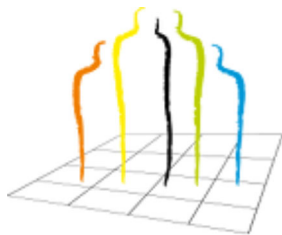


Betreff: Zukunftskolleg | Newsletter 2/2021

Von: Zukunftskolleg <zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de>

Datum: 30.06.2021, 12:01

An: zukunftskolleg-pr@uni-konstanz.de



Zukunftskolleg



Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 02/2021

Dear fellows and friends,

We hope you are all well and enjoying the summer in Konstanz. As far as the coronavirus pandemic is concerned, we are happy that restrictions are slowly lifting, with possibilities for smaller in-person meetings. Although we can start meeting personally in groups, our weekly Jour fixe as well as the event series on “Rasism in Academia” remain a great alternative for getting together and exchanging thoughts and ideas online, which also offers fellows from abroad who cannot be physically present in Konstanz the opportunity to participate.

This newsletter presents the results of the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellowship calls for applications. In addition, we would like to inform you about the 16th call for applications for 2-year Postdoctoral and 5-year Research Fellowships (**application deadline: 15 October 2021**) as well as the call for applications for funding programmes at the Zukunftskolleg (**application deadline: 5 July 2021**). The application phase for the next CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking) call has also started (**application deadline: 1 September 2021**).

Furthermore, we are happy to welcome our new fellows to the Zukunftskolleg and wish all fellows a pleasant time and a great start at the University of Konstanz.

Since the situation is still changing constantly and updates are coming in sporadically, our suggestion still stands that you please continue to follow the [latest updates](#) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite all this, we wish you a great summer ahead.

Current calls for applications

- › New call for applications for 5-year Research and 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships
- › Call for applications for funding programmes at the Zukunftskolleg
- › New Call for Applications: Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) 2021

New fellows & guests at the Zukunftskolleg

- › CAT group finally arrived at the Zukunftskolleg
- › New 2-year and 5-year Fellows arrived at the Zukunftskolleg
- › Welcome to Konstanz, ZUKOnnect Fellows (cohort 2020)
- › Senior Fellows Graham Underwood and Babu Thaliath to join the Zukunftskolleg
- › New ZUKOnnect Fellows and Herz Fellows selected (cohort 2021)

News review

- › UBIAS biennial conference and Giovanni Galizia elected to Steering Committee

- › NetIAS annual meeting and new president elected

Review of events

- › University Day 2021: Collective Behaviour
- › “Racism in Academia” event series
- › Executive Committee meetings
- › Jour fixe 2021 summer semester

Forthcoming events

- › Event series: “Racism in Academia”
- › Jour fixe 2021 summer semester
- › Executive Committee meetings in the 2021 summer semester

Careers, distinctions, and grants

- › J. Worth Estes Prize for Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros
- › Visiting professorship for Carolin Antos-Kuby
- › Klaus Boldt successful in Heisenberg Programme

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

Current calls for applications

New call for applications for 5-year Research and 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Zukunftskolleg has just opened its 16th call for applications for three Research Fellowships and three Postdoctoral Fellowships. **Application deadline is 15 October 2021.**

Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended for researchers in the early stages of their careers who plan to develop and implement an independent research project. The fellowships are open to researchers from all fields represented at the University of Konstanz. More information [here](#).

Research

Fellowships are destined for researchers with significant work experience at postdoctoral level. The fellows build their own academic profile by leading an independent research group at the University of Konstanz. 5-year Research Fellowships are open to researchers from all fields represented at the University of Konstanz. More information [here](#).



You will find the calls for applications as well as information about the eligibility criteria and the application process on the Zukunftskolleg website.



Call for applications for funding programmes at the Zukunftskolleg

The Zukunftskolleg has published calls for applications for several funding programmes open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz. The application **deadline for all programmes is 5 July 2021**.

The following programmes are offered:

Independent Research Grant (open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz)

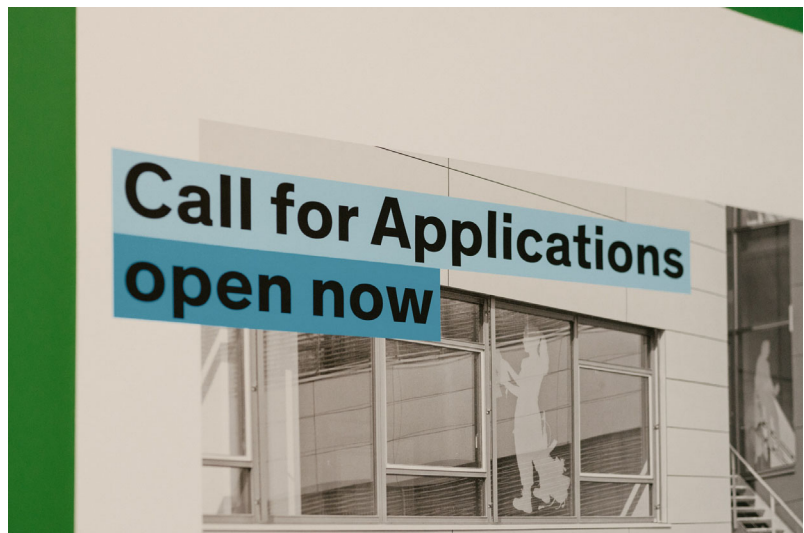
The funding programme aims to promote independent research by postdoctoral researchers at the University of

Konstanz. In particular, we encourage applications which support the exploration of new ideas and for implementing pilot projects. The grant can cover consumables, equipment, travel costs and student research assistants.

More information [here](#).

Mentorship Programme (open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz)

The programme enables non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz (postdoctoral researchers, junior professors, research group leaders, etc.) to network with distinguished colleagues both in Germany and abroad and to nurture these contacts.



More information [here](#).

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects (open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz).

The programme aims to promote research collaborations between non-tenured researchers (postdoctoral researchers, junior professors, research group leaders, etc.). An interdisciplinary research project gives grant holders the opportunity to identify and explore new, innovative and/or risky research perspectives with neighbouring disciplines and across disciplines.

More information [here](#).

Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching (open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz)

The programme aims to promote the development of new teaching courses and expand departmental syllabi. It gives grant holders the opportunity to explore new, innovative topics in teaching and to further develop their teaching skills and teaching approach across disciplines.

More information [here](#).

Intersectoral Cooperative Programme (open to all non-tenured researchers at the University of Konstanz)

The programme aims to develop cooperation between non-tenured researchers (postdoctoral researchers, junior professors, research group leaders, etc.) and the non-academic sector. Grants will be given to support cooperation that fosters joint research projects with industrial partners, companies, social institutions, cultural institutions, archives, public bodies or non-profit organizations.

More information [here](#).



New Call for Applications: Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) 2021

Together with our sister institutes in Europe, we have launched the 2021 call for funding for research groups – Constructive Advanced Thinking – in short CAT.

CAT is an open international call designed to foster interdisciplinary research teams of young promising individuals wishing to address emergent societal issues with fresh ideas.

CAT will provide teams of early career researchers (three to five persons, possibly including a stakeholder) time and space for thought and discussion in the best research environments Europe has to offer.

Deadline for applications is 1 September 2021, 15:00 CET.

More information [online](#) or in the [call text](#).

The Zukunftskolleg – which was responsible for the administration of the 2020 call in the CAT programme – now hands over to Budapest and wishes them good luck for the 3rd CAT round.

**Constructive
Advanced Thinking.**

cat.



New fellows & guests at the Zukunftskolleg

CAT group finally arrived at the Zukunftskolleg

In June, we welcomed the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group of Anna Sagana, Gabriele Chlevickaite and Nikolaos Aletras.

They spent two weeks at the Zukunftskolleg for an exchange within the group and with their local academic host, Cornelia Klocker (Postdoctoral Fellow / Dept. of Law), with the aim of advancing their project. The group won within the first CAT call for applications in 2019 and is hosted at [ZiF](#) (Bielefeld), [IAS CEU](#) (Budapest), [Wissenschaftskolleg](#) (Berlin) and the Zukunftskolleg.

They already gave a digital presentation at the Zukunftskolleg in the framework of the Jour fixe on 26 January 2021 on their project “A psychological approach to international criminal justice. Improving decision-making in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court”.

The project focuses on the International Criminal Court (ICC) that has recently been at the centre of fierce criticism about its ability to fulfil its role to investigate and prosecute the most heinous international crimes. The CAT group aims to help counter the criticisms by exploring an optimal decision-making model within the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP).

Anna Sagana, Assistant Professor in Legal and Criminological Psychology at Maastricht University (the Netherlands), works in the field of decision-making in relation to judicial decisions and eyewitness identifications. She has published numerous articles on eyewitness identification and cognitive biases in the legal domain in a range of legal psychology journals, including Behavioural Science and the Law, Applied Cognitive Psychology, and Legal and Criminological Psychology. Recently, Dr Sagana edited a special issue on the “Psychology of Forensic Evidence” for the “Zeitschrift für Psychologie”. The University of Maastricht, with which Anna Sagana is affiliated, is closely linked with the University of Konstanz via the YERUN network, which brings together seventeen young research universities from different parts of Europe that have decided to collaborate in order to jointly shape the European Higher Education and Research Area. Talent development is one of the focus areas of the [New YERUN Strategy](#) 2021-2025 recently published.

**Constructive
Advanced Thinking.**

cat.

Gabriele Chlevickaite is a criminologist and PhD candidate at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (the Netherlands). She worked at the Investigations Division of the ICC OTP in the capacity of assistant analyst before she was awarded the NWO Research Talent grant and moved to Vrije Universiteit for her PhD. Her current work focuses on credibility and reliability assessments of insider witnesses in international criminal courts and tribunals.

Nikolaos Aletras is a lecturer in natural language processing in the Computer Science Department of the University of Sheffield (UK), co-affiliated with the Machine Learning (ML) group. His research lies in applying statistical methods for detecting and

interpreting the underlying topics in large volumes of text data and he also develops text analysis methods to solve problems in other scientific areas, such as social and legal science. Dr Aletras has gained industrial experience through working as a scientist at Amazon (Amazon Research Cambridge and Alexa) and he was a research associate at UCL, Department of Computer Science, Media Futures Group.

More information on CAT within the [European NetIAS network](#).

Please take a look at our current call for CAT programmes [here](#).



New 2-year and 5-year Fellows arrived at the Zukunftskolleg

We are pleased to welcome Noelia Martínez Doallo (Department of Law), Prerna Nadathur (Department of Linguistics), Daniela Rößler (Department of Biology), Alice el-Wakil (Department of Politics / Cluster of Inequality) and Gabriella Gall (Department of Biology / CASCB) as our new Postdoctoral Fellows. In addition, we would like to welcome Angelo di Bernardo (Department of Physics) as one of our new Research Fellows. They started their fellowships at the Zukunftskolleg in the course of the summer semester.



from left to right: Gabriella Gall, Angelo di Bernardo, Alice el-Wakil, Prerna Nadathur, Daniela Rößler, Noelia Martínez Doallo



Welcome to Konstanz, ZUKOnnect Fellows (cohort 2020)

In April, we could welcome our ZUKOnnect Fellows to Konstanz in person; they already joined the Zukunftskolleg via digital means on 1 October 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were obliged to amend our ZUKOnnect Fellowship for early career scholars from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Instead of short residential stays only, we decided to offer a 12-month (digital) ZUKOnnect Fellowship that started in October 2020, combined with an on-campus stay for 3 to 4 months from April 2021 onwards.



from left to right: Josiah Taru, Afrasa Mulatu Urge, Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia, Vishwanath Varma, Krizler Tanalgo

We extend a warm welcome to Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia (Politics and Public Administration, Colombian PhD candidate from Mexico; local host: Christian Breuning), Vishwanath Varma (Biology, postdoctoral researcher from India; local host: Iain Couzin), Afrasa Mulatu Urge (Biology, PhD candidate from Ethiopia; local hosts: Dieter Spittler and Erika Isono) and Krizler Tanalgo (Biology, Filipino PhD candidate from China; local host: Meg Crofoot).

Unfortunately, Josiah Taru (History and Sociology, postdoctoral researcher from Zimbabwe; local host: Thomas Kirsch) could only be with us virtually so far.



Senior Fellows Graham Underwood and Babu Thaliath to join the Zukunftskolleg

Two new Senior Fellows have (digitally) joined the Zukunftskolleg in the 2021 summer semester for a period of 12 months: Professor Graham Underwood (School of Life Sciences, University of Essex, UK) and Babu Thaliath (School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India).



Graham Underwood and Babu Thaliath

Graham Underwood's research centres on algal biofilms and their role in ecology, ecosystem functioning and biogeochemistry. "The option to come to Konstanz and develop some of my areas of interest with excellent colleagues is too good an opportunity to miss," says Underwood. He will collaborate in particular with Bernard Lepetit (Biology): "Bernard's research specialisms around photosynthesis and regulation in diatoms (often using key model species) and his knowledge and experience of experimental approaches to investigate mechanisms of control and underlying molecular biology are of great interest to me," explains Underwood. "Linking his expertise with mine will help us ask some really new questions around cell sensing and behaviour."

During his stay at the Zukunftskolleg, Babu Thaliath aims to intensify his work on a research project in the field of philosophy and philosophy of science with the general topic: The Historicity of Axioms. The historicizing effect of mathematical formalism on the axiomatization of early modern sciences. “This project, which is in its initial phase, requires an extensive collection of materials, review of the premises, scientific contexts, methodology and, above all, the necessary consultation with the subject experts,” says Thaliath. “Carolin Antos-Kuby (Philosophy), who works on the axiomatic set theory, will give me an adequate opportunity to become more familiar with the interdisciplinary research at the Zukunftskolleg between philosophy and mathematics with regard to its theoretical-axiomatic foundations and their historical development.”

The Senior Fellowship programme of the Zukunftskolleg is designed to bring together excellent scholars from all countries and disciplines and to strengthen the intergenerational scientific dialogue between postdoctoral and established researchers.

Senior candidates must demonstrate a track record of significant and original research achievements, have extensive independent academic work experience and enjoy exchange and collaboration with younger generations.

More information on Graham Underwood [here](#).

More information on Babu Thaliath [here](#).



New ZUKOnnect Fellows and Herz Fellows selected (cohort 2021)

In this year's ZUKOnnect call, we received 132 eligible applications from Africa (57.6%), Asia (31.1%) and Latin America (11.4%). The majority of the eligible applicants were PhD candidates. Furthermore, about 40% of the eligible applications came from female researchers.

After a peer-reviewed selection process, the Zukunftskolleg's Executive Committee has awarded four ZUKOnnect Fellowships to:

Anteneh Getachew Gebrie (Mathematics and Statistics, lecturer from Ethiopia; research project: Incremental Algorithms with Acceleration Techniques for Hierarchical Optimization Problems and their Applications; local host: Stefan Volkwein)

Neelma Ashraf (Biology, PhD candidate from Pakistan; research project: Identification of a Novel Strong Antifungal Polyene and Identification of the Lavendamycin Biosynthetic Gene Cluster of the Rhizobacterium *Streptomyces* sp. BR123 Isolated from the Rhizosphere of *Helianthus Annuus* from Pakistan; local host: Dieter Spittler)

Illesha Avasthi (Chemistry, postdoctoral researcher from India; research project: Exploring Guanosine-Based Scaffold for Bioinspired Materials for 'Mineral Plastics'; local host: Helmut Cölfen)

Gabriel Cerqueira (History and Sociology, PhD candidate from Brazil; research project: Social Control, Hygienism and Family Law: Transnational Knowledge Exchange between Brazil and the League of Nations (1919-1930); local host: Anne Kwaschik)

The foundation “[Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft](#)” at the University of Konstanz is funding one of the ZUKOnnect Fellowships for the first time, and we are happy to announce that it has selected Illesha Avasthi.

With the Henriette Herz Award 2020 launched by the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung, four additional Herz Fellowships based on nominations by the Internal Liaison Board (ILB) have been awarded. All (junior) professors at the University of Konstanz as well as international strategic partners were entitled to submit proposals to the ILB.

The following Herz Fellows will join the Zukunftskolleg:

Norman Chivasa (Politics and Public Administration, postdoctoral researcher from

South Africa; research project: Hybrid Conflict Resolution in Rural Zimbabwe's Customary Courts; local host: Tim Wegenast)

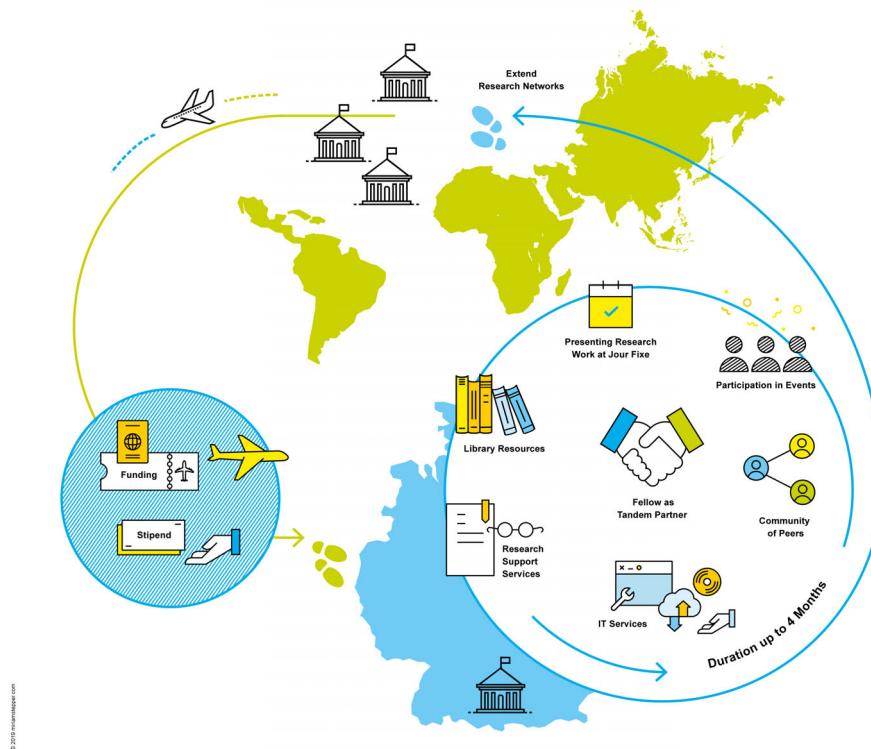
David Ubuwa Etta (Linguistics, PhD candidate from Nigeria; research project: Towards a Phonology of Bokyì; local hosts: Miriam Butt & Theo Marinis)

Priyanshu Goel (Physics, PhD candidate from India; research project: Synthesis of Highly Efficient MOF and Perovskite Composite for Development of Stable and Efficient Optoelectronic Device; local host: Lukas Schmidt-Mende)

Mahsa Mozafari-Nia (Computer and Information Science, PhD candidate from Iran; research project: Various Colourings of Fractional Powers of Graph; local host: Sabine Storandt)

The 2021 ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellow cohort will start their 3-4 month on-campus research stay in Konstanz from autumn 2021 onwards. The on-campus research stays will be complemented by a 12-month digital fellowship. This will give them the opportunity to expand their research networks while working on their research projects. The Zukunftskolleg will greatly benefit from the intercultural, interdisciplinary and international exchange with the new fellows.

We are looking forward to welcoming the new 2021 ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows at the Zukunftskolleg!



Visual Abstract of ZUKOnnect Fellowship

News review

UBIAS biennial conference and Giovanni Galizia elected to Steering Committee

On 12-14 April 2021, the members of the UBIAS network (University-Based Institutes for

Advanced Study) met virtually for their biennial conference.

This truly global network brings together outstanding researchers from different disciplines, nationalities and academic backgrounds, creating a productive environment for innovative research.



Hosted by IMéRA at Aix-Marseille University, the agenda of this year's meeting included lectures on Rethinking Societies for the 21st Century and potential formats for Nurturing a True Dialogue Between Sciences and Humanities. New Steering Committee members were elected during Director's Business. Giovanni Galizia was also nominated and elected.

The other new Steering Committee members are: Iris Avivi (Israel Institute for Advanced Studies at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem); Clarissa Ball (Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Western Australia); Olivier Bouin (French Network of Institutes for Advanced Study); Hisham Mehanna (Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Birmingham); Guilherme Ary Plonski (Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo); Yoshiyuki Suto (Institute for Advanced Research at Nagoya University) and Abena Oduro and Susanne Baller (Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa at the University of Ghana).

The Steering Committee is responsible for identifying overarching themes and objectives for the biennial conferences as well as for approaching the institute that will host the UBIAS conference. Further, the Committee processes membership requests and applications. The Steering Committee also selects three main coordinators of the UBIAS network, the 'Triumvirate', from among its members.

The Zukunftskolleg has been a member of UBIAS since 2018. UBIAS is a network of 51 university-based Institutes for Advanced Study worldwide, which was launched in 2010.



NetIAS annual meeting and new president elected

On 20-21 April, the European Institutes of Advanced Study came together virtually at their annual meeting of NetIAS (Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study) to foster cooperation between institutions and initiate new joint projects, ranging from the funding programme CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking) to the network's lecture series (European Lecture Series).

On the occasion of the annual business meeting, hosted online by NIAS (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study), Søren Keiding, director of Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), was appointed as the new NetIAS president. The NetIAS presidency

rotates from institute to institute. "I am honoured to have been given this opportunity to take up the presidency of NetIAS and, together with the staff at AIAS, I am ready to contribute to making this thriving network even stronger in the future," says Keiding. "The coronavirus pandemic has really shown that strong international research collaborations are very crucial for developing new research and to help solve societal challenges."

Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study.

Netias.

The Zukunftskolleg has been a member of NetIAS since June 2018. The network brings together 25 Institutes for Advanced Study across Europe. Researchers affiliated with member institutions are eligible to apply for a Research Visit at the Zukunftskolleg.

NetIAS was created in 2004 to stimulate a dialogue on IAS practices and possible forms of cooperation. Within the whole network, over 500 researchers are hosted annually for up to one full academic year.



Review of events

University Day 2021: Collective Behaviour

The theme of this year's – and the first digital – University Day for school students from the Hegau Bodensee Seminar on 23 April was "Collective Behaviour". It was jointly organized by the Zukunftskolleg and the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour (CASCB) at the University of Konstanz.

In the framework of workshops, Armin Bahl from the Zukunftskolleg along with Vivek Sridhar and Mariam Mahmoud from the CASCB worked with the students on the topics of "Movement Patterns in the Brain" and "Virtual Worlds, Virtual Swarms".

Zukunftskolleg fellow Armin Bahl from the Behavioural Research and Neuroscience Working Group prepared image datasets for the students, which were used to characterize the activity of thousands of nerve cells in the brain of the larval zebrafish with the help of microscopy techniques. He wanted to find out, together with the participants, whether there are cells that respond

to the swarming movements and where these are located in the brain. When fish swim in a shoal, they often form patterns in the water. But what does the individual fish see and how do such patterns develop on the basis of the decisions made by the individual animals? The students were able to discuss how communication between the individual fish works and arrived at the assumption: by each of them observing their immediate neighbour and by “passing on” what to do next through signals or actions, which in turn can be copied by other fish.

Three main topics in relation to collective behaviour are being studied at the CASCB in greater depth: What are the rules that lead to group behaviour? Which senses are used and how is information processed in the brain? The main senses in individuals are visual and mechanical stimuli, but also smell, hearing and taste stimuli. In the case of fish, sight, hearing and touch (lateral line organ) are the most important senses. In some fish, this lateral line organ is even more important than sight, especially for fish in the depths of the oceans where there is hardly any light.

In their research, Vivek Sridhar and Mariam Mahmoud of the CASCB are endeavouring to get to the bottom of locust infestation with the aid of virtual reality (VR). In the past two years, above all Africa and Asia have been plagued by locusts that destroy the harvest – the food source for many millions of people. To understand how such a plague develops, they paired a real locust with a virtual swarm in an appropriate environment, thus demonstrating to the students that VR systems are built not only for humans but for animals too. Nathan Zumbusch, a student from the Heinrich Suso Grammar School in Konstanz, says: “Reality can be a lot of things. Each person, each animal perceives its surroundings in a different way. Birds, for example, see each other in colour, but we humans see them only in grey. In VR, the environment is perceived as being far more realistic than if it were only one-dimensional. Nobody would want to walk across a plank on the 80th floor, for example, even if it is “only” a computer game. The more real the virtual world, the more difficult it becomes to distinguish between worlds. It is estimated that in ten to twenty years the two worlds will be barely distinguishable.”

Researchers in Konstanz are conducting experiments with fruit flies and zebrafish. For example, the real fish is shown other fish and tries to swim with the virtual fish. In this way, we can learn how the animals make decisions and then move accordingly. To study the optomotor reactions of fish (fish swim intuitively in the direction of other movements), they are held in place between layers of gelatine (made almost entirely of water) so that the fish perceives its environment as water. A camera is installed above the fish that tracks its head and tail. This makes it possible to determine how it is likely to behave. If we know what the fish perceives and how it reacts to it, we can then understand the shoal.

The students were able to observe how microscopes are assembled that send laser beams into the fish’s brain. Various nerve cells in the fish can be marked with different fluorescent substances and then observed – over time too. The last topic discussed by the students at the end of the day was how nerve cell activity steers behaviour. The conclusion: We arrive at the boundary of what is explainable because a lot of things in this field are even today still unexplored.



Universitätstag 2021

23. April 2021, 9.30–13.30 Uhr, online

Workshops von und mit:

- Armin Bahl, Zukunftskolleg
- Vivek Sridhar und Mariam Mahmoud, Centre of the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour – CASCB



Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour

Eine Veranstaltung des Hegau-Bodensee-Seminars, des Centre of the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour (CASCB) und des Zukunftskollegs der Universität Konstanz.





“Racism in Academia” event series

Workshop: Unravelling unconscious bias

On 14 April 2021, the fifth event in the framework of the “Racism in Academia” series took place, with special guest Dr Pragma Agarwal.

Abstract:

At this event, Dr Pragma Agarwal discussed the science of how our biases are formed and how we are all biased. She discussed how stereotypes are formed, why benevolent stereotypes are harmful and how these manifest in the form of microaggressions, what the impact of microaggressions are and why it is so important to address the implicit and subversive forms of biases. Beyond race and gender, Dr Agarwal also discussed a range of other biases such as age, accent, names, etc. and technology. Dr Agarwal is a behavioural and data scientist and the author of ‘Sway: Unravelling Unconscious Bias’ and ‘Wish we knew what to say: Talking with children about race’, both published last year, and she is the founder of a research think tank ‘The 50 Percent Project’. Her next book ‘(M)OTHERHOOD: On the choices of being a woman’ appeared on 3 June. She hosts the podcasts ‘Outside the Boxes’ and ‘Wish We Knew’ to accompany the book of the same name.

Moderation: Cornelia Klocker / Felicia Afriyie

Presentation: Racial contentions in view – An art exhibition on racism

On 25 May 2021, the sixth event in the framework of the “Racism in Academia” series took place.

Abena Yalley moderated the exhibition by Lavi Israel Kasongo (artist), who presented his work titled “Racial contentions in view: An art exhibition on racism”.

Abstract:

Racial contentions, primarily fuelled by inequalities, have intoxicated a world of peace and tranquillity. Although ideas about human differences on the basis of colour and phenotypic characteristics already occurred in earlier societies, racial contentions today have degenerated to threaten global peace. ‘Race’, however, is a mere social construction invented by people and, like all other social constructs, it can be deconstructed. In this exhibition, Lavi Kasongo uses paintings to appeal to the sensory organs to portray racism and racial inequalities in Brazil. His works reveal how racism plays out in everyday life, from personal level to national and global levels.

You can find more information about the artist and his work [here](#).

Workshop: Diversity @ University of Konstanz – Past, present & future

On 10 June 2021, the seventh event in the framework of the “Racism in Academia” series took place.



The aim of the workshop was to collect feedback and suggestions about diversity work at the University of Konstanz together with Dorothea Debus (Vice Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity) and Marion Woelki (Director Equal Opportunity Office).

Further information on current measures can be found on the website of the [Equal Opportunity Office](#).

Workshop: Diversity training by “Living Diversity”

On 15 June 2021, the eighth event in the framework of the “Racism in Academia” series took place.

Andreas Hartwig from “Living Diversity” gave an insight into the historical outline of diversity and its economic needs and reported on the multidimensional perspective of diversity (intersectionality) as well as on diversity management.

Panel discussion: Decolonizing Race – Perspectives from Latin America and beyond

On 23 June 2021, the ninth event in the framework of the “Racism in Academia” series took place.

Abstract:

Much of the discussion on race, racism and anti-racism in Europe and North America relates to theories and practices conceptualized in the USA, a land affected by the legacies of slavery and racism. However, this context generates a particular view of racism that can be complicated by local specificities in other contexts. Latin American intellectuals have challenged “Northern” epistemologies through a decolonial approach: Knowledge can be derived from different vantage points and from different traditions. Moreover, in a diverse continent such as South America, indigeneity, mestizo identity and legacies of slavery constitute an assemblage of diverse understandings of race, often contrasting with the US, but also in dialogue with the latter. Are North American perspectives of race hegemonic? How can we understand race and racism if we change the vantage point and look from the South? (How) can that help debates in Europe? Join us in this discussion about race and racism from a decolonial perspective, featuring thinkers from Latin America and beyond.

Panellists:

- Graziella Moraes Silva:
“After Mestizaje? Old and new dilemmas of anti-racism in Latin America”
- Sérgio Costa:
“From race to inequality regimes: Racism in Latin America”
- Leonildes Nazar
“Black identity and anti-racism in Brazil”
- Jonathan W. Warren:
“Key insights from race studies in Latin America”

Moderation: Gruia Badescu

More information [here](#).



Executive Committee meetings

28 April 2021
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual

26 May 2021
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual

15 June 2021
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual



Jour fixe 2021 summer semester



Welcome to the 2021 summer semester

13 April 2021
15:15 – 16:30
Virtual

Unravelling existential suffering and its relation to depression in older adults: EXIST-well in nursing homes

Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group

On **20 April 2021**, the CAT (Constructive Advanced Thinking) group of Jessie Dezutter, Daan Duppen, Gørill Haugan, Helena Larsson and Suvi-Maria Saarelainen presented their project.

Moderation: Jennifer Randerath (Research Fellow / Dept. of Psychology)

Abstract:

The world is facing a unique shift to an older population, which is a positive but equally challenging trend since increased age is often followed by increased comorbidities and disabilities, leading to the need for long-term care in a nursing home (NH). Entry to a NH itself is often experienced as a major loss, added on top of other losses, such as cognitive and physical loss and loss of social relations and autonomy. The combination of these losses and disabilities are proven risk factors in the development of geriatric depression. Simultaneously, NH professionals report existential needs and existential struggling of their residents and feel unequipped to meet these needs. Whereas understanding existential suffering has increasingly become a focus in cancer care and palliative medicine, this is hardly studied in the NH context. Furthermore, despite the similarities between symptoms of geriatric depression such as emptiness and hopelessness (DSM-5) and existential concerns such as meaninglessness and existential loneliness and despite the overlap in items to measure geriatric depression and existential concerns, no knowledge is available on how geriatric depressive symptoms and existential concerns are related. This project therefore clarifies the relationship between geriatric depressive symptoms and existential concerns and implements this knowledge in psycho-educational training for NH professionals. Since current (preliminary) knowledge on meaning-in-life, existential loneliness and depressive symptoms is fragmented across different fields, an interdisciplinary approach is urgently needed. The project therefore contains a multi-method design and focuses on interdisciplinary integration. It also includes the perspectives of both NH residents and NH professionals in order to provide an in-depth insight into the phenomena at stake. In this seminar, we will introduce the theoretical frameworks that guide our work and give an overview of the studies that we aim to conduct.

Lightning talks / poster sessions by ZUKOnnect Fellows

On **27 April 2021**, the new ZUKOnnect Fellows Afrasa Mulatu Urge (Biology), Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia (Politics and Public Administration), Krizler Tanalgo (Biology), Josiah Taru (History and Sociology), and Vishwanath Varma (Biology), who joined the Zukunftskolleg digitally in October 2020 and four of them in person in April 2021, gave 3-minute lightning talks about their research projects.

Afrasa Mulatu (Biology):

“Biodiversity of the genus Trichoderma: Bio-efficacy evaluation, profiling of antifungal compounds and optimal mass production of bio-fungicides for the control of coffee wilt disease (*Fusarium xylarioides*) in Ethiopia”

Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia (Politics and Public Administration):

“The Effect of Party Nationalization on Political Corruption”

Krizler Tanalgo (Biology):

“Protecting the dark side: conservation priorities for global bat caves in the Anthropocene”

Josiah Taru (History and Sociology):

“Pentecostal charismatic Christianity, cityscapes and urban form in Harare”

Vishwanath Varma (Biology):

“In sync: Benefits, mechanisms and environmental effects involved in coordination of individuals in groups”

Associated Fellows: Daniele Brida and Philip Rathgeb

On **4 May 2021**, Daniele Brida (Associated Fellow / Dept. of Physics) and Philip Rathgeb (Associated Fellow / Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) shared some

insight into their current research.

Daniele Brida spoke about “Starting an ERC project: ultrafast scanning tunnelling microscopy (UpTEMPO)”

Abstract:

In his talk, Daniele Brida presented the scientific steps that stemmed from his initial proposal for the Zukunftskolleg Fellowship and led him to the idea behind the ERC project that is currently ongoing.

In detail, UpTEMPO aims at imaging electronic dynamics in molecules with atomic precision and sub-femtosecond temporal resolution. This result will be achieved by establishing new experiments at the boundary of ultrafast optics and scanning probe microscopy where the electric field of single-cycle light pulses is harnessed to control currents in nanojunctions. The basic concept relies on the fact that state-of-the-art femtosecond optical wave packets exhibit only one cycle of radiation with a defined electric field maximum. These pulses need to be phase-locked to a “cosine-like” electric field profile. If such radiation is focused onto a junction with nonlinear current-voltage characteristics, a net charge flow results solely due to the bias induced by the optical field.

Philip Rathgeb reported on “Between Brexit and Indyref2: The Scottish Election 2021”

Abstract:

The Scottish election on 6 May was characterized by Brexit, COVID-19 and the SNP’s demand for another independence referendum. How do political parties position themselves in the campaign? What are the polls saying? And how does the election outcome influence demands for another independence referendum? Philip Rathgeb provided a brief overview on the election campaign and the question of Scottish independence.

Superconducting spintronics – a new paradigm shift towards energy-efficient computing

Angelo di Bernardo

On **18 May 2021**, Angelo di Bernardo (new Research Fellow / Dept. of Physics) spoke about “Superconducting spintronics – a new paradigm shift towards energy-efficient computing”

Abstract:

The constant demand for faster and more miniaturized electronics is challenging scientists to develop new quantum technologies, where digital information is processed and encoded using “active elements” on the scale size of single atoms and electrons. Whilst increasing the scalability, meaning the number of electronic devices per unit area, the power consumption and thermal management resulting from such an increase in devices’ density have also become a reason for major concern. It is estimated that the generation of supercomputers currently under development will have a power consumption in the sub-gigawatt range, which is equivalent to the power produced by a small power plant.

One of the most promising technologies that can address these technological challenges is superconducting spintronics, which stems from the idea of combining ferromagnet materials with superconductors to process information with high speed and scalability and very low energy dissipation. In this talk, after briefly reviewing the foundations of superconducting spintronics, Angelo Di Bernardo reviewed its current state of the art and the future challenges that it will have to face to become the de facto standard technological solution in the fields of large-scale computing and quantum information.

Coffee meets Chemistry

Klaus Boldt

On **1 June 2021**, Klaus Boldt (Research Fellow / Dept. of Chemistry) presented “The Chemistry of Coffee”.

Abstract:

Coffee is one of the most consumed beverages in the world, second only to tea. Both contain the stimulant caffeine as a core component. Its effect on the body is cherished

by many, especially in the scientific community. The mathematician Paul Erdős even said that “A mathematician is a machine that converts coffee into theorems.” In this lecture, Klaus Boldt talked about the chemical processes responsible for the taste and effect of coffee, from the bean to the cup. As part of the talk, he showed a short film in which he extracted caffeine from coffee to quantify the amount and to give an insight into the methods and tools of a chemist.

Reconstituting publics through remembering transitions: Facilitating critical engagement with the 1980-90s on local and transnational scales (2021-2024) Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group

On **8 June 2021**, the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group from the 2020 call of Ksenia Robbe (PI – University of Groningen), Agnieszka Mroziak (Polish Academy of Sciences), Andrei Zavadski (HU Berlin) and Alexander Formozov (Dekabristen e. V.) presented their project “Reconstituting Publics through Remembering Transitions: Facilitating Critical Engagement with the 1980-90s on Local and Transnational Scales (2021-2024)”.

Abstract:

The presentation reflected the preparatory and initial stage of the project, which the group is beginning to work on this summer. They began by introducing the project and its aims, of which the main one is to facilitate ways of critical and inclusive public discussion of the ‘transitional periods’ and their memories in Central and Eastern Europe. They then focused on three major theoretical areas that the project draws on: the distinctions and intersections between vernacular and mediated memories; studies of nostalgia and their relevance for remembering 1980-90s transitions; the role of materiality in remembering this period. Furthermore, by reflecting on the experiences of the “Transition Dialogue” project in organizing discussions and engagements with this historical past, they considered which approaches are most applicable for our aims and contexts and which theoretical tools they require.

Research Visit Fellows: Iulia Dumitrache and Sergiu Sava

On **22 June 2021**, we were able to welcome three guests/speakers from Romania: Diana Stanciu, University of Bucharest, Iulia Dumitrache (Research Visit Fellow / Dept. of History), “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi, and Sergiu Sava (Research Visit Fellow / Dept. of Philosophy), “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi.

First, Diana Stanciu spoke on the “Romanian Young Academy (RYA) – Sustainability Challenges”.

Iulia Dumitrache then talked about “Military mobility and provincial demography in Moesia Inferior: Troesmis”.

Abstract:

Mobility and migration have lately become one of the most important issues that we are facing, and the causes, unfolding and implications are to be found at the core of various studies. The challenge posed by modern and contemporary events has raised interest in similar phenomena in the past. In this context, the Roman Empire offers a revealing field of research.

The impact of the Roman army on the limes areas is another issue of the present historiographical debate. The Roman army triggered drastic shifts in demography, settlement patterns and the economics of the conquered areas. Demographic changes consisted of both emptying areas along the limes and population transfers. Moesia Inferior was a strongly militarized province on the Roman limes and has a fair share of individual attestations for military personnel or persons with a military background. At the same time, veteran communities are attested there.

Troesmis was the seat of the Legio V Macedonica, and the soldiers who populated the camp and the surroundings came from various parts of the Empire. The main goals of my research presented here are to systematize information on the cities, provinces or regions of origin of these soldiers and to identify the times and reasons for their recruitments. I shall include in the discussion not only the active soldiers mentioned in the inscriptions but also the veterans because sometimes we can observe even in their case the time and the reasons for their recruitment, beside the fact that they are also involved in civilian life (and represent an example of colonization in the civilian milieu).

Literature:

Bîrliba, L. 2015. Colonization and Romanization in Moesia Inferior: Premises of a contrastive approach, Kaiserslautern.

Bîrliba, L. 2018. Rure vivere in Moesia inferiore: la population dans le milieu rural d'une province périphérique de l'Empire romain, Wiesbaden.

Kraft, K. 1951. Zur Rekrutierung der Alen und Kohorten an Rhein und Donau, Bern.

Mann, J. C. 1983. Legionary Recruitment and Veteran Settlement during the Principate, London.

Matei-Popescu, F. 2010. The Roman Army in Moesia Inferior, Bucharest.

Pázsint, A.-I. 2019. Life after Honesta Missio: A Demographic and Social Perspective on the Veterans from Moesia Inferior, in: L. Mihailescu-Bîrliba, W. Spickermann (eds.), Roman Army and Local Societies in the Limes Provinces of the Roman Empire, Rahden (Westf.), 1-33.

Sergiu Sava reported on "The Collective Intentionality and its Subject".

Abstract:

I. In keeping with some day-to-day form of speaking, I would start this abstract as follows: If I have a fear, it is a fear of something; if I am angry, I am angry about something; if I have a desire, that desire is directed at something. The feature in virtue of which such, if not all, mental states are of, about, or directed at something is called intentionality.

II. In keeping with some old-fashioned academic etiquette, I should, however, use the plural form of the personal pronoun, and start as follows: 'If we have a fear, it is a fear of something ...' Then, I should just try to be consistent with this way of speaking. But choosing in favour of the old-fashioned academic etiquette would introduce an unfortunate confusion. Why? At least, because it would not be clear anymore how the we, the subject of intentional states, is to be understood. Does it stand for individuals taken apart from each other or for individuals as a group? Without a clear answer to this question, it would be quite hard, if not impossible, to say something meaningful about what is called collective intentionality, that is, the intentionality featured by the mental states of individuals taken as a group.

III. However, even if I refrain from complying with the above-mentioned etiquette and get rid of the unfortunate confusion, it still remains to be spelled out how the subject of collective intentionality is to be understood. How do individuals become the subject of a collective intentional state? This is pretty much the main question I will deal with in my talk. I intend to proceed in approximately three steps: (1) I will present the answer given by Hans Bernhard Schmid; (2) then I will show that Schmid's answer is far from being unproblematic; (3) and finally, if I have enough time and feel confident enough, I will provide an alternative answer.



Forthcoming events

Event series: "Racism in Academia"

Everything passes except the past

Discussion with artists in collaboration with the Goethe Institute Brussels

Abstract:

Everything Passes Except the Past takes an artistic and discursive approach to coming to grips with a colonial past that remains present in museums, public space, and image archives. The contributions to the project which is now available as a book, propose visionary theoretical, practical, and ethical foundations for future museums based on artistic and curatorial remediation of ethnographic collections. They also cover the role of colonial films in our collective and national memory, as well as the challenges and

perspectives of tearing down or replacing monuments and renaming streets.

In this event, Jana Haeckel, the coordinator of the project and Bianca Baldi, one of the contributing artists, introduce the project and their work, followed by a comment by Kirsten Mahlke and room for audience questions.

30 June 2021

Virtual

More information [here](#).

Please find the programme of the series [online](#).



Exhibition of Bianca Baldi's work



Jour fixe 2021 summer semester

Migration, microalgae, mud, mats and mucilage

Graham Underwood (Senior Fellow / Biology)

6 July 2021

15:15 – 16:30

Hybrid

Assembly of Members: EC election

13 July 2021

15:15 – 16:30

Hybrid

Extraordinary Jour fixe

Sergiu Sava (Research Visit Fellow / Philosophy)

27 July 2021

15:15 – 16:30

Hybrid

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



Executive Committee meetings in the 2021 summer semester

20 July 2021
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual



Careers, distinctions, and grants

J. Worth Estes Prize for Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros

We congratulate Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros (Alumna / Dept. of History and Sociology) who was awarded the 2021 J. Worth Estes Prize at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine on 14 May 2021.

She received the honour for her research work on “Chocolate in China: Interweaving Cultural Histories of an Imperfectly Connected World” published in Harold J. Cook (ed.), “Translation at Work: Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age” (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2020, pp. 58-107).

“The award is conferred annually for the best published paper during the last two years, and thus I am really honoured,” says Beatriz happily.

Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from September 2013 until August 2015. “During this time, I started a research project (“Chocolate Lesson in Harvard”), which continued years later and has now just received an award.”

Beatriz works as Assistant Professor for East-West Interactions & Exchanges at the University of Macau, China.





Visiting professorship for Carolin Antos-Kuby

We congratulate Carolin Antos-Kuby, who was invited for a visiting professorship by the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Vienna in the summer semester 2021.

Between 10 May and 6 June, Carolin taught courses in the philosophy of mathematics and logic and thus enriched the course offer in that field.

“It was a great opportunity for me to gather experience and establish new contacts at one of the largest German-speaking departments of philosophy,” says Carolin.



Klaus Boldt successful in Heisenberg Programme

We congratulate Klaus Boldt (Research Fellow / Dept. of Chemistry) whose application to the Heisenberg Programme of the German Research Foundation was approved.

The objective of the Heisenberg Programme is to promote researchers who are eligible for appointment to a professorship and have demonstrated excellence in their research achievements. When accepted into the Heisenberg Programme, scholars can choose from four different types of funding or combine them as needed – provided the respective requirements are met: Heisenberg position, Heisenberg temporary substitute position for clinicians, Heisenberg professorship and Heisenberg fellowship.

Klaus Boldt has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since April 2015. We congratulate him and wish him all the best!



More information on the [Heisenberg Programme](#).



