circulation of elites, institutional imbalances in the state power system and an undeveloped party system led to structural defects in political governance and to inversions of its political transformation.*

*The post-Soviet type of state is characterized by the emergence of Soviet and Western liberal state systems. The socialist legacy remained partly destroyed, while the new liberal economy and state models were not implemented completely. This symbiosis created a specific destructive, but viable state-institutional system. At its core lies neopatrimonialism with the profit-seeking behaviour of elites, the emergence of authorities and business groups, using the state's capacity in private interests and patron-client networks as the dominant principle of political market organization. Neopatrimonialism can be considered as a state capture problem, as privatization of the public policy sphere. There is a dominance of informal institutions hidden behind the facades of formal but incapable institutions.*



*When it comes to further post-conflict reconstruction, there is no doubt that the war will have a strong influence on the nation-building process. Ukrainian society nowadays demonstrates a new level of consolidation. All social and political cleavages have the opportunity to be repaired by the powerful rise of national unity.*

*The theory tells us that the war can create a state and support nation-building processes. There is an opportunity to trace this hypothesis. It seemed impossible in the 21st century, but the crisis in the global security system has brought it back into the centre of the political discourse.*

*History demonstrates that large-scale wars can enhance or even create nations. And for political scientists, the key question will be whether Ukraine is able to build a capable political-institutional system after the war? Will it follow the Afghan failed-state scenario or will it give us a chance to use the war in terms of the Tillian perspective as the state-making driver? It will be the main post-conflict challenge for Ukrainian statehood.*

*The purpose of her research is to define possible trajectories of state-institutional system building after the greatest bifurcation point for the Ukrainian nation. There is a chance to rebuild the Ukrainian state on the new principles and to change the "path dependence" trap (Mahoney 2000). The most crucial point for the Ukrainian state after the war will therefore be how Ukraine can improve the quality of governance and avoid further corrosion of state capacity.*

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### **Yaroslava spoke on "Cultural practices of anti-Soviet struggle".**

Abstract:

*One of the fronts of Russia's war against Ukraine is ideological, which is largely related to the propaganda of the mythologized past of the Soviet Union. In fact, this discourse is based on opposite theses: on the one hand, the Soviet Union is interpreted as a union of fraternal nations, and, on the other hand, Russia's supremacy is asserted. Consequently, the collapse of the Soviet Union is interpreted as a tragedy caused by the separation of the Ukrainian nation from Russia, and not as the liberation of Ukraine from occupation. Thus, Russia's attack on Ukraine is interpreted as a war of "fraternal nations". The purpose of this report is therefore firstly to record the fact of the Ukrainian nation's struggle against the Soviet Union (using the information leaflets of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) as an example) and secondly to interpret and analyze narratives of the ABN ideology, in particular to debunk the myth of "fraternal nations" and outline the imperial essence of both the Soviet Union and Russia.*

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### **Tetyana's talk was entitled "Post-war sustainable development in Ukraine: innovative economic and environmental activities (Cybernetic planning and chess-business modelling: new rules, new tools)".**

Abstract:

*The Russian military invasion of Ukraine has led to numerous transformations in the social, economic, political, ecological and regulatory field. The formation of effective main economic drivers in the post-war period is the key to restoring civil society institutions and the market economy in Ukraine.*

*The invasion means the destruction of existing markets, business collaborations and the formation of new vectors of military and civilian activities.*

*The study considers the economic and organizational feasibility and profitability of the post-war market. Chess business modelling will find the most available business options for entities and identify the side effects for society and the environment. Chess business modelling could also be used as a tool for dealing with institutional traps.*

*The aim 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 post-war period.*

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### **Bohdan spoke on "Healing a socialist body: Soviet Ukrainian television and media**

**psychotherapy”.**

Abstract:

*On 31 March 1988, Soviet television introduced the media bridge between Moscow and Kyiv with the popular television programme “Vzgliad”. This programme, which had an experimental character in the spirit of Perestroika, showed amazing surgery, which aimed to improve the health of Soviet people through the media. A Ukrainian physician, Anatolii Kashpirovskii, performed drug-free anaesthesia remotely via a TV bridge from Moscow while a surgeon did the operation in Kyiv. In 1989, Kashpirovskii presented six instalments of these so-called televised healings, and, soon after, these therapeutic broadcasts in the media were stopped. The case of Kashpirovskii and televised surgeries, followed by the repetitive mass TV hypnosis sessions in 1989, exposed several aspects of late Soviet history: late détente, televisual experiments, media bridges and perception of the socialist body. Shumylovych’s talk explored Ukrainian broadcasts of 1989 and how they were perceived by ordinary people, media professionals and medical circles. Late Soviet television was shaped by the specific “unimaginative imagination” of these broadcasts.*

**CAT group of Valerio Coladonato**

“Screen media, fiction and European populisms”

The Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group (call 2021) of Valerio Coladonato (Assistant Professor – Film Studies Department, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) visited the Zukunftscolleg on Tuesday, 21 June 2022.

The group gave a presentation at the Jour fixe on their project entitled “Screen media, fiction and European populisms: research questions and methodological challenges of an interdisciplinary project”.

Abstract:

*Narrative work is a crucial element of populist mobilization, especially through the lens of specific emotional discourses (pride, rage, fear). Nevertheless, while scholarship has focused increasingly on informative and digital media, the role of audiovisual fiction – films and TV series in particular – has yet to be fully explored. Part of the difficulty lies in the interdisciplinary nature of the object: How can the tools of film and media studies (for the analysis of emotion and reception) be combined with the interpretation of contemporary populisms developed in political sciences? In this first presentation of the project “Screening European Populisms (2008-2020): Audiovisual Fiction, Social Media and Political Affect”, the group aimed to identify the key methodological challenges in conducting a comparative analysis of the circulation of populist affect through fictional screen media content across five countries: Italy, France, Spain, Germany and the UK. In particular, they reflected on the conceptual and methodological tools that can allow a dialogue between media studies and political theory in order (i) to identify relevant case studies from these countries; (ii) to define a rigorous method of analysis of the products themselves, accounting for the problematics of representation, circulation and reception; (iii) to embed in the design of the project itself elements of its potential social impact in the areas of media literacy and youth participation in politics.*

**Senior Fellows**

“Primate Lifeways”

Our three new Senior Fellows, Amanda Melin (Dept. of Biological Anthropology, University of Calgary, Canada), James Higham (Dept. of Anthropology, New York University, USA) and Nathaniel Dominy (Dept. of Anthropology, Dartmouth College, USA), presented their research and participated in a round table, moderated by Gisela Kopp, on Tuesday, 28 June 2022.

**Amanda’s talk was entitled “Anatomy and dietary specialization influence sensory behaviour among sympatric frugivorous primates”.**

Abstract:

*As the interface between animals and their environments, the form and function of sensory systems provide a window into the ecology of past and present species. Here, Melin discussed her collaborative sensory ecology research on three wild, sympatric primate species: white-faced capuchins, *Cebus imitator*; black-handed spider monkeys *Ateles geoffroyi*, and mantled howler monkeys, *Alouatta palliata*. She presented analyses of foraging behaviour sequences together with measurements of sensory*

*variation (colour vision phenotype, olfactory and hand morphology) and dietary specialization. She finds the most frugivorous species (*Ateles geoffroyi*) sniffs fruits most often, that the species with the highest measure of manual dexterity (*Cebus imitator*) uses manual touch the most often, and that main olfactory bulb volume is a better predictor of sniffing behaviour than is nasal turbinate surface area. She also found evidence that colour vision phenotype impacts use of non-visual senses. These findings shed light on how dietary specialization and sensory variation shape foraging behaviours and on methods for investigating the relationships between behaviour and anatomy.*

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**James reported on “What can monkeys tell us about responses to climate-change related natural disasters?”.**

Abstract:

*Primates such as rhesus macaques represent our best non-human models for understanding how the physical and social environment ‘gets under the skin’ and impacts our health. In September 2017, Puerto Rico was devastated by the largest and strongest hurricane ever to strike the island, Hurricane Maria. Just before it made landfall, it first struck a small island off the coast, Cayo Santiago, home to 1,500 rhesus macaques and the longest-running study of primates in the world. Here, he discussed the hurricane and its aftermath on Cayo Santiago. He showed evidence that the impacts of the hurricane have aged the animals molecularly, with animals living through the hurricane being biologically older for their chronological age than animals who did not. He also showed that animals responded to the disaster by reaching out and making new social connections, with those individuals who were particularly socially isolated before the storm increasing their social effort and making new friends. This occurrence offers a unique opportunity to study how natural disasters impact long-term health, and also shows the role of sociability and of societies in providing resilience and support in the face of adversity.*

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**Nathaniel told us about “Secrets of the sacred baboons”.**

Abstract:

*Punt was a major emporium for monkeys during the 2nd millennium BC. It was reached by land or sea and located south and east of Egypt, suggesting a position in the southern Red Sea region, either in Africa or Arabia. Maritime trade between Egypt and Punt spanned 1,200 years, and many scholars view it as the first long-distance leg of the Spice Route. Others describe the Egypt-Punt trading relationship as the beginning of economic globalization. Punt is therefore a port of considerable historical importance, but its location is uncertain and the subject of enduring debate. This lightning talk focused on the bones and teeth of mummified baboons recovered from New Kingdom temples and Ptolemaic tombs. The isotope composition of these tissues is a valuable source of information on the life and lifeways of animals. It is evident that some baboons spent a lifetime in Egypt, which suggests a captive breeding programme, but others were imported from faraway lands. So far, this line of evidence puts Punt in the modern-day countries of Eritrea and northern Somalia, which partially corroborates the hypothesis of German anthropologist Rolf Herzog.*

**Assembly of Members**

Election of members for the Executive Committee

The last hybrid Jour fixe in the 2022 summer semester was on Tuesday, 5 July.

In the first part, the Assembly of Members (2-year Fellows, 5-year Fellows, Senior Fellows and “fellows”) elected three new members to the Executive Committee, replacing Violeta Ivanova-Rohling (Postdoctoral Fellow / Dept. of Physics) from July 2022 and Gruia Badescu (Research Fellow / Dept. of History and Sociology) and Cristina Ruiz Agudo (Research Fellow / Dept. of Chemistry) from October 2022.

The election was held both in person and digitally.

After the election, Melanie Behrens and Danica Kümmel from Research Support gave an overview of their support services with regard to grant proposals, research funding and ethical issues.



## NetIAS Lecture Series

**30 June 2022, Jennifer Guiliano**

Associate Professor, Department of History, Indiana University–Purdue University  
Indianapolis, USA

2022 Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh  
“Decolonizing Knowledge Production through Linked Open Data”

On 30 June 2022, Jennifer Guiliano (Associate Professor, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh) discussed “Decolonizing Knowledge Production through Linked Open Data”.

Abstract:

*A hallmark of the North American colonial process was the production and dissemination of knowledge about Indigenous peoples through the journals and records of colonizers.*

*The violent and virulent practices that led to widespread disease, genocide, trauma and displacement in the Americas were bolstered by data collection and distribution that relied upon physical death and cultural destruction of Indigenous peoples.*

*Equally as damaging were 20th century preservation efforts by non-Indigenous peoples that form the core*

*of most cultural heritage collections. Analogue archival collections about Native American, First Nations and Indigenous peoples were constructed through “salvage” ethnography which sought to document “disappearing” peoples. Collectors, anthropologists and historians embarked on decades-long collecting efforts that led to the extraction (forcibly and otherwise) of cultural objects, knowledge, and even physical bodies from Native communities. They created the data culture that most historians operate within as they work with indigenous materials. Historians are struggling to connect data and decolonize data practices so that they align with indigenous communities and their ways of knowing. This becomes further complicated by the fact that an overwhelming amount of historical data is held by colonial repositories and not Native communities who have different epistemological and cultural priorities.*

*There are general ethical and epistemological issues that researchers need to be attentive to when exposing historical materials (esp. photographs, documents and artifacts) authored by and about Indigenous peoples. First and foremost, there is the issue of identity politics: Who has the right to speak for/about whom and what role should non-members play in articulating a community’s history, authority or beliefs? Significantly, in colonial-centric collections, only legal access is required and/or commonly completed. Every community, every tribe, and even a single family might differ in their sense of what is appropriate for research or reuse and dissemination. When national borders divide those families, the question of research ethics becomes more complex. Can linked open data account for any of these issues or do they rely on colonial systems of knowledge production that cannot be teased apart from issues of rights and access? This presentation will highlight preliminary answers to these questions while seeking to present a vision of what a collaborative, shared authority model of Indigenous digital humanities and digital history would look like.*

**Network of European Institutes  
for Advanced Study.**

# Netias.





# Forthcoming events

## Jour Fixe winter semester 2022-23

### ZUKOnnect/Herz Fellows

“Welcome to the 2022-23 winter semester and ZUKOnnect/Herz poster session”

25 October 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### Visit by Uli Burchardt, Mayor of Konstanz

08 November 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### CAT group: Manuel Spitschan

“Light as a Key Predictor of Human Health and Well-being: Robust Evidence and Translation to Public Health”

15 November 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid



### Presentations by Visiting Fellows

22 November 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### CAT group: Damian Blasi

“Challenges for the development of fair language-based assessments of health, education, behaviour, and beyond”

29 November 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### 1. Assembly of Members

Election of members for the Executive Committee

### 2. Presentations by Visiting Fellows (digital)

06 December 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### Itay Kavalier (Postdoctoral Fellow / Mathematics)

“Robust representation of sequential learning”

13 December 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

### Eduardo Luersen (Postdoctoral Fellow / Literature)

“Cloud gaming atlas: from Earth’s metabolism to the longing for radiant infrastructures”

20 December 2022

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

**Valeria Vegh Weis (Research Fellow / Law and Literature)**

Book presentation

10 January 2023

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

**James Wilson (Postdoctoral Fellow / History and Sociology)**

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

17 January 2023

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

**Anamaria Bentea (Research Fellow / Linguistics)**

“Cross-linguistic influence in multilingual children and adults: evidence from the real-time processing of Romanian wh-questions”

24 January 2023

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

**Anna Stöckl (Research Fellow / Biology)**

“The neural basis of insect pattern vision: from flowers to behaviour”

31 January 2023

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

**Ana del Arco (Associated Fellow / Biology)**

“Microbial-mediated protection against virus infections”

07 February 2023

15:15 – 16:30

Y326 / hybrid

See the current Jour fixe [programme](#).



## Executive Committee meetings in the 2022/2023 winter semester

**19 October 2022**

14:30 – 16:30

**16 November 2022**

14:30 – 16:30

**14 December 2022**

14:30 – 16:30

**18 January 2023**

14:30 – 16:30

**08 February 2023**

14:30 – 16:30

The deadline for handing in applications for a forthcoming EC meeting is one week before the meeting, e.g. for the meeting on 19 October the deadline for handing in applications is 12 October 2022, 12:00 noon.



**Please note:** Hand in your applications to Mihaela Mihaylova: [zukunftscolleg-office@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:zukunftscolleg-office@uni-konstanz.de)!



# Careers, distinctions and grants

## Assistant professorship (with tenure track) for Julián Torres-Dowdall

**Julián Torres-Dowdall** (Postdoctoral Fellow / Biology) has been appointed as an **assistant professor (with tenure track)** at **Notre Dame University, Indiana, USA**.

He started his new position on 1 August in the Department of Biological Sciences with a focus on research and some teaching (one class per semester). “I will continue the research I have been doing in the past years, trying to understand the how’s and why’s of phenotypic diversity,” says Julián. “Specifically, I will try to understand which selection pressures affect the visual system of fish and which developmental patterns shape their evolutionary trajectories.”

Julián was a fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since August 2013.

We congratulate Julián and wish him all the best!



## Gisela Kopp elected to Board of Die Junge Akademie

**Gisela Kopp** (Research Fellow / Biology) has been a member of the Junge Akademie since July 2020. Die Junge Akademie unites 50 outstanding scholars and artists and provides a platform for academic collaborations, interdisciplinary discourse, dialogue at the interface of science and society, and engagement in science policy.

For more information on Die Junge Akademie, please click [here](#).



## Double funding for Sidney Carls-Diamante

We congratulate **Sidney Carls-Diamante** (Postdoctoral Fellow / Philosophy), who has received funding from the **Karst Stiftung** as well as the **2022 Messmer Research Award** for her project “Attitudes towards voluntary death in persons with bipolar disorder”.

The project explores attitudes towards voluntary death in persons with bipolar disorder (BD). “Persons with BD make up one of the highest suicide risk groups,” Sidney explains. “The project investigates whether there are patterns in how persons with BD view suicidality, and if so whether they contribute to the increased tendency towards suicidality in the BD population. It uses experimental philosophy, wherein a survey gathers the relevant data, which will then be used as the basis for philosophical reflections on voluntary death.”



The Dr August and Annelies Karst Foundation is funding her project with €1.200. The Messmer Research Award – which is conferred by the Werner and Erika Messmer Foundation – is worth €10,000 and intended to support researchers in their further scientific work. The selection was made in a multi-stage procedure by the foundation and the Rectorate of the University of Konstanz, in consultation with the sections.

Congratulations to Sidney!



## Assistant professorship for Alice el-Wakil at the University of Copenhagen

**Alice el-Wakil** (Postdoctoral Fellow / Politics and Public Administration) has been appointed as **Assistant Professor for Political Theory at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark**.

She started her new position in the Department of Political Science on 1 September.

She will be teaching courses in political theory and continuing her research projects in theories of democracy (and learning Danish).

“Heading towards new adventures as Assistant Professor for Political Theory at the University of Copenhagen with excitement, but also very intimidated, I cannot believe how fast the past year at the Zukunftskolleg flew by,” says Alice. “This rightly reflects how good a time I’ve had at the institute – and I am deeply grateful to all of you for including me in this fantastic research community and for making this year so interesting, inspiring and fun. I will keep wonderful memories of the writing retreat, Jour fixes, poster sessions, lunches together and – most of all– of the ongoing, incredibly generous (and effective) offers of help and support in logistical, practical and emotional ways that make all the difference.”



Alice was a fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since July 2021.

We congratulate Alice and wish her all the best!



## Huge media response....

The feedback that **Daniela Rößler** received after her **paper was published in the science journal PNAS** (Proceedings of the National Academy of Science) is unbelievable!

[Science Magazine](#), [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [National Geographic](#).... they all wanted to know if spiders can dream.

The biologist and her team have discovered a REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders, contributing to a better understanding of the evolution of sleep in animals.

The authors took nocturnal infrared images of 34 young jumping spiders and analysed them. Since the skin of the newly hatched spiders does not yet show any pigmentation, the authors were able to observe the spiders’ retinas directly. The spiders showed phases of distinct retinal movements that occurred at very regular intervals. The length of these phases increased in the course of the night.

The observed retinal movements were always accompanied by uncontrolled body movements, such as curling of the legs or twitching of individual limbs as well as the so-called spinneret nipples. This means astonishing similarities to REM sleep in other animals. The authors also observed similar leg movements at regular intervals in adult jumping spiders.



Please click [here](#) for all the media reports.



