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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

ARBEITSVORHABEN DER FELLOWS
FELLOWS' PROJECTS 2024/2025

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VORWORT

In dieser Broschüre werden die Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs im akademischen Jahr 2024/2025 vorgestellt. Im Zentrum steht die Beschreibung der Arbeitsvorhaben, denen sie sich während ihres Aufenthaltes am Wissenschaftskolleg widmen wollen. Dazu kommen bibliografische Empfehlungen mit den Titeln einiger Aufsätze oder Bücher, die sie Interessierten zur Lektüre empfehlen, sowie kurze biografische Angaben.

Die meisten Fellows kommen für ein volles akademisches Jahr. Eine kürzere Aufenthaltsdauer ist jeweils vermerkt.

In der Zeit zwischen dem Redaktionsschluss dieser Broschüre und dem Beginn des akademischen Jahres am 16. September 2024 können sich noch Änderungen ergeben. Aktualisierte Informationen zu den Fellows und ihren Arbeitsvorhaben sowie zu Veranstaltungen mit Fellows und zum Wissenschaftskolleg insgesamt stehen auf der Internetseite des Wissenschaftskollegs – www.wiko-berlin.de – zur Verfügung.

Berlin, im Juli 2024

Wenn nicht anders angegeben, erstrecken sich die Fellowships vom 16. September 2024 bis zum 15. Juli 2025.

PREFACE

This brochure presents the Fellows of the academic year 2024/2025. Each Fellow provides a short description of the work he or she plans to pursue during the stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg. Also listed are brief biographical notes as well as recommended reading.

The majority of the Fellows come for an entire academic year. A shorter planned stay is noted for each Fellow, where applicable.

Between the submission deadline to this brochure and the beginning of the academic year on September 16, 2024, some changes may arise. Up-to-date information on the Fellows, their projects, Fellows' events and the Wissenschaftskolleg in general is available on the Wissenschaftskolleg's website www.wiko-berlin.de.

Berlin, July 2024

If not otherwise indicated, the fellowships extend from September 16, 2024 to July 15, 2025.

BASHIR BASHIR

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Theory
The Open University of Israel, Ra'anana

Born in 1976 in Sakhnin, Israel

B.A. in Political Science, Sociology, and Anthropology from the Hebrew
University of Jerusalem, M.A. in Political Theory and Ph.D. in Political Theory
from the London School of Economics and Political Science

EGALITARIAN BI-NATIONALISM FOR ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Given the deadlock of the “peace process,” the deep and irreversible entanglements between Israeli and Palestinian lives, and the precariousness of the two-state solution in Israel/Palestine, many scholars and politicians are asking “what next for Israel/Palestine?” The proposed research suggests that egalitarian bi-nationalism is the most promising and defensible answer to this pressing and timely question. It argues that egalitarian bi-nationalism is better equipped to address the underlying issues of the conflict in Israel/Palestine than conventional and new frames in the existing literature. Egalitarian bi-nationalism, the proposed research argues, better satisfies the urge for self-determination of Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews than the benign neglect majoritarianism of the liberal state or ethnic secession and the partition of the two-state solution. The proposed research argues that egalitarian bi-nationalism’s insistence on envisioning affective relations of co-belonging based on an ethics of equality, parity, mutual legitimacy, and cohabitation offers rich resources for historical reconciliation and decolonization in Israel/Palestine.

Recommended Reading

Bashir, Bashir. "The Strengths and Weaknesses of Integrative Solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." *The Middle East Journal* 70, no. 4 (2016): 560–578.

Bashir, Bashir, and Amos Goldberg, eds. *The Holocaust and the Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018.

Bashir, Bashir, and Leila Farsakh, eds. *The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2020.

JULIA CLARKE

Ph.D., Professor and John A. and Katherine G. Jackson Chair in Geobiology
The University of Texas at Austin

Born in 1973 in San Francisco, Cal., USA

B.A. in Geology-Biology from Brown University, Ph.D. in Geology from
Yale University

BIOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND THE EVOLUTION OF BIRDS

My research has long centered on evolutionary innovation. I am interested in how key traits of living organisms are assembled in deep time. My early research centered on traits related to locomotion, feathers, flight, and the co-option of a wing for underwater diving. More recently, I have focused on systems related to visual and vocal communication. For the past five years, I have led a group focused on the evolution of the avian vocal organ and co-led several projects around the acquisition of the most ubiquitous form of avian coloration. My career has so far afforded me little scope for review and synthesis.

My proposed research is driven by interests in the following questions: How do new structural solutions arise on ontogenetic and evolutionary timescales? Why do new structures arise for use-contexts in which there are already structures fulfilling these functions? Is this indeed a special case of biological novelty? Are there trade-offs between structural complexity and neurological-control complexity determining a biological innovation solution space? Can acquisition of learned behaviors reduce the selective advantage of encoded function in peripheral organs? Is there a minimum complexity in a peripheral organ that must arise prior to the acquisition of related complex neural control functions? Does increasing use-contexts drive structural complexity or neural flexibility? Are these distinct selective trajectories?

During my stay, I would like to build on my work from the past 20 years and more than 130 publications on the evolution of complex traits in dinosaurs,

including birds, and work to more deeply locate these findings in the broader schema of the literature on the nature of innovation and form-function relationships from diverse disciplines. Recent reviews of dinosaur evolution have been written by paleontologists focusing primarily on extinct non-avian dinosaurs without a strong research focus on living dinosaur (bird) anatomy and behavior. There has been so much new to discover in the evolution of birds by looking down into the deep history of dinosaurs from the tips of branches on which “perch” living bird species.

Recommended Reading

Clarke, Julia A., Daniel T. Ksepka, Rodolfo Salas-Gismondi, Ali J. Altamirano, Matthew D. Shawkey, Liliana D’Alba, Jakob Vinther, Thomas J. DeVries, and Patrice Baby (2010). “Fossil Evidence for Evolution of the Shape and Color of Penguin Feathers.” *Science* 330: 954–957.
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1193604>.

Clarke, Julia A., Sankar Chatterjee, Zhiheng Li, Tobias Riede, Federico Agnolin, Franz Goller, Marcelo P. Isasi, Daniel R. Martinioni, Francisco J. Mussel, and Fernando E. Novas (2016). “Fossil Evidence of the Avian Vocal Organ from the Mesozoic.” *Nature* 538: 502–505.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature19852>.

Longtine, Charlie, Chad M. Eliason, Darcy Mishkind, ChangHee Lee, Michael Chiappone, Franz Goller, Jay Love, Evan P. Kingsley, Julia A. Clarke, and Clifford J. Tabin (2024). “Homology and the Evolution of Vocal Folds in the Novel Avian Voice Box.” *Current Biology* 34: 461–472.e7.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2023.12.013>.

LEYLA DAKHLI

Dr., Chargée de recherche

Centre d'histoire sociale des mondes contemporains, Aubervilliers

Née en 1973 à Tunis

Licences d'histoire, d'arabe et de géographie et Master d'histoire, Université

Paris IV ; Doctorat en histoire, Université d'Aix-Marseille

LES RÉVOLTES POSTCOLONIALES EN MÉDITERRANÉE DU SUD, UNE HISTOIRE DE LA DIGNITÉ

Mon séjour sera l'occasion d'écrire un livre sur l'histoire des révoltes et révolutions en méditerranée du sud. Il s'agit de l'écrire à partir des révolté·e·s en s'interrogeant sur la place de la revendication de dignité (en arabe : *ḵarama*) dans ces mobilisations. Le questionnement sur la dignité est une manière de penser la révolte dans toutes ses dimensions, à la fois matérielle et spirituelle, intime et publique.

Je souhaite suivre l'idée selon laquelle la révolution ou l'envie de révolution est une affaire de franchissement de seuil et, ce faisant, pose la question des périmètres du tolérable et de l'intolérable.

C'est d'abord une histoire des territoires. Les mondes sociaux des villes post-coloniales portent en eux d'autres territoires, lieux où a commencé un exode récent, lieux des attaches familiales, etc. La réflexion sur la dignité nécessite de faire retour sur l'expérience modernisatrice qu'ont connue les États postcoloniaux et sur les ruptures produites par cette modernité pourtant porteuse de nombreuses promesses d'émancipation.

Je porterai ensuite mon attention sur les transformations qui touchent le langage. Pour ce faire, je souhaite me pencher sur un corpus de chants et de poésies, de slogans et de graffiti.

La religion sera abordée sous la forme de ses signes et de ses modes d'appropriation sociales, sans forcément la rabattre sous la traduction politique islamiste. Aux différentes manières dont elle est affectée par la révolte, s'ajoute

une analyse de la dimension sacrée de l'engagement par des rituels, des projections, une eschatologie.

Enfin, la dignité est au cœur de l'histoire des corps révolutionnaires, celle qui s'inscrit en eux et les marque. Ici entre en jeu une réflexion sur la vie révoltée, ce qu'elle induit comme ouverture des corps, comme danse ou comme apaisement des rythmes de vie, mais aussi comme lieu d'exercice de la violence.

Lecture recommandée

Dakhli, Leyla. *Une génération d'intellectuels arabes : Syrie et Liban, 1908–1940*. Paris : Karthala, 2009.

- « The Fair Value of Bread: Tunisia, 28 December 1983–6 January 1984. »
Dans « When < Adjusted > People Rebel : Economic Liberalization and Social Revolts in Africa and the Middle East (1980s to the Present Day) », édité par Leyla Dakhli et Vincent Bonnacase, numéro spécial, *International Review of Social History* 66, n. S29 (April 2021) : 41–68.
- « Collecting Traces, Documenting Past and Present: How Archiving Became a Way to Open Futures in Contemporary Arab Political Experiences. »
Dans « Arab Futures Reconsidered: Historical, Cultural, and Ecological Approaches », édité par Teresa Pepe, numéro spécial, *Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication* 17, n. 1 (2024) : 90–111.

HANNAH DARABI

Artiste, chercheuse

Paris

Née en 1981 à Téhéran

Master en photographie et art contemporain, Université Paris 8

WELTANSCHAUUNG D'IRANSHAHR

Doctorante en thèse de création à l'école doctoral EDESTA de l'université de Paris 8, ma recherche artistique se positionne dans la continuité de mes projets réalisés entre 2016 et 2022 (*Haut Bas Fragile*, *Rue Enghelab*, *la révolution par les livres : Iran 1979–1983*, *Soleil of Persian Square*). Elle consiste à tisser un lien entre trois questions précises posées dans chacun de ces travaux : celle de l'espace urbain de la ville de Téhéran, celle de la révolution de 1979, et celle de la culture populaire. C'est à travers l'analyse de la modernité iranienne et de sa manifestation dans ces différents registres que je souhaite construire des liens entre ces questions variées. Si la ville de Téhéran est considérée comme le lieu de la modernité iranienne au début du XX^{ème} siècle, la culture populaire a également largement contribué à la diffusion de l'idéologie venant de cette modernité, et à son adoption à l'échelle de la vie ordinaire. La révolution iranienne de 1979, clairement identifiée comme une crise de cette modernité, a émergé du désir d'une nouvelle identité anti-impérialiste. Aujourd'hui, à l'aube d'une nouvelle crise politique qui s'accompagne d'un questionnement sur les valeurs idéologiques promues par le gouvernement islamique, la nécessité d'étudier cette question s'impose plus que jamais.

Le début du XX^e siècle constitue un moment historique important caractérisé par la nécessité pour la société iranienne de devenir « moderne ». Les intellectuels iraniens du « cercle berlinois » des années 1920 ont largement influencé la formation de la modernité iranienne, notamment en termes de conception de l'État moderne. En 2022, pour soutenir les révoltes iraniennes à l'intérieur du pays, la diaspora iranienne d'Europe s'est rassemblée à Berlin pour la plus

grande manifestation de la communauté iranienne à l'extérieur du pays. Cet acte démocratique d'expression des opinions politiques dans un lieu public, impossible à l'intérieur du pays, s'est exercé dans la ville de Berlin. « Weltanschauung d'Iranshahr » (titre provisoire) enquête sur le désir des Iraniens d'accéder à un « État moderne » à travers les archives photographiques et textuelles liées aux années 1920 à aujourd'hui à Berlin.

Lecture recommandée

Darabi, Hannah, et Benoît Grimbert. *Neuköln « Heroes »*. Bruxelles : Bartleby & Co., 2013.

Darabi, Hannah. *Rue Enghelab, la révolution par les livres : Iran 1979–1983*. Leipzig : Spector Books ; Paris : Le Bal, 2019.

—. *Soleil of Persian Square*. Paris : Éditions Gwinzegal, 2021.

LORRAINE DASTON

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Ph.D., Director emerita, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

Born in 1951 in East Lansing, Mich., USA

Studied History, Philosophy, Mathematics, and History of Science

at Harvard and Cambridge

DESCRIBING THE INDESCRIBABLE: OBSERVING NEW NATURE, 1500–1700

The word “observation” and its sixteenth- and seventeenth-century cognates in Latin (*observatio*) and European vernaculars (Italian *osservazione*, German *Beobachtung*, Dutch *observatie*, French *observation*) had a triple meaning: first, and most ancient, to respect a ritual or other prescribed form of conduct; second, an act of focused perception on some detail, whether of texts or experience; and third, to describe that perception in words and images. All three of these meanings are in play in my project on how European naturalists observed what were for them novel phenomena during this period, but my focus will be on the third sense: how to describe the indescribable.

Encounters with radically new flora and fauna, weather, topographies, and peoples in the Far West and the Far East, as well as the creation of new phenomena through experimentation and the invention of new instruments such as the barometer, telescope, and microscope, and even the more systematic observation of phenomena known since antiquity but rarely spotted, such as the *aurore borealis*, taxed the language of description to the utmost. The challenge was not only to find a way to throw a net of familiar words around the Brazilians whom Michel de Montaigne met at the royal entry in Rouen in 1550 or the Aztec gold viewed by Albrecht Dürer in Antwerp in 1520; it was also to create a shared descriptive vocabulary, both quantitative and qualitative, both verbal and visual, for communication within an increasingly dense network of savants.

Drawings could be and were made, but these were often as divergent as the verbal accounts. In order to be useful for the collective modes of inquiry pioneered first by the humanists and later by the academies, descriptions had to be intelligible and communicable, as well as accurate.

Not coincidentally, this period was also one of intense reflection on how language could be improved – whether by being purged of impurities, as in the case of the *Vocabolario degli Accademici della Crusca* (1612) or the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française* (begun in 1635), or perfected to remove all ambiguities, as in John Wilkins' *An Essay towards a Real Character or Philosophical Language* (1668), or enriched with terms from the arts and crafts, as the botanists of the Académie Royale des Sciences attempted to do with color terms. The “plain language” movement in the Royal Society and the widespread critique of metaphor signaled increasing anxiety about how figurative language could undermine the project of collective empiricism.

Recommended Reading

Daston, Lorraine, and Elizabeth Lunbeck, eds. *Histories of Scientific Observation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Daston, Lorraine. *Rivals: How Scientists Learned to Cooperate*. New York: Columbia Global Reports, 2023.

PHILIPPE DJORWÉ

from February to May 2025

Iso Lomso Fellow

PhD, Senior Lecturer on quantum computing and quantum optics

The University of Ngaoundéré

Born in 1984 in Obala, Cameroon

Bachelor in Physics and Master in Physics from the University of Ngaoundéré,

PhD in Quantum Optomechanics from the University of Yaoundé I

TOWARD EXCEPTIONAL POINT QUANTUM SENSORS

Enhancing the sensitivity of conventional sensors is one of the challenging topics that nanotechnology is facing today. Owing to the recent Covid-19 pandemic and other needs in disease/nanoparticle detection, there is a common sense agreement that more sensitive, more accurate, and faster detection devices are needed. Indeed, tiny nanoparticles are not accurately detected due to the unresolved output spectrum from the commonly used conventional sensors, and a preamplification is often required to resolve this signal. To overcome this limitation, this project proposes a new generation of mass sensors/spectrometers based on exceptional points (EPs), which are non-Hermitian degeneracies. Due to the topological feature at the EP, any perturbation (nanoparticle) induces a frequency splitting that scales as the square root of the perturbation strength, resulting in a giant sensitivity-factor enhancement compared with conventional sensors. Our aim is to optimize the sensor's parameters through analytical calculations and numerical simulations. Later on we will figure out the quantum fluctuation effects on the EP-sensor's performance. Two types of physical circuits will be considered as benchmarks: the optomechanical EP-sensor and an electronic EP-sensor based on an RLC circuit.

Recommended Reading

Djorwé, Philippe, Yan Pennec, and Bahram Djafari-Rouhani (2019). “Exceptional Point Enhances Sensitivity of Optomechanical Mass Sensors.” *Physical Review Applied* 12 (2): 024002.

<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevApplied.12.024002>.

— (2020). “Self-Organization Synchronization of Mechanically Coupled Resonators Based on Optomechanics Gain-Loss Balance.” *Physical Review B* 102 (15): 155410. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevB.102.155410>.

Mbokop Tchounda, Stella R., Philippe Djorwé, Serge G. Nana Engo, and Bahram Djafari-Rouhani (2023). “Sensor Sensitivity Based on Exceptional Points Engineered via Synthetic Magnetism.” *Physical Review Applied* 19 (6): 064016.

ASHLEY DUNGAN

from September 2024 to February 2025

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Ph.D., Microbial Ecology

University of Melbourne

Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville, QLD

Born in 1989 in Hornell, N.Y., USA

B.Sc. in Biology and Chemistry from the State University of New York College

at Brockport, M.Sc. in Marine Biology from Nova Southeastern University,

Ph.D. in Microbial Ecology from the University of Melbourne

MICROBIAL REWILDING TO ENHANCE THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVATION

One strategy to conserve endangered species is to reintroduce captive-bred individuals into the wild. This presents a challenge, as captive animals are not in their natural environments and, potentially more significantly, their diets are completely different. The latter will likely have profound impacts on their gut bacterial microbiome with corresponding negative impacts on their behaviour, health, and fitness.

Since diet is a major influencer of gut microbes, it is highly likely that the gut microbiomes of captive-bred populations are different to those from native populations. Thus, to give captive-bred mammals the best chance of survival when they are released into their native habitats, I propose microbial rewilding of the gut microbiome via probiotics as a feasible strategy.

Microbial rewilding has been harnessed as an innovative approach to human health but would add significant value to animal care and conservation. Probiotic use has shown promise in multiple animal systems, from increasing live-stock biomass to protecting against lethal fungal infections in captive amphibians and birds, but its application in conservation is nearly absent. My project

addresses this imbalance using the fat-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) as a target species.

I aim to implement a combination of established and innovative methods to address four key aims:

1) Characterise the gut bacterial composition and putative functions of wild and captive dunnarts via metagenomic approaches – bacterial species and/or functions determined to be absent in captive dunnarts will be probiotic candidates, 2) Establish a pure culture collection of aerobic and anaerobic dunnart gut bacteria – these microbes will be used in probiotic development and administration, 3) Determine the best probiotic administration protocol to achieve a persistent gut bacterial community, and 4) Test if probiotic administration to captive dunnarts enhances host physiology.

Recommended Reading

Dungan, Ashley M., Leon M. Hartman, Linda L. Blackall, and Madeleine J. H. van Oppen (2022). “Exploring Microbiome Engineering as a Strategy for Improved Thermal Tolerance in *Exaiptasia diaphana*.” *Journal of Applied Microbiology* 132 (4): 2940–2956. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jam.15465>.

Dungan, Ashley M., Laura Geissler, Amanda S. Williams, Cecilie Ravn Gotze, Emily C. Flynn, Linda L. Blackall, and Madeleine J. H. van Oppen (2023). “DNA from Non-viable Bacteria Biases Diversity Estimates in the Corals *Acropora loripes* and *Pocillopora acuta*.” *Environmental Microbiome* 18: 86. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40793-023-00541-6>.

Garcias-Bonet, Neus, Anna Roik, Braden Tierney, Francisca C. García, Helena D. M. Villela, Ashley M. Dungan, Kate M. Quigley, et al. (2023). “Horizon Scanning the Application of Probiotics for Wildlife.” *Trends in Microbiology* 32 (3): 252–269. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tim.2023.08.012>.

DIETER EBERT

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
Dr. phil., Professor of Zoology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Basel

Born in 1961 in Saarburg, Germany
Studied Biology and Chemistry at the Technical University of Munich, the
University of South Alabama, and the University of Basel

THE TIME SCALE OF ANTAGONISTIC COEVOLUTION

My research interest is in how host-parasite coevolution works. My current project addresses how research on different time scales can explain coevolutionary patterns and processes. In the Red Queen model of coevolution, parasites adapt to their hosts, and therefore the best-adapted forms increase in frequency. At the same time, the host types which are able to escape these parasites will increase in frequency. This selects for parasites that are able to exploit these new hosts and so on. Thus, a strategy that is successful now will not be of long value, as the antagonists evolve to get around it. However, strategies that were successful in the past may come back because the antagonist has changed in the meantime. This is called the Red Queen model, because the antagonist species need to run (evolve) constantly to maintain their position, just as the Red Queen does in Lewis Carroll's fairy tale *Alice in Wonderland*. The Red Queen hypothesis of coevolution has been studied on time scales ranging from direct observations (from days to a few years), in sediment cores (several decades), post-glacial processes (about 10,000 years), all the way to the origin of the species involved (several million years). Studies on these different time scales differ strongly in their research methodology and assumptions. Here I want to write a conceptual review in which I scrutinize the evidence for coevolution with particular reference to the assumptions made when studying it across different time scales.

I want to work out whether the evidences obtained from different time scales are congruent with each other. Can we use the same model to explain processes

happening now with processes deep in the past? Alternatives have been suggested and will be compared with the Red Queen model. A further aim is to work out predictions of the Red Queen model that can be addressed equally on different time scales.

Recommended Reading

Ebert, Dieter (2008). "Host-Parasite Coevolution: Insights from the *Daphnia*-Parasite Model System." *Current Opinion in Microbiology* 11 (3): 290–301.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mib.2008.05.012>.

Ebert, Dieter, and Peter D. Fields (2020). "Host-Parasite Coevolution and Its Genomic Signature." *Nature Reviews Genetics* 21: 754–768.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41576-020-0269-1>.

DAVID EDGERTON

PhD, Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology,
Professor of Modern British History
King's College London

Born in 1959 in Montevideo

BA in Chemistry from the University of Oxford, PhD in History from Imperial
College London

A GLOBAL HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

My project, a global history of production since 1900, must seem to be both impossible and unnecessary. Surely, we have more than enough knowledge on the topic, so much indeed that it is impossible to synthesize it in a single volume. To the contrary, I argue that we do indeed believe this, but what we in fact have are trite exemplars of poorly specified theories. These are the vital but unexamined foundations of nearly every social scientific or humanistic account of the twentieth-century world. Examples might include the idea of the second and (to a lesser extent) subsequent industrial revolutions, or the invocation of the concept of Fordism or mass production. These ideas are so common and used with such authority that they seem to explain much, yet they (and others) are empirically and theoretically very deficient ideas. Of particular surprise is that Marxism, the production-based account par excellence, has produced no significant work on production since *Capital*, with the partial but important exception of 1970s and 1980s work on the labour process.

My aim is to make us more modest about our knowledge of production while at the same time increasing it. I want to paint a reasonable empirical picture, which requires archival research, of the main lines of development of production, of the “how” of production in particular. My aim is to sketch the development of agricultural, industrial, and domestic production, aiming to identify the most important trends while capturing the diversity that undoubtedly exists. The picture that emerges is radically different from the received one. For exam-

ple, the assembly line stands out not because it is at the forefront of a generalised mechanisation (as it is supposed), but rather because it represents a particular element in production that has not been possible to mechanise. The Ford River Rouge assembly line is today much like it was in the 1930s, while the rest of the production system is very different. Assembling a car still needs many human workers; machining an engine, or making steel or plastic, does not.

My project is also genuinely global in scope, which in itself transforms our understanding of production. This is not only a means of getting away from very partial Eurocentric stories. Rather, a proper global history will radically change our understanding of the Eurocentre. This is important not least because so many accounts of modernity (with associated accounts of production) assume we know the story of the Eurocentre, but debate whether it is applicable to the rest of the world, with many invoking alternative modernities to modernities that exist only in theory, not in reality.

Recommended Reading

Edgerton, David. *The Shock of the Old: Technology and Global History since 1900*.

London: Profile, 2006. Paperback with a new introduction 2019.

—. *Warfare State: Britain, 1920–1970*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

—. *The Rise and Fall of the British Nation: A Twentieth-Century History*. London: Penguin, 2019.

GÁBOR EGRY

from February to July 2025

Dr., Director General

Institute of Political History, Budapest

Born in 1975 in Miskolc, Hungary

PhD in History from Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Doctor of the
Hungarian Academy of Sciences

AN INVISIBLE EMPIRE? THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN
ECONOMIC SPACE IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE 1890–1940:
ACTORS, STRUCTURES, EMBEDDEDNESS, FACTORS OF
RESILIENCE

This project connects the economic history of the late 19th and early 20th century with the recent trend of looking at Austria-Hungary as an imperial/colonial actor in relation to the Balkans and the Ottoman Empire. Unconventionally but productively using the dissolution of the monarchy as its conceptual starting point, which offers insights into the less visible practices and meanings of the empire before 1918, it aims at revealing 1) how Austro-Hungarian imperialism reached Southeast Europe and integrated it into its economic sphere, 2) the place of this economic space between the European and global ones, and 3) how its post-WWI transformation from more direct forms of asset ownership to indirect ones created a laboratory of financialization of capitalism. The continuity of Austro-Hungarian businesses in the face of economic nationalist policies after 1918 highlights the importance of their previous practices of local embedding for the persistence of this space after the political structure that supported business expansion disappeared. This reinterpretation of Austro-Hungarian presence contributes to the understanding of the embedding of economic activity through interactions, how these interactions created structural features for the economy, and how the legal and political changes after 1918 did not change the

interactional embeddedness, while the reconfiguration of structures still changed the face of capitalism to a more financialized one.

Recommended Reading

Egry, Gábor. “Unholy Alliances? Language Exams, Loyalty, and Identification in Interwar Romania.” *Slavic Review* 76, no. 4 (2017): 959–982.

—. *The Empire’s New Clothes: How Austria-Hungary’s Legacy Kept the Successor States Running*. Austrian Studies Lecture. Leiden: Foundation for Austrian Studies, 2022.

—. “The Rise of Titans? Economic Transition and Local Elites in Post-1918 Banat and Transylvania.” *European Review of History/Revue Européenne d’Histoire* 31 (forthcoming).

MATHIAS ÉNARD

Écrivain

Barcelone

Né en 1972 à Niort, France

Master langue et littérature arabe et persane, Institut National Langues et Civilisations Orientales INALCO

« UNE ÉPOPÉE ARABE », PROJET DE ROMAN

Le XXe siècle aura été aussi long pour le Monde arabe qu'il le fut pour l'Europe: siècles des indépendances, siècle des espoirs, des utopies, mais aussi des déchirements et de la guerre à outrance, il nous a légué les grandes tendances politiques qui malheureusement gouvernent aujourd'hui la rive sud de la Méditerranée et le Moyen-Orient. La gauche arabe a été écrasée entre l'enclume de la dictature et le marteau de l'Islamisme. Aujourd'hui, elle a presque complètement disparu au profit de régimes autoritaires. Les élites arabes, celles et ceux que l'on a coutume d'appeler « les intellectuels », universitaires, écrivains, penseurs, journalistes ont été des acteurs importants de ce XXe siècle. Leur rôle et leur position ont complètement changé aujourd'hui. Comment s'inscrivent-ils dans notre monde global? Est-ce que la génération qui a commencé à écrire et à militer dans les années 1970 (celle qui a aujourd'hui entre 70 et 80 ans environ) continue à être une référence culturelle et morale pour les jeunes d'aujourd'hui? Grande partie de la jeunesse intellectuelle du Monde Arabe vit aujourd'hui en exil: beaucoup de Syriens, Libanais, Algériens ou Irakiens construisent leur avenir « online ». Ont-ils tiré un trait sur leurs pays d'origine, leurs langues, leur histoire?

Le roman est un lieu privilégié pour envisager ces questions et la diversité des réponses possibles. En multipliant les personnages et les effets de miroir, en passant en revue villes et époques, l'ensemble romanesque est à même de constituer une forme de « synthèse subjective » où la juxtaposition des vies, des lieux et des temps féconde la recherche esthétique.

Lecture recommandée

- Énard, Mathias. *Parle-leur de batailles, de rois et d'éléphants*. Arles : Actes Sud, 2010. En anglais : *Tell Them of Battles, Kings, and Elephants*. Traduit par Charlotte Mandell. New York: New Directions, 2018. En allemand : *Erzähl ihnen von Schlachten, Königen und Elefanten*. Traduit par Holger Fock et Sabine Müller. Berlin : Berlin Verlag, 2011.
- . *Boussole*. Arles : Actes Sud, 2015. En anglais : *Compass*. Traduit par Charlotte Mandell. New York: New Directions, 2017. En allemand : *Kompass*. Traduit par Holger Fock et Sabine Müller. Berlin : Hanser Berlin, 2016.
- . *Déserters*. Arles : Actes Sud, 2023. En allemand : *Tanz des Verrats*. Traduit par Holger Fock et Sabine Müller. Berlin: Hanser Berlin, 2024.

GIOVANNI GALIZIA

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

Born in 1963 in Rome

Studied Biology at the Freie Universität Berlin and Zoology at the
University of Cambridge

OLFACTORY CODING IN THE BRAIN

Olfaction is far from understood – not in humans, and not in any animal species. The structure of neural networks is quite similar across many species in the animal kingdom, but when comparing honeybees and humans, the significance of odorants is very specific to each: a positive odor for us (e.g. the smell of a banana) may mean something different to a bee (in this case: alarm, and sting the intruder!). From a neurobiological point of view, a major question is: how does the coding of odors with an innate meaning differ – if at all – from the coding of odors that appear not to have had any role in the evolution of a species?

I will analyze this question using insects, in particular honeybees and fruit flies. It will be necessary to understand how single olfactory receptors respond to a large panel of chemicals – i.e., to understand their molecular response range, or, in other words, to understand which odorants they are tuned to. From there, we need to follow the neuronal circuits into the brain, and we need to create computer models of brain circuitry.

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

Understanding how neural networks in the brain attribute information to a sensory stimulus will help us understand how our brain creates a representation of the world, a prerequisite for higher order brain functions such as intelligence, sentience, and consciousness – though the latter will be a big leap.

Recommended Reading

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

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

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

LUCA GIULIANI

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg (2007–2018)
Dr. phil., Prof. emer. for Classical Archaeology
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Born in 1950 in Florence, Italy
Studied Classical Archaeology, Ethnology, and Italian Literature at
the University of Basel and at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
(LMU Munich)

1. THE PROBLEM OF ROMAN COPIES:
A TRANSATLANTIC DISSENT

2. A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF GREEK PORTRAITURE
FROM THE 6TH TO THE LATE 4TH CENTURY BCE

Ad 1. The problem of Roman copies has become a topic over the past 30 years or so. Until then, there used to be a consensus in the discipline that ancient Roman sculptors had frequently copied Greek masterpieces from the 5th and 4th century BCE. This assumption has come under heavy criticism, first in the US, then in Anglo-American academia as a whole. The existence of Roman copies, so the revisionists' claim, is to be considered a myth, as the result of a (German) philhellenic bias that has completely neglected the originality of Roman artists. From very early on, the two camps (one asserting, the other negating the existence of copies) stopped communicating with each other; this has favoured the emergence of sectarian certitudes – which does not seem to be a satisfactory state of affairs.

Ad 2. For a book about the portrait of Socrates that I am writing in collaboration with Maria Luisa Catoni (a former Fellow), to be published with Oxford University Press, I am working on a short sketch of the history of Greek portrai-

ture. This sketch should serve as a background for a better understanding of the Socrates portrait; it is aimed at an audience not necessarily familiar with German scholarship on the subject. The necessity to be both brief and clear leads (unsurprisingly) to the discovery of problems I had not previously thought about.

Recommended Reading

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

—. "Der verurteilte Philosoph, die Satyrn und das Hässliche: Das frühe Sokrates-Porträt im Kontext." *Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts* 136 (2021): 151–197.

Gazda, Elaine, ed. *The Ancient Art of Emulation: Studies in Artistic Originality and Tradition from the Present to Classical Antiquity*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

MARIANA GÓMEZ-SCHIAVON

from September to December 2024

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Ph.D., Principal Investigator

National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Campus Juriquilla,
Queretaro

Born in 1986 in Puebla, Mexico

B.Sc. in Genome Sciences from the National Autonomous University of Mexico,

M.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering and Physics from the Center for Research and
Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV), and Ph.D. in Computational Biology and

Bioinformatics from Duke University

MATHEMATICAL MODELING TO RESHAPE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Understanding how an organism's genetic information translates into specific observable traits poses a significant challenge in biology. This task is particularly difficult due to the intricate interplay between regulatory genes and environmental factors, which collectively give rise to phenotypic traits. The field of Systems Biology has tackled this problem, aiming to understand how and when these traits emerge and function. Central to this endeavor are mechanistic mathematical models, which describe the dynamics of gene regulatory systems employing mathematical functions to represent molecular events.

Undoubtedly, mathematical modeling stands as a powerful tool in biological research, enabling scientists to interrogate the logical consequences of their assumptions, identify gaps in understanding, and design more informative experiments. However, as our ability to make precise measurements of biological systems improves, traditional models struggle to accommodate the observed fluidity and stochastic nature of these systems. Consequently, there is a pressing need for a fresh interpretative framework that can reconcile the complexity of biological systems with our growing understanding.

Based on the available evidence, I am convinced that we stand at the precipice of a paradigmatic shift in the conceptualization of molecular biology. Yet, effecting this transition requires more than mere refinement of mathematical models; it necessitates a fundamental reevaluation of our conceptual approach to biological processes. I assert that this theoretical shift will not only dramatically reshape mathematical models, but also that mathematical models will, in turn, play an essential role driving this new theoretical conceptualization. As such, I aim to explore the pivotal role of mathematical modeling in guiding this conceptual transition, examining both its philosophical implications and practical applications.

Recommended Reading

Chevalier, Michael, Mariana Gómez-Schiavon, Andrew H. Ng, and Hana El-Samad (2019). “Design and Analysis of a Proportional-Integral-Derivative Controller with Biological Molecules.” *Cell Systems* 9: 338–353.e10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cels.2019.08.010>.

Gómez-Schiavon, Mariana, and Nicolas E. Buchler (2019). “Epigenetic Switching as a Strategy for Quick Adaptation While Attenuating Biochemical Noise.” *PLoS Computational Biology* 15 (10): e1007364. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1007364>.

Gómez-Schiavon, Mariana, and Hana El-Samad (2022). “CoRa – A General Approach for Quantifying Biological Feedback Control.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119 (36): e2206825119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2206825119>.

RACHEL GREGOR

from September to December 2024

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Ph.D., Chemistry

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

Born in 1990 in New York City, N.Y., USA

B.Sc. in Chemistry and Ph.D. in Chemistry from Ben-Gurion University of the

Negev

FINDING ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES FOR THE CHEMICAL DIVERSITY OF MARINE MICROBES

Small molecules are the currency of the microbial world, as their production, consumption, and exchange underpin the most basic processes of microbial existence. Marine microbes synthesize an astonishing chemical diversity of these molecules (or “metabolites”), with hundreds of novel structures of unknown function discovered each year. This is likely still but a fraction of the true chemical repertoire of marine microbes: a recent study detected tens of thousands of genes encoding for metabolite production in global seawater samples, including many that are uncharacterized. These metabolites are termed “specialized” both in their proposed functions and in their occurrence in the tree of life, for example as antibiotics and communication signals.

There remains a striking gap between this wealth of new chemical and genomic data and our limited understanding of the impact of chemical diversity in the environment. These molecules are often decontextualized or overlooked: chemists prioritize novel chemistry and biomedical potential, while microbiologists focus on common metabolites with more clear-cut biological roles. The comparatively few ecological studies of specialized metabolites usually describe a specific molecule produced by a single bacterial species, making it difficult to generalize.

During my fellowship, I will create a framework to systematically categorize the wide diversity of metabolites produced by marine microbes. I will combine literature across fields to find links between the chemical properties, biology, and ecology of specialized metabolites. This project will identify different resolutions and lenses to understand these metabolites in the environment and for ecology-based drug discovery. Formulating unifying principles to give context to these studies will help to prioritize which new metabolites to study, generate hypotheses for their roles in the environment, and open possibilities for potential therapeutic and bioindustrial applications.

Recommended Reading

Gregor, Rachel, Maraike Probst, Stav Eyal, Alexander Aksenov, Goor Sasson, Igal Horovitz, Pieter C. Dorrestein, Michael M. Meijler, and Itzhak Mizrahi (2022). “Mammalian Gut Metabolomes Mirror Microbiome Composition and Host Phylogeny.” *The ISME Journal* 16: 1262–1274.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41396-021-01152-0>.

Gregor, Rachel, Gabriel T. Vercelli, Rachel E. Szabo, Matti Gralka, Ryan C. Reynolds, Evan B. Qu, Naomi M. Levine, and Otto X. Cordero (2023). “Vitamin Auxotrophies Shape Microbial Community Assembly in the Ocean.” Preprint, posted June 27, 2024. *bioRxiv*.
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.16.562604>.

DIETER GRIMM

Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs

Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (2001–2007)

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

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Bundesverfassungsrichter a. D.

Geboren 1937 in Kassel, Deutschland

Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Politikwissenschaft in Frankfurt/Main,

Freiburg/Breisgau, Berlin, Paris und Harvard

DEUTSCHE VERFASSUNGSGESCHICHTE, BAND II

(KAISERREICH UND WEIMARER REPUBLIK)

Vor meiner Wahl zum Bundesverfassungsrichter (1987) arbeitete ich an einer deutschen Verfassungsgeschichte. Der erste Band, der die Zeit vom Beginn des modernen Konstitutionalismus (1776) bis zur Auflösung des Deutschen Bundes (1866) behandelt, erschien 1988 bei Suhrkamp (5. Aufl. 2017). Ich möchte versuchen, das Werk abzuschließen, und habe deswegen die Arbeit an dem folgenden Band (Kaiserreich und Weimarer Republik) wieder aufgenommen. Ob es auch noch um eine Verfassungsgeschichte der Bundesrepublik ergänzt wird, muss vorerst offenbleiben.

Lektüreempfehlung

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

OMAR GUEYE

PhD, Professor of History

Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar

Born in 1965 in Rufisque, Senegal

MA in History from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, MBA in Cultural Heritage Management from the Université Internationale francophone Léopold Sédar Senghor, PhD in Contemporary History from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, PhD in Social History from the University of Amsterdam

WOMEN OF 1968: AFRICANS IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The research project “Women of 1968: Africans in the Global Context” draws on the microhistory of African women to explore the global context of women’s struggles, reconsidering African women’s untold itineraries from the global social movement of May 1968. It focuses on the legacy of the 1960s and the efficiency of the May 1968 revolution for African women who accommodated and/or raised the paradigms of the Global South to meet global standards.

First, the project revisits the less known role of “the invisible women” in the global youth revolt of 1968 and seeks to elucidate how Africans were confronted with their specific feminine issues while connected to their colleagues in other parts of the world. Second, it seeks to show how, in the African version of the revolt, women reconciled local conservative traditions in their countries with their openness to modernity and revolutionary injunctions, and how they equally accommodated male veteran discourses in their own struggles. Third, it examines how, in the wake of the ideals of 1968, the itinerary of African women accounts for women’s struggles against centuries-old societal burdens and how they reacted to the challenges of globalization.

In sum, the research project will significantly enhance women’s studies in general, and more specifically the study of women in social movements, the 1968 event, and African political activism.

Recommended Reading

Gueye, Omar. *Sénégal: Histoire du mouvement syndical. La marche vers le Code du Travail*. Paris: Éditions L'Harmattan, 2011.

—. *Mai 1968 au Sénégal, Senghor face aux étudiants et au mouvement syndical*. Paris: Karthala, 2017.

—. “African History and Global History: Revisiting Paradigms.” In *Global History, Globally: Research and Practice around the World*, edited by Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier, 83–107. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

IAN JOHNSON

Senior Fellow for China Studies

Council on Foreign Relations, New York

Born in 1962 in Montreal, Canada

BA in Journalism and Asian Studies from the University of Florida,

MA in Sinology from the Freie Universität Berlin

CHINA'S NEW CIVIL RELIGION: A NEW PILLAR OR A NEW CHALLENGE FOR NEO-AUTHORITARIAN RULE?

The Chinese Communist Party maintains control over society through hard-edged policies, such as a burgeoning police state and legalistic harassment of opponents. But, increasingly, it seeks to use more subtle means, such as positioning itself as a defender of the so-called traditional faiths in China: Buddhism, Taoism, and folk beliefs. This is an especially attractive idea for many Chinese, given the spiritual vacuum that they ascribe to decades of fast economic growth. The state's response is to refurbish temples and reassert control over grassroots religious associations that once operated autonomously, but increasingly are under state control.

My research seeks to answer two sets of questions. One is how the Chinese Communist Party will rule China in the coming decades. To date, the Chinese state has proven adept at filling the role of a "development dictatorship." But other than claiming credit for China's growing economic and military power, it has offered few positive visions for China. Can faith and religion fill such a role, or does the state risk creating civil society-like independent centers of power, such as existed in parts of Eastern Europe during the Cold War? More broadly, is this strategy viable? The other questions relate to how grassroots Chinese religious associations themselves respond to the state's overture. Do they welcome state support or does it risk tainting their spiritual supports? If they resist, do they risk government harassment?

The outcome of my project will be a 100,000-word monograph based on ten years of ethnographic fieldwork among working-class religious associations, as well as comparisons with other authoritarian states with similar strategies, such as Russia and Myanmar.

Recommended Reading

Johnson, Ian. *Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China*. New York: Pantheon, 2004.

—. *The Souls of China: The Return of Religion after Mao*. New York: Pantheon, 2017.

—. *Sparks: China's Underground Historians and Their Battle for the Future*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023.

JOHN KAMPFNER

Author, commentator, and broadcaster

London and Berlin

Born in 1962 in Singapore

BA in Modern History and Russian from The Queen's College, Oxford

“WHY THE WORLD DOES IT BETTER”

My latest book, my eighth, entitled “Why the World Does It Better,” highlights specific decisions or interventions taken by governments and citizens in recent years that are blazing a trail for the rest of us to follow. It mixes deep research and data with interviews with experts and practitioners, while reporting in detail from each of the countries featured.

In the book, to be published in summer 2026, I focus on issues that are essential to combating the challenges of the second half of this decade and into the next one: climate, public health, ageing, poverty, technology, demography, migration, resources, and equality between countries and within countries.

My choice of countries is deliberately eclectic. Some are the standard “overachievers” in Northern and Western Europe – those that top the lists put out by the OECD, the UN, and others. I am looking, inter alia, at education in Finland, cyber security in Estonia, public housing in Austria, and immigration in Canada.

I also highlight best-practice examples from Middle Ground states and the Global South, many of which are producing more innovative solutions than wealthier nations. Hence my choice of Costa Rica and Morocco on biodiversity and renewables and of Taiwan, whose health service outperforms others.

The book aims to prompt a debate about the structure of society, the size and role of the state, and the trade-offs required in tackling future crises. Are statist interventions essential to achieve maximum impact, particularly during times of crisis (such as climate change)? Do such interventions work against the spirit of innovation and personal responsibility – or are they the best way of encouraging

people, within countries and between countries, to work together? Amid a canon of books pointing to the troubles ahead, I hope to help foster a different form of globalisation, one that is based in the willingness to learn from others, including those with whom we might – at first glance – have little in common.

Recommended Reading

Kampfner, John. *Freedom for Sale: How We Made Money and Lost Our Liberty*. London: Simon & Schuster, 2009.

—. *Why the Germans Do It Better: Notes from a Grown-Up Country*. London: Atlantic Books, 2020.

—. *In Search of Berlin: The Story of a Reinvented City*. London: Atlantic Books, 2023.

JAE EUN KIM

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
Ph.D., Korea Foundation Endowed Associate Professor of Sociology,
Professor of Law (by courtesy)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Born in 1978 in Seoul
PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles

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

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

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

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

Recommended Reading

- Kim, Jaeun (2019). "'Ethnic Capital' and 'Flexible Citizenship' in Unfavourable Legal Contexts: Stepwise Migration of the Korean Chinese Within and Beyond Northeast Asia." In "Strategic Citizenship: Negotiating Membership in the Age of Dual Nationality", special issue, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45 (6): 939–957. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1440489>.
- (2022). "Between Sacred Gift and Profane Exchange: Identity Craft and Relational Work in Asylum Claims-Making on Religious Grounds." *Theory and Society* 51 (2): 303–333. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-021-09468-8>.
- (2024). "Seeing like a Church, Seeing like a State: The Church-State Relation in Religious Asylum Adjudications." *Canopy Forum: On the Interactions of Law and Religion*. Posted on May 23, 2024. <https://canopyforum.org/2024/05/23/seeing-like-a-church-seeing-like-a-state-the-church-state-relation-in-religious-asylum-adjudications/>.

RACHA KIRAKOSIAN

D.Phil., Professor of Medieval Studies (Medieval German)
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Born in 1986 in Malkie, Syria

Master de recherche in Digital Humanities and History of Art from the École nationale des chartes, Paris; M.A. in Medieval and Modern History and German Philology from the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; and D.Phil. in Medieval and Modern Languages from the University of Oxford

SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE IN MEDIEVAL VERNACULAR TEXTS

The idea that the Middle Ages were an unscientific or at best pre-scientific era is a familiar but contested narrative in discussions of historical progress. Though the narrative of a scientific revolution in the modern era is increasingly questioned, certain sources from the Middle Ages still tend to go unnoticed, for various reasons, in overviews of the history of scientific discourse. However, if we want to understand not only how knowledge was produced, but also how it was communicated, especially to and among the “unlearned” – i.e. the people who had no formal university education – vernacular texts are invaluable sources.

Through my work on religious texts, I have discovered that medieval German treatises, sermons, and visions often contain what we would now consider to be scientific discourse. Additionally, texts like natural history books and medical treatises provide a more comprehensive view of medieval scientific history. While there has been acknowledgment of scientific discourse in medieval Arabic and Latin texts, vernacular texts, especially those from religious contexts, have largely been overlooked.

In my work, I aim to bridge this gap between the existence of scientific ideas in vernacular medieval texts and the portrayal of a history of science that focuses on knowledge production in the languages of the “learned.” This endeavor is

about exploring how texts in the languages of the “unlearned” show their own awareness of scientific knowledge.

Investigating vernacular texts is a crucial step towards a more inclusive and nuanced portrayal of the history of scientific discourse.

Recommended Reading

Kirakosian, Racha. *From the Material to the Mystical in Late Medieval Piety: The Vernacular Transmission of Gertrude of Helfta's Visions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

—. “The Last Empress. Saint Richgard and the End of the Carolingian Dynasty.” *Women's History Review* 30, no. 3 (2021): 375–400.

—. “Katharina von Württemberg – Gräfin und Kanonisse auf der Flucht.” In *Starke Frauen? Adelige Damen im Südwesten des spätmittelalterlichen Reiches*, edited by Klaus Oschema, Peter Rückert, and Anja Thaller, 228–250. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2022.

PER LEO

Dr. phil., Schriftsteller
Berlin

Geboren 1972 in Erlangen, Deutschland

Dr. phil., Neuere und Neueste Geschichte, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

KONFLIKTSTOFF. ISRAEL UND PALÄSTINA FÜR DEUTSCHE SCHULEN

Ich möchte ein literarisches Sachbuch zum Nahostkonflikt als Schulstoff konzipieren. Die Hypothese lautet: An deutschen Schulen ist dieser Konflikt oft nicht einmal Teil des Lehrplans; und doch gibt es kaum einen Stoff, der die Bundesrepublik stärker mit eigenen Problemen konfrontiert, und kaum einen Ort, an dem sich diese Probleme in ähnlicher Konzentration und Intensität zeigen.

Die Symbolkraft, mit der Israel und Palästina auf die deutsche Gesellschaft wirken, ist enorm. Lässt sich propalästinensisches Engagement mit der bundesrepublikanischen „Staatsräson“ vereinbaren? Gehört das Bekenntnis zu Israel zu „unseren Werten“? Wo schlägt das Engagement für Menschenrechte in „Antisemitismus“ um? Vermittelt über solche Fragen ist aus einem außenpolitischen Nebenthema längst ein Schlüsselthema der Innenpolitik geworden. Und das heißt auch: der Bildungspolitik.

Lehrerinnen und Lehrer sind hier neben einer Reihe von widersprüchlichen Forderungen und Rollenkonflikten mit einem Dilemma konfrontiert. Ein Stoff, der den sozialen Frieden in der Schule bedroht, ist einerseits hochrelevant. Andererseits liegt er wegen seiner politischen Natur nicht in Form eines Wissens vor, das sich ohne Ideologieverdacht vermitteln ließe. Wenn Lehrkräfte also nachvollziehbar überfordert sind, sie aber weder von der Politik noch der Wissenschaft Hilfe erwarten dürfen – dann kann sich ein Schriftsteller, der zugleich Historiker ist, davon herausgefordert fühlen.

Das Buch soll Lehrerinnen und Lehrer nicht als öffentliche Dienstpersonen, sondern als soziale Pioniere ansprechen. Wer hier nicht die Orientierung verlie-

ren will, so die Leitidee, muss historische Sachverhalte so vermitteln, dass der politische Konflikt im Nahen Osten als ethisches Problem in Deutschland begreifbar wird. Es gilt der Primat der eigenen Welt.

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WOLF LEPENIES

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Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (1986–2001)
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Studium der Soziologie, Philosophie und Publizistik
in München, Münster und Berlin

DAS UNVOLLENDETE ERBE: GAULLISMUS UND V. REPUBLIK

Als Reaktion auf die gegenwärtigen Turbulenzen der französischen Politik plane ich einen Essay, der die Politik Emmanuel Macrons vor dem Hintergrund des politischen Erbes Charles de Gaulles analysiert. De Gaulle schuf mit der Verfassung der V. Republik eine „Präsidentenmonarchie“. Macron verkörpert das monarchische Element des Gaullismus wie kein anderer Präsident vor ihm – aber er missachtet, dass sich nach dem Willen de Gaulles die Legitimation präsidentieller Macht nicht zuletzt der durch die Verfassung gewährten Möglichkeit verdankt, über politische Maßnahmen des Präsidenten eine Volksabstimmung herbeizuführen. Diese Missachtung ist eine Ursache der gegenwärtigen politischen Krise in Frankreich und hat zu einer Destabilisierung der V. Republik geführt. Ein Vergleich mit der Situation in Deutschland bietet sich an: Umfragen zeigen, dass in den neuen und alten Bundesländern zu den Kernpunkten der Kritik an der gegenwärtigen Lage der Demokratie das Defizit an plebisziären Formen der Mitbestimmung gehört.

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1. Staatsexamen in Geschichte und Latein und Dr. phil. in Alter Geschichte,
Philipps-Universität Marburg

AUF DEM WEG ZU EINER POLYZENTRISCHEN
GESCHICHTE DER SPÄTANTIKE:
GRENZÜBERSCHREITENDE ZENTREN IN DER
SPÄTANTIKE

Das Verhältnis zwischen dem Römischen Reich und seinen Nachbarn wird in der Forschung zur Spätantike (ca. 300–600 chr. Ära) vornehmlich unter dem Aspekt der Eroberungen gesehen, sei es, dass Rom Gebiete gewinnt oder aber an seine Nachbarn verliert. In meinem Projekt will ich eine neue Perspektive wählen, indem ich nicht die großen politischen Zentren und die militärischen Entwicklungen fokussiere, sondern den Schwerpunkt auf andere Orte mit Zentralfunktion im Römischen Reich und auf kulturell-religionsgeschichtliche Dynamiken lege. Dabei werde ich Städte behandeln, die aus römischer Sicht peripher und wenig bedeutend sein mochten, die aber auch für Bevölkerungsgruppen außerhalb des Römischen Reiches eine Zentralfunktion hatten. Das bekannteste Beispiel ist Jerusalem, das für alle Christen der Welt ein religiöses Zentrum darstellte, namentlich aber für Iberer (Georgier) und Armenier als Pilgerziel und Ort intellektueller Produktion Bedeutung besaß. Weitaus weniger bekannt ist das zweite Beispiel, Edessa (das heutige Şanlıurfa in der Südosttürkei), das für Christen, die die syrisch-aramäische Sprache als Bildungssprache benutzten, aufgrund seiner Bildungseinrichtungen als Zentrum diente, auch wenn sie in Armenien oder im Perserreich lebten. Etliche weitere Fälle ließen sich anführen: so Alexandria (bezogen auf Nubien und Äthiopien), Caesarea in Kappadokien (bezogen auf Armenien) oder Resafa (bezogen auf

arabische Stämme). Durch eine vergleichende Analyse der Zentralfunktionen dieser Städte soll ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Spätantike entstehen, der diese Epoche vor allem unter den Aspekten der Dezentrierung und Verflechtung betrachtet.

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SARA MAGALHÃES

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Universidade de Lisboa

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THE ROLE OF THE HISTORY OF EXPOSURE IN ADAPTATION TO MULTIPLE STRESSORS

Evolutionary biologists have developed a sophisticated theoretical framework explaining how organisms adapt to their environment. However, this framework generally considers simple environments, with one selective agent (stressor), and empirical examples of real-time evolution mostly do not consider important selection pressures posed by antagonists, namely competitors or predators. In contrast, ecologists have been addressing the impact of multiple stressors on populations, but this research topic has not percolated much into evolutionary biology. In particular, we still lack a general framework to understand how temporal differences in exposure to stressors (i.e., the history of exposure) affects the evolution of organisms. We also fail to understand how the similarities and differences among the ecological and evolutionary responses to the conflict posed by different antagonists affect evolutionary trajectories. This is particularly important given the general acknowledgement that evolution can operate within short timeframes. I propose to shed light on this issue by systematically reviewing the literature on the genetic, ecological, and evolutionary consequences of multiple stressors, with an emphasis on evolutionary conflict with various antagonists, with the aim of identifying cases from which knowledge of the impact of the history of exposure can be extracted. I propose to develop a general framework, defining common features, identifying knowledge gaps, and suggesting methods to move this field forward. The tasks that I propose are situated at the intersection among research fields and would benefit from input from other research areas dealing with asynchronies in the history of conflict.

Therefore, my project will certainly benefit from an exchange of ideas with researchers at the Wissenschaftskolleg who have other backgrounds.

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Born in 1951 in San Bernardino, Cal., USA

B.S. in Biology from the University of San Francisco, Ph.D. in Biology from the

University of California, Los Angeles

RESHAPING EDUCATION IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

My research plan focuses on how academic fields adjust to major conceptual shifts. Specifically, I will interact with scholars in diverse fields asking how their discipline has been reshaped in response to a radical new idea, and how education was recast. Two major revolutions in biology were: in the 1800s, the development of the theory of evolution by natural selection; and in the 1900s, the discovery of DNA as the genetic material of life. Technological advances in DNA sequencing ~15 years ago have made this process inexpensive, resulting in a 21st-century revolution with the discoveries that the vast diversity of the biosphere is microbial and that microbes are essential for the health of all major components of the natural world. These discoveries demand a fundamental change – the integration of microbiology and macrobiology, which have developed largely as independent fields. A more holistic view can unify biology in ways not possible before. Significance: humankind is at a critical crossroads, facing the challenges of global climate change, while maintaining human, animal, and environmental health. Biologists now recognize that understanding the form and function of the microbial world will be critical to the development of strategies to address these challenges, but, in the face of intellectual silos, the field is ill-prepared. A metaphysical approach to and an examination of biology education is an essential first step for the discipline.

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PERSONEN UND SACHEN: DIE VERFASSUNG DES EIGENTUMS IM KOORDINIERTEN KAPITALISMUS

Die Theorie und Kritik des Eigentums arbeiten sich noch immer an einem Paradigma von Rechten ab, das stark durch den „possessiven Individualismus“ der naturrechtlichen Tradition geprägt ist: Eigentum ist demnach die rechtliche Technik der Herstellung von freien Märkten durch die Zuordnung von frei nutzbaren und frei übertragbaren Sachen zu dadurch freien Personen. Verwaltungen kommt nach dieser Vorstellung nur die Rolle zu, unerwünschte Folgen eines proprietären Verständnisses von Rechten zu kompensieren: Infrastrukturen und Wohlfahrt. In meinem Projekt möchte ich dagegen jenes ganz andere Modell von Eigentumsrechten vergleichend rekonstruieren, das sich in den Marktwirtschaften des sogenannten „koordinierten Kapitalismus“ entwickelt hat. Dazu möchte ich untersuchen, wie und warum schon das private Eigentumsrecht („Sachenrecht“) das Verhältnis von Freiheit und Eigentum ganz anders denkt als die revolutionäre und koloniale Tradition und wie sich um dieses Modell herum die Grundbegriffe des Eigentumsschutzes durch Verfassungs- und Verwaltungsrecht ausgebildet haben. Was hat beispielsweise die Systematik des Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuchs mit der deutschen Form des Industriekapitalismus und beides mit Steuerstaat und Sozialversicherungen zu tun? Die juristischen Funktionsbedingungen der stark auf der administrativen Bewältigung von Ressourcenkonflikten beruhenden Sozialverfassung des koordinierten Kapitalismus liegen, so meine Ausgangsüberlegung, in einer bisher nicht richtig verstandenen Wechselbeziehung von öffentlichem und Privatrecht.

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CHERYL MISAK
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Born in 1961 in Lethbridge, Canada
BA in Philosophy from the University of Lethbridge, MA in Philosophy from
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PROGRESS AND REGRESS IN MORALS AND POLITICS

We are in a disturbing age, rife with moral and political regress. In some major liberal democracies, we can no longer take it for granted that politicians need even pay lip service to the rule of law; to honesty; to the rights of refugees; or to the need to protect the environment for future generations. Conspiracy theories about public health measures and election results are thick on the ground. On the other hand, there is moral progress as well. The rights of women and those in non-heterosexual relationships have meaningfully improved in many parts of the world; apartheid in South Africa has been replaced by a more just system.

Yet it is a formidable task to articulate just what moral progress and regress is and how to resolve disagreements about whether we are going forward or backward. These disagreements play out around the family dinner table, as well as in philosophy.

My project is to make sense of how moral and political beliefs are objective or aimed at getting things right. We all think that it is not merely an individual's values or a culture's conventions that makes it wrong to torture an animal or sexually assault a child. But we also know that our beliefs have developed in ways that are contingent on all sorts of historical accidents – the evolution of the human brain; the way language-users have posed questions and answered them; power relations; the ways in which different technologies developed in different societies at different times; and political and economic aims. We human beings, with our evolved and historically contingent characters, capacities, and limitations, bring moral norms into being and then go on to shape them.

How can we aim at getting things right, yet see, as the American pragmatist Williams James put it, that “the trail of the human serpent is over everything”? Are we not left with a relativist “anything goes” or “might is right” position – a position that seems alien to our actual human moral practices?

I will try to resolve these fundamental tensions by developing a theory of truth and objectivity, along pragmatist lines, that does justice to both the subjective and objective dimensions of our moral and political lives and deliberations.

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Née en 1969 à Tokyo

Master de la composition musicale, université des arts de Tokyo ; diplôme de la Formation supérieure, Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris

SCIENTIFIQUE, EMPATHIQUE ET CULTUREL : TROIS REPRESENTATIONS DU CŒUR DANS LA CREATION MUSICALE

Depuis quelques années, le fonctionnement du cerveau et du cœur, ainsi que la relation qui peut s'établir entre les deux, m'intéresse énormément au point de devenir une source d'inspiration préminente de ma recherche musicale.

Dans la cadre de ma résidence au sein du Wissenschaftskolleg, je souhaite poursuivre ce travail qui s'incarnera à travers les créations suivantes :

– « Ψ » (psi) pour quatuor à cordes, dernière œuvre du cycle « Brains ».

Cinq pièces constituent ce cycle inspiré par certaines recherches scientifiques sur le cerveau. Cette dernière pièce « Ψ » tentera de transcrire musicalement les interactions entre le cerveau et le cœur. Je souhaiterais organiser un concert-conférence avec le commanditaire de l'œuvre, le Quatuor Diotima, qui avait déjà résidé au Wissenschaftskolleg en 2012/2013.

– Deux musiques de film : composition pour le film muet japonais « Orotchi », réalisé en 1925 par Buntaro Futagawa, 74 min ; bande originale pour le dessin animé « Sun's Rose, Moon's Lapis », en cours de création, de Takashi Nakamura, 30 min.

Ce sont deux histoires dont la dramaturgie émane de l'incommunicabilité entre les hommes et des malentendus qui en découlent, soit par classe sociale, soit par préjugé, ou encore par incompréhension émotionnelle. Ces deux

projets tentent de montrer comment l'empathie et le tragique peuvent s'exprimer dans un discours musical contemporain.

Au niveau compositionnel, je voudrais approfondir l'usage d'harmoniques et de spectres peu audibles d'un son, à l'image d'un subconscient, d'une troisième voie qui perturbe ou amplifie les émotions.

– Un opéra de chambre, « Ontembaar ». Deux narrations tissées en parallèle interrogent le rapport entre les émotions et les référents culturels à travers des préoccupations encore trop présentes aujourd'hui, comme le sexisme ou le racisme.

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CHRISTOPH MÖLLERS

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Komparatistik in Tübingen, München
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1. A CONCEPT OF CONSTITUTION

2. PETER SZONDI, DIE MEINUNGSFREIHEIT UND DIE AUTONOMIE DER LITERATUR

Ad 1. Today most people think of a constitution as a supreme norm that serves as the legal standard for political institutions like parliaments and governments. But constitutions also “constitute.” They create the very institutions they claim to oblige. While there is a well-known philosophical debate about the normative status of “constitutive norms” (Searle), this problem has rarely been seriously addressed in constitutional theory. Still, the question of the degree to which constitutional law is a normative enterprise is not only theoretically challenging, but also practically relevant. Especially the global proliferation of unamendable clauses in constitutions may be better understood from an analytical perspective on the constitutive character of constitutional law.

Ad 2. Im Mai 1967 wurden Rainer Langhans und Fritz Teufel, zwei Angehörige der Kommune I, einer bekannten Gruppe studentischer Spontis, wegen des Verteilens von Flugblättern vor der Mensa der FU in Berlin-Dahlem angeklagt. Vorgeworfen wurden ihnen „Aufforderung zur Brandstiftung“. Im Prozess traten zugunsten der Angeklagten zahlreiche Professoren auf, unter ihnen Peter Wapnewski, der erste Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs, und Peter Szondi, der Begründer der Komparatistik in der Bundesrepublik. Die Philologen versuch-

ten mit ihren Mitteln nachzuweisen, dass die Flugblätter nicht zu einer Straftat taugten. Während die dazu verfassten Gutachten von den nachfolgenden Literaturwissenschaften mal als überholte Form des *close reading* verworfen, mal als eigentlicher Grund für den Freispruch gefeiert wurden (übrigens ohne dass das Urteil dazu aus den Archiven geholt wurde), fehlt es an Einordnungen des Prozesses in die Rechtsgeschichte der Meinungsfreiheit ebenso wie in die Debatte um die Autonomie der Kunst. Eine Analyse des Urteils wird zeigen, dass die konventionellen juristischen Instrumente, mit denen das Gericht zu einem Freispruch kommt, der politischen und ästhetischen Dimension der Flugblätter besser gerecht werden als die Hermeneutik der professionellen Philologen. Zugleich steht der Prozess am Anfang einer Entwicklung der Meinungsfreiheitsdoktrin, die bis heute nachwirkt.

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University of Douala

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PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam

INHOSPITABLE MEDICINE: HOMOSEXUALITY, MEDICAL DISCRIMINATION, AND THE PRECARIOUS LIFE IN CAMEROON

In general, this ethnographically grounded research addresses the problem of medical discrimination based on stereotyped sexual and gender identity, which is a central problem in the public health system in Cameroon. It places emphasis on the moralizing rhetoric as well as the stigmatising attitude many healthcare providers are increasingly adopting towards LGBTIQ patients. The research aims to shed light on the complex ways in which the country's medical order has been dealing with patients with non-conforming sexual and gender identities since the country's enactment of anti-homosexual legislation in 1965. Specifically, it aspires to produce ethnographic data on the changing situation of LGBTIQ people in public medical institutions in Cameroon: initially as "invisible patients" whose sexual identity was ignored, and since 2006 as radical "sexual others" whose access to healthcare is increasingly denied. The research will also examine the various (ideological, cultural, and political) justifications for the current alienation or "othering" of some LGBTIQ patients in the country's medical institutions.

It will be therefore demonstrated that the growing stigmatization of suspected or self-identified homosexual people in numerous public healthcare centres in Cameroon coincides with a particular moment when the country's medical order increasingly regards homosexuality as a major medical and social issue. Moreover, the research contends that the politics of blame and guilt plays a crucial role in the stereotypical view of LGBTIQ patients, as well as in the

discriminatory care many encounter in a number of the country's medical institutions. In this regard, the case study of a few homosexual patients will show how the country's medical system increasingly moralizes its medical practices and discourses, and at times does not hesitate to saturate the medical personnel with these ethics.

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Born in 1972 in Niebüll, Germany

Diploma in Biology from Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Dr. phil. nat. in
History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Bern

HISTORIES OF PLANTS AND CULTURES, CA. 1840–1920

The relationship between history and the life sciences has often been the subject of debate. One of the most recent examples is the rise of archaeogenetics: how data from the analysis of ancient DNA contribute to the reconstruction of the past is controversial and has led to multiple reflections about the aims, subject matter, and methodology of historical vs. biological research. This is interesting in itself, but these debates also have a long history, which has not yet been written, and to which I want to contribute with my project at the Wissenschaftskolleg.

Specifically, I will look at similar controversies between European nineteenth-century scholars, with archaeology, history, and oriental studies on one side, and botany, zoology, and chemistry on the other. One of the particularly contested questions in this context was how the history of culture and civilizations ought to be written. Botanists claimed a special role in this field, as the beginning of human culture presumably was linked to the beginning of agriculture, i.e., the cultivation of crops. Botanists argued that their expertise was indispensable for this history, because only they were able to examine the relevant sources: namely plants or plant remains. My project observes in selected examples how this agenda of a history of cultivated plants unfolded and how the humanities reacted. It thus sheds light on a little-known area of overlap between the so-called “two cultures” that gave rise to lively (and often constructive) debate between natural scientists and humanists about their different methodolo-

gies, conventions, and expertise, well beyond the worn-out dichotomy of “understanding” vs. “explaining.”

Recommended Reading

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JERRY OCHOLA

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Moi University, Eldoret

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Dr in Materials Engineering from Ghent University

COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING OF TUBULAR FIBROUS SCAFFOLD STRUCTURES FOR CARDIOVASCULAR GRAFT APPLICATIONS

The design of tubular structures with desirable internal and external topology is a challenge for engineering cardiovascular grafts. Even though conventional vascular grafts can provide sufficient structural and biological support to tissues, they are expensive and susceptible to anatomical limitations. Hence, fibrous structures such as polymeric electrospun grafts have appeared as viable options for use as cardiovascular implants, due to their suitable extracellular matrix for tissue regeneration, better compliance matching, and improved mechanical properties, even though random fibre assembly is attributed to surface topography, mechanical properties, cell proliferation, and cell growth potential which makes fibrous scaffold structures desirable for use as cardiovascular grafts.

These structures still have inherent design limitations due to the random morphology of their microstructure. There is, therefore, a need to investigate and optimise their design and performance. One such approach is the use of computational modelling. However, there is still insufficient information on three-dimensional (3D) computational modelling approaches for tubular fibrous structures that takes into account their constituent fibre alignment and inherent fibre randomness. This project, hence, proposes the use of a realistic 3D modelling approach to develop tubular fibrous scaffold structures. This will involve creating the scaffold models at the nanofibre level in a 3D interface using

python® programming and MATLAB® scripting platforms. Further, parametric studies to mimic the biomechanical performance of the scaffold structure models after implantation as vascular grafts will be undertaken by applying realistic boundary conditions based on finite element analysis procedures in ABAQUS®/Explicit. It is envisaged that this modelling approach will provide the basis for an in-depth investigation of the scaffolds' performance, viability, and reliability, which will further support their seamless integration as cardiovascular grafts.

Recommended Reading

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YOLANDA OHENE

from September 2024 to February 2025

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

PhD, Medical Imaging

The University of Manchester

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MSci in Physics from Imperial College London, Master 2 in Plasma Physics

from Université Pierre et Marie Curie – UPMC, and PhD in Medical Imaging

from University College London

HOW CAN MEDICAL IMAGING RESEARCH BETTER SERVE HISTORICALLY MARGINALISED GROUPS?

Health disparities still exist in historically marginalised communities in Western countries for many reasons including socioeconomic factors, scientific racism, poorer health literacy, and lack of inclusion by researchers. Most people will have some type of medical imaging in their lifetime, but many people, in particular those from historically marginalised groups, do not feel that they could have an impact on why or how these technologies advance.

My research focusses on developing advanced magnetic resonance imaging techniques to explore the relationship between novel imaging metrics and cognitive decline. It centres on devising non-invasive techniques that are able to probe the blood-brain barrier, a highly regulated physical and biochemical barrier that protects the brain from circulating toxic molecules. Dysfunction of this barrier is an early process occurring in certain dementias and can be detected using these techniques.

Black people are at higher risk of getting some form of dementia, but this demographic is often underrepresented in research studies. One of the risk factors is an increased prevalence of hypertension within this community. Stress is a factor that can cause hypertension through the upregulation of the steroid

hormone cortisol. However, the influence of hormones on brain physiology has yet to be well characterised using advanced imaging techniques.

During this fellowship, I will explore how the fluctuation of certain hormones may impact our brain function measurements and if this could be detected and delineated by advanced neuroimaging techniques. Additionally, I plan to develop a reflexive research practice that can draw on ideas used in science and technology studies to actively engage people from the Black community in brain health research. The findings should kindle innovation in both designing and advancing medical imaging studies. Widening the channels connecting patient and public involvement in basic science with underrepresented demographics would be a step towards addressing health inequalities.

Recommended Reading

Ohene, Yolanda, Ian F. Harrison, Payam Nahavandi, Ozama Ismail, Eleanor V. Bird, Ole P. Ottersen, Erlend A. Nagelhus, David L. Thomas, Mark F. Lythgoe, and Jack A. Wells (2019). “Non-invasive MRI of Brain Clearance Pathways Using Multiple Echo Time Arterial Spin Labelling: An Aquaporin-4 Study.” *NeuroImage* 188: 515–523.

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Wade, Jessica, Isabel M. Rabey, Amy Smith, Sophie A. Martin, Matthew Okenyi, Yolanda Ohene, and Mark D. Richards (2022). “Lessons from a UK Research School for Black Physicists and Engineers.” *Nature Reviews Materials* 7: 927–928. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41578-022-00500-6>.

Ohene, Yolanda, William J. Harris, Elizabeth Powell, Nina W. Wycech, Katherine F. Smethers, Samo Lasič, Kieron South, et al. (2023). “Filter Exchange Imaging with Crusher Gradient Modelling Detects Increased Blood–Brain Barrier Water Permeability in Response to Mild Lung Infection.” *Fluids and Barriers of the CNS* 20: 25. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12987-023-00422-7>.

MARY O’SULLIVAN

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
PhD, Professor of Economic History
University of Geneva

Born in 1968 in Dublin

BComm from University College Dublin, MBA and PhD in Business
Economics from Harvard University

THE FABRIC OF PROFIT: EUROPEAN TEXTILES IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, 1750–1850

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

Recommended Reading

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DAVID OWENS
DPhil, Professor of Philosophy
King's College London

Born in 1963 in London
DPhil in Philosophy from the University of Oxford

LIBERTY, AUTHORITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY

The value of human liberty and the need to protect it lie at the heart of liberalism. For classical liberals, there are two special threats to our liberty: command and coercion. Rousseau claimed that nothing is worse than being subject to the will of another, and many would agree that being either under their authority or subject to their menace is bad in a special way. Anthropologists have described societies governed by complex social rules though devoid of commands backed up by coercion, and anarchists have argued that such societies are preferable to our own.

I want to defend the classical liberal problematic against critics who allege that it ignores the threat to human liberty from other more insidious but more important forms of social power. This will involve arguing that human beings have an interest in being responsible for their own acts and that both command and coercion threaten to deprive us of this responsibility as other social norms do not. My diagnosis casts light on the authority exercised by sovereign over subject, officer over soldier, employer over employee, master over slave, and perhaps parent over child, too.

Classical liberals sought to legitimize state authority by appeal to consent. Some forms of social authority (e.g. employment) are legitimated by consent and it is a question whether all forms of social authority must be so legitimated. Can soldiers be conscripted and can people be subject to the authority of a ruler simply because they were born into the relevant territory, or must these things happen by agreement? And are there limits to the kind of authority that can be

authorised by consent? For example, can people sell themselves into slavery? My project will address these questions.

Recommended Reading

Owens, David. *Shaping the Normative Landscape*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

—. *Normativity and Control*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

—. *Bound by Convention*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

HERLINDE PAUER-STUDER

Dr. phil., Professor Emerita for Practical Philosophy
University of Vienna

Born in 1953 in Bludenz, Austria

M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Toronto, Mag. phil. in Philosophy
and German Studies and Dr. phil. in Philosophy from Paris Lodron University
Salzburg PLUS

WHY GROUPS MATTER TO YOU

The standard conception of agency assumes that we determine the normative contours of our self. As autonomous agents, we intend, plan, and decide what to do and how to live. Our values, commitments, and ways of acting constitute who we are in normative terms. As mindful agents, we critically reflect on our actions and the underlying commitments and principles – asking ourselves whether they withstand scrutiny from the rational and the moral point of view. *Why Groups Matter to You* focuses on a neglected aspect in this account of agency. The central assumption is that one's normative identity is also constituted by the groups to which one belongs (groups being understood in a broad sense to include both small-scale informal groups and structured group agents such as organizations). Qua their role and role-performance within the group, agents share the principles and commitments of the group. Although an agent might, on critical reflection, not endorse all the aims and practices of the group, they remain tied to it as long as they do not definitively leave the group. This opens up a new way of assessing agents morally. An agent's claim to moral integrity might be challenged, even undermined, by the aims and principles of the group with which they are affiliated. This approach broadens our perspective on agents' moral responsibility. Agents may fail morally by not recognizing the moral demands created by their group affiliations, but they also are accountable if they ignore a potential incoherence between their self-understanding and their group involvements. The project aims to develop these ideas within a rela-

tional conception of morality, i.e., an account that anchors morality in the normative significance of our social commitments and relations both to others and to our individual selves.

Recommended Reading

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—. *Justifying Injustice: Legal Theory in Nazi Germany*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

AGNIESZKA PUFELSKA

von September 2024 bis Februar 2025

PD Dr.

Universität Hamburg

Geboren 1973 in Sierpc, Polen

Dr. phil., Kulturwissenschaften, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

POSTPREUSSEN: VON DER UNFÄHIGKEIT, ABSCHIED ZU NEHMEN (BUCHPROJEKT MIT FELIX ACKERMANN)

Die Rekonstruktion der preußischen Bauten in Potsdam und Berlin ist Ausdruck einer neuen Preußen-Renaissance in der Bundesrepublik. Welche historischen Kontinuitäten werden durch die ungebrochenen Verbindungslinien hergestellt? Und wie wird das Ende Preußens heute erzählt? Der Zusammenhang zwischen dem Untergang der preußischen Monarchie und dem Ende des Deutschen Reichs wird heute nicht als Vorgeschichte der Bundesrepublik verstanden. Während die meisten Deutschen die Zerstörung des Deutschen Reichs am Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs als einen physischen Verlust erfahren hatten, blieb die formelle Auflösung Preußens durch einen alliierten Beschluss im Februar 1947 ein Papiertiger. Auf diese Weise blieb Preußen als bewusst gewählte historische Bezugsgröße und als unbewusst verinnerlichtes Muster in beiden 1949 gegründeten deutschen Staaten erhalten.

Neue Perspektiven auf die preußische Geschichte wurden auch nach 1990 kaum eröffnet. Eine postpreußische Sehnsucht ist in der bundesdeutschen Gegenwart nicht zu übersehen. Die institutionellen Kontinuitätslinien, die in Ost und West neue Traditionen in einem ungebrochen positiven Preußenbild verbinden, belegen die Beobachtung, dass Preußen in der Wahrnehmung weiter Teile der deutschen Gesellschaft immer noch als ein positiver Referenzpunkt gilt. Dieses idealisierende Preußenbild beschwört den Kultur- und Reformstaat und lässt die Verschränkung der imperial-kolonialen Vergangenheit und ethnisch-kulturellen Vielfalt Preußens außen vor. Wir argumentieren aus post-

kolonialer Perspektive, dass es möglich ist, den Abschied von einem weitgehend widerspruchsfreien Preußenbild mit einer Neufokussierung der kolonialen Dimension preußischer Herrschaft zu verbinden. Ein bewusster Abschied vom idealisierten Umgang mit Preußen eröffnet die Möglichkeit, deutsche Gewaltgeschichte multiperspektivisch zu erzählen und an den von Preußen mitbewirkten Bruch in den Innenstädten Berlins und Potsdams zu erinnern.

Lektüreempfehlung

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—. „The Polish-Jewish ‘Berlinertum’: Impact of Berlin’s Haskalah on the Polish Jews.“ In *“Space” as a Category for the Research of the History of Jews in Poland-Lithuania 1500–1900*, herausgegeben von Maria Cieśla und Ruth Leiserowitz, 117–129. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2022.

Oswalt, Philipp, und Agnieszka Pufelska, Hg. *Der Geist von Potsdam: Preußisches Militär als Tradition und Erbe*. Berlin: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2024.

NATALIA ROMIK
from February to July 2025
PhD, architect, artist, curator
Warsaw

Born in 1983 in Warsaw
MA in Political Science from the University of Warsaw, PhD in Architectural
Design from The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London

THE ARCHITECTURE OF HIDING

In my new project – devoted to the architecture of survival – I would like to continue and expand my previous research devoted to the architecture of Jewish hideouts from the times of the Second World War. I will not only research new cases of Jewish hideouts, but will also add a new, comparative layer to my studies by researching the cases of new hideouts, currently built and used by migrants in their attempts to enter the territory of the European Union, especially the ones built and used at the Polish-Byelorussian border. For over a year, the Białowieża Forest has been a place of flight for thousands of refugees from Africa and the Middle East; for some it became their final, tragic destination. They are forced into hiding by the regime of Lukashenka and the harsh anti-migrant policies adopted by the Polish government, which pushes and deports them back. In July 2022, together with the informal research collective Researchers at the Border, I conducted preliminary studies of a hideout made by Syrian refugees in the Białowieża Forest. It is a tree hut, “furnished” with sleeping bags, shoes, and blankets. We documented this place using a 3D scanner. In my new research phase, I would like to explore this phenomenon further and carefully compare it with the case of Jewish hideouts from the Second World War, but not to generate false historical parallels and while respecting the gravity of a current situation.

In the following phase of my research, I plan to widen my field of study by applying this interdisciplinary methodology to the examples of makeshift

hideouts and other architectures of hiding created in the context of the ongoing migration crisis. An important part of the new phase of my research process will be experimentation with new artistic forms to mediate the materiality of the contemporary architecture of hiding.

Recommended Reading

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Wenzel, Mirjam, Kuba Szreder, Natalia Romik, Aleksandra Janus, and Katja Janitschek, eds. *Hideouts: Architecture of Survival; Reflections on the Exhibition by Natalia Romik*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2024.

Romik, Natalia. *Post-Jewish Architecture of Memory within Former Eastern European Shtetls*. London: UCL Press, forthcoming.

MICHAEL ROTHBERG

Ph.D., Professor of English and Comparative Literature, 1939 Society Samuel
Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies
University of California, Los Angeles

Born in 1966 in New Haven, Conn., USA

B.A. in English and Linguistics from Swarthmore College, Ph.D. in Compara-
tive Literature from the City University of New York Graduate Center

COMPARISON CONTROVERSIES: CONFLICTS IN CULTURAL MEMORY

Drawing on two decades of research on the memory of the Holocaust and other histories of political violence, I will focus on what I call “comparison controversies” – impassioned public debates that emerge from provocative historical comparisons or from the use of historical analogies to describe contemporary crises. My book, *Comparison Controversies: Conflicts in Cultural Memory*, will consider a series of case studies: debates about the comparison of the Holocaust in Germany, about fascism in the United States, and about the use of Holocaust analogies as responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis of global warming.

Working from those cases, as well as from ongoing controversies such as the use of references to Nazism and the Holocaust in wars in Russia-Ukraine and the Middle East, it will seek to address urgent questions about the ethics and politics of comparison and about the uses and abuses of public memory. Indeed, the proliferation of comparison controversies in our day seems to correspond to the difficulty of understanding a present and a rapidly approaching future that are marked by social, ecological, and political emergencies. As crises unfold and catastrophes loom, we turn to the past for orientation – correctly, since historical analogies can help guide action in the present, but also with obvious disadvantages, since comparisons and analogies can only ever be imperfect instruments for measuring novel conditions. Without slighting an assessment of comparison’s flaws and dangers, *Comparison Controversies* will make an affirmative

argument for the critical, indeed unavoidable, nature of comparison as a feature of human cognition and ethical action.

Recommended Reading

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—. *Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009.

—. *The Implicated Subject: Beyond Victims and Perpetrators*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2019.

VOLODYMYR RYZHKOVSKYI

VUIAS Fellow abroad

Ph.D., History

Zagreb

Born in 1985 in Uzhgorod, Ukraine

B.A. in History from Uzhgorod National University, M.A. in History from the European University at St. Petersburg, Ph.D. in History from Georgetown University

A UKRAINIAN UNIVERSE: THE JOURNAL *VSESVIT* AND THE PURSUIT OF UNIVERSALISM IN 20TH-CENTURY UKRAINE

Ukrainian history, and Ukrainian intellectual history in particular, has been often narrated as a history of national affirmation. My project, while admitting the historical relevance of the national dimension and its connection to the global project of cultural and political decolonization, is an attempt to bring into focus explicitly universalist ideas, inspirations, and agendas, conceptualizing the diversity of the Ukrainian 20th-century intellectual tradition not as a neglected voice communicating an obscure particularistic history, but an inspiration and a source for thinking about the world beyond familiar national and civilizational repertoires and divides. To do so, I will use as a lens the history of the educational and literary journal *Vsesvit* (“Universe” in Ukrainian). Headed by prominent Ukrainian cultural and intellectual figures, *Vsesvit* emerged and reemerged in multiple iterations and at critical junctures of the 20th century as a platform for discovering, conceptualizing, and presenting the world in the Ukrainian language and to Ukrainian audiences. I single out three peculiar installments of the *Vsesvit* journal related to three eras of Ukrainian cultural history: the national and socialist modernization of the 1920s; the 1960s national revival associated with the Thaw generation of *shestydyiatnyky*; and the post-Soviet quest for fully-fledged cultural independence. Three installments of *Vsesvit* shed light on the

complex entanglements between Ukraine’s imperial and national formations, while testifying to the incredible diversity of the intellectual traditions produced by these entanglements. As this project will argue, through the history of *Vsesvit* one can explore attempts at being socialist and internationalist, European and ecumenical, elitist and democratic, and at the same time distinctly Ukrainian. At the time of the political consolidation and forceful affirmation of the national identity in the face of Russian genocidal intentions, the history of *Vsesvit* is a powerful reminder of the diversity of Ukraine and its history and a focal point for problematizing the volatile imaginaries of “universalism,” “future,” and the “world.”

Recommended Reading

- Ryzhkovskiy, Volodymyr. “Sovetskaia medievistika and Beyond: k istorii odnoi diskussii” [Soviet medieval studies and beyond: A history of a discussion]. *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*, no. 97 (2009): 58–89.
<https://magazines.gorky.media/nlo/2009/3/sovetskaya-medievistika-and-beyond.html>.
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<https://doi.org/10.33280/2310-3817-2018-6-2-176-197>.

IMANI SANGA

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University of Dar es Salaam

Born in 1972 in Makete, Tanzania

BA in Music and MA in Development Studies from the University of Dar es

Salaam, PhD in Music from the University of KwaZulu-Natal

SONIC LETTERS, DECOLONIAL ACTS:
MUSICAL FIGURES, SWAHILI LITERATURE AND
ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES IN TANZANIA

Music is a ubiquitous feature of Tanzanian Swahili literary texts ranging from novels and poems to plays and biographies. This book project examines how Swahili literary texts use musical events, musical instruments, genres, musicians, and sounds as semiotic resources to enact people's identities and relations and to critique various forms of imperial domination. Using the concept of musical figures, the project examines how these Swahili texts use sonic resources to represent various decolonial struggles against imperial forces that Tanzania has encountered throughout its history including the Arab slave trade and the European colonization of East Africa, nationalistic struggles and nation-building efforts, and neoliberal policies and practices.

To unpack the relation between music, decolonial struggles, and literary imaginations in the Swahili literary texts, this project explores the multiple histories and meanings the musical figures have accumulated in their music-cultural contexts, such as religious rituals, traditional healing practices, initiation rites, or night club music-dance performances. Then, it demonstrates how these cultural histories and meanings of the musical figures are evoked and used to shape the representation of imperial domination and the decolonial struggles that Tanzanians have carried out over the years and to challenge various forms of imperial domination, as well as the colonial and racist mentality that sustains it.

Succinctly, the book discusses innovative ways through which Swahili literary texts deploy musical figures to represent and critique social relations of domination and inequality. It shows how these texts exploit Tanzanian music cultural contexts and creatively use them to shape musical figures and the imaginary worlds of literary text. It analyses the complex interweaving and interdependence of media and social life experiences in the texts analysed. It shows how, on the one hand, the imagination of musical phenomena (performance, song, musical style, or sounds) in literary texts is made possible through literary language and literary devices used to describe these musical phenomena and how, on the other hand, these musical phenomena themselves function as part of the web of figural devices that make up the literary language used to represent social life.

Recommended Reading

- Sanga, Imani (2016). “The Archiving of Siti Binti Saad and Her Engagement with the Music Industry in Shaaban Robert’s *Wasifu wa Siti Binti Saad*.” *Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies* 2 (1–2): 34–44. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23277408.2016.1158550>.
- (2019). “Sonic Figures of Heroism and the 1891 Hehe–German War in Mulokozi’s Novel *Ngome ya Mianzi*.” *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 55 (5): 698–709. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449855.2019.1619618>.
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JUTTA SCHICKORE

Dr. phil., Professor of History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine
Indiana University Bloomington

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Dr. phil. in Philosophy from the Universität Hamburg

CAUSES, HYPOTHESES, AND EMPIRICAL CHECKS:
WORKING PHILOSOPHIES OF SCIENCE IN THE
GERMAN LANDS AROUND 1800

My project will illuminate a neglected period in the history of philosophy of science, the period between Newton's death and the 1830s. It has long been assumed that these decades were the "Dark Ages" of philosophy of science and that modern philosophy of science emerged only in the second third of the 19th century. Focusing on the German lands, I show that this assumption is incorrect. In fact, throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, scientific practitioners and philosopher-educators intensely discussed the particulars of scientific inquiry, the active search for causes, hypotheses and hypothesis testing, and uncertain experimental outcomes. It appears that the "economic" sciences – those fields of inquiry concerning human health and prosperity – were significant triggers for these "working philosophies." They presented problems that were both urgent and intricate, such as finding the causes of food spoilage or suspicious deaths; correctly analyzing rare chemical composites; or reliably testing the quality of olive oil and wine. Economic sciences also provided conceptual, methodological, and practical resources to address those problems. My book traces working philosophies in experimental reports and also in numerous treatises on "applied logic" authored by lesser-known philosopher-educators. The book will spell out how incorporating working philosophies transforms the historiography of philosophy of science.

Recommended Reading

Schickore, Jutta. *About Method: Experimenters, Snake Venom, and the History of Writing Scientifically*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017.

—. “‘Dare Explanations’ (Wagerklärungen): Hypothetical Thinking in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy of Science.” *HOPOS* 13, no. 2 (2023): 387–412. <https://doi.org/10.1086/726182>.

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PETRA SCHLEITER

DPhil, Professor of Comparative Politics
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Born in 1968 in Frankfurt/Main, Germany

BSc (Econ) in International Relations from the London School of Economics
and Political Science, MPhil in Russian and East European Studies and DPhil in
Politics from the University of Oxford

ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY: VOTER ID, ELECTORAL INTEGRITY, AND ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

In recent years, elections and fundamental democratic rights have become highly politicized in many democracies. Debates about introducing or tightening mandatory voter ID in contexts where many voters lack the requisite identification are central to this trend and make voter suppression a major concern. Currently, these debates affect over a billion voters worldwide, including in the UK, Australia, India, and the US. This project examines how elections and democracy are impacted when mandatory voter ID is introduced in a democracy where a significant share of the electorate lacks the required ID.

Scientifically, the effects of voter ID remain poorly understood because existing studies reach contradictory findings and focus overwhelmingly on the US, a polarized democracy from which conclusions do not easily generalize. This project makes use of a unique opportunity to study – in real time – a national reform introducing mandatory voter ID in the UK, a less polarized context, from which findings are more easily generalizable. I will examine the causal effect of mandatory ID on voter behaviour and attitudes, using innovative regression discontinuity and difference-in-differences approaches. The project employs (i) original surveys examining the effect of UK voter ID in real time, (ii) historical data from the introduction of voter ID in Northern Ireland (2002), and (iii) survey data from the voter ID trials of 2018/19. Academically, the pro-

ject provides the first comprehensive study of the effects of voter ID at local and national levels in any developed democracy to date.

Recommended Reading

- Schleiter, Petra, Tobias Böhmelt, Lawrence Ezrow, and Roni Lehrer (2021). “Social Democratic Party Exceptionalism and Transnational Policy Linkages.” *World Politics* 73 (3): 512–544. <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/S0043887121000022>.
- Schleiter, Petra, Margit Tavits, and Dalston Ward (2022). “Can Political Speech Foster Tolerance of Immigrants?” *Political Science Research and Methods* 10 (3): 567–583. <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2021.37>.
- Tavits, Margit, Petra Schleiter, Jonathan Homola, and Dalston Ward (2024). “Fathers’ Leave Reduces Sexist Attitudes.” *American Political Science Review* 118 (1): 488–494. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000369>.

MICHAEL SEEWALD

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Dr. theol., Professor of Dogmatics and the History of Dogma

University of Münster

Born in 1987 in Saarbrücken, Germany

Diploma in Catholic Theology and M.A. in Philosophy and Politics from the University of Tübingen, Dr. theol. from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich)

WHAT IS “DOGMATIC” ABOUT THE HISTORY OF DOGMA?

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

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

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

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

Recommended Reading

Löser, Werner, Karl Lehmann, and Matthias Lutz-Bachmann, eds. *Dogmengeschichte und katholische Theologie*. Würzburg: Echter, 1985.

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

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

SHERENE SEIKALY

Ph.D., Associate Professor of History
University of California at Santa Barbara

Born in 1971 in Beirut

M.A. in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, Ph.D. in Joint
History/Middle Eastern Studies from New York University

FROM BALTIMORE TO BEIRUT: ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

How do we understand conflicting claims to land and land's relationship to colonialism? This is the question of Palestine. At its best, this question can offer new ways to think about land and history. Yet, histories and historiographies of Palestine remain limited to the territorial and conceptual borders of the nation-state. My book project, *From Baltimore to Beirut: On the Question of Palestine*, charts an escape from nationalist confines. The central figure of my narrative is a Palestinian man who was at once a colonial officer and a colonized subject, an enslaver and a refugee. I explore how his trajectory from nineteenth-century mobility across Baltimore and Sudan to twentieth-century immobility in Lebanon places the question of Palestine in a global history of race, capital, slavery, and dispossession.

Naim Cotran (c. 1877–1961) was born in the northern coastal city of Acre, Palestine, at that time under Ottoman rule. He began his education at the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut. In 1899, he traveled to Baltimore to continue his medical training at the University of Maryland. Naim returned to Palestine to become one of Acre's first registered medical doctors. During World War I, he served as a medical official in Omdurman, Sudan with the Anglo-Egyptian Army. On his return to Palestine, then under British rule (1918–1948), his in-laws gifted Naim and his young wife Aniseh an enslaved woman named Sa'da. Naim and Aniseh manumitted Sa'da, but she lived and died with them as their domestic servant. Eight miles northeast of Acre, in a village called Nahr al-

Nabi'a, Naim owned about twenty hectares of land. During the war of 1948, his children and grandchildren took refuge in Lebanon and Egypt. Naim and Aniseh stayed on the land, in an attempt to hold on to Palestine's shrinking remains. They lost that battle in 1951 and became refugees who lived the last years of their lives in Lebanon.

That doctor, Naim, was my great-grandfather. By sheer coincidence, I encountered Naim in ways that inspired new questions about history and the lived present. *From Baltimore to Beirut* is a sustained reflection on the meanings of archives, the writing of history, and the power of autobiography.

Recommended Reading

Seikaly, Sherene. "In the Shadow of War: The *Journal of Palestine Studies* as Archive." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 51, no. 2 (Fall 2022): 5–26.

Seikaly, Sherene, and Sara Scalenghe. "The Body and Revolution in the Middle East." In *The Routledge Handbook on Women in the Middle East*, edited by Suad Joseph and Zeina Zaatari, 135–146. London: Routledge, 2022.

Seikaly, Sherene. "Reading in Time." World Humanities Report, Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), 2023.
https://worldhumanitiesreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/WHR-AR_6.UrgencyTemporality_Seikaly.pdf.

MICHAEL L. SMITH

from September 2024 to February 2025

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology

Auburn University

Born in 1987 in Dallas, Tex., USA

B.A. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University, Ph.D. in Neurobiology

and Behavior from Cornell University

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION IN THE SUPERORGANISM NEST

Superorganisms, such as ants, bees, wasps, and termites, are a unique form of biological organization whereby multicellular organisms combine to form a functional unit (e.g., workers combine to form a colony). Superorganisms perform all the same biological imperatives – to survive, grow, and reproduce – but this often requires coordinating activities across hundreds, or even millions, of individuals. Therefore, social insects are an ideal system for understanding how evolution solves common organizational problems. One such problem is how to spatially organize resources within the nest.

An organism's appearance is the result of evolutionary pressures, and those same pressures apply to the structures organisms build, such as nests. Spatial organization is a common feature of life on earth, and just as unicellular, multicellular, and even ecological systems are spatially organized, so too are nests. For example, colonies often designate specific areas of the nest for storing food, rearing young, and producing reproductives. In the Western honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, there is a general pattern of nest organization: brood at the center of the nest, honey at the top, and a thin layer of pollen in-between. While there are many models for how bees organize their nests, the underlying empirical data are sparse, and previous work has not incorporated how nest organization changes throughout colony development.

Using data amassed over 10+ years, my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg will be spent exploring the spatial organization of the superorganism nest, to explore how nests are organized, how spatial patterns change over colony development, and how spatial models can inspire new experimental work. Broadly, this work offers a unique perspective into the evolutionary, developmental, and behavioral processes that underlie the organization of biological systems.

Recommended Reading

Smith, Michael L., Nils Napp, and Kirstin H. Petersen (2021). “Imperfect Comb Construction Reveals the Architectural Abilities of Honeybees.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (31): e2103605118.
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2103605118>.

Marting, Peter R., Benjamin Koger, and Michael L. Smith (2023). “Manipulating Nest Architecture Reveals Three-Dimensional Building Strategies and Colony Resilience in Honeybees.” *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 290: 20222565. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.2565>.

Smith, Michael L., Kevin J. Loope, Bajaree Chuttong, Jana Dobelmann, James C. Makinson, Tatsuya Saga, Kirstin H. Petersen, and Nils Napp (2023). “Honey Bees and Social Wasps Reach Convergent Architectural Solutions to Nest-Building Problems.” *PLoS Biology* 21 (7): e3002211.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002211>.

BARBARA STOLLBERG-RILINGER

Rektorin des Wissenschaftskollegs

Dr. phil., Professorin für Geschichte der Frühen Neuzeit

Geboren 1955 in Bergisch Gladbach, Deutschland

Studium der Geschichte, Germanistik und Kunstgeschichte
an der Universität zu Köln

GRAUSAMKEIT, DISZIPLIN UND VERZWEIFLUNG: FRIEDRICH WILHELM I. UND DER PREUSSISCHE MYTHOS

Friedrich Wilhelm I., der legendäre preußische „Soldatenkönig“ (1688–1740), traumatisierte seinen Sohn, den späteren König Friedrich „den Großen“, demütigte seine Töchter, verprügelte seine Diener, misstraute seinen Beamten, verabscheute die Gelehrten, verachtete den Adel, mied die Frauen, war legendär geizig und detailversessen, rauchte, trank, fluchte und tobte, hielt aber peinlich auf Sauberkeit, Drill und strengste Frömmigkeit. Sein bizarres Verhalten desavouierte sämtliche Normen und Werte der zeitgenössischen Eliten. In Europa seiner Zeit galt er deshalb als lächerlicher Tyrann, dessen Macht früher oder später von selbst zusammenbrechen würde. Das war bekanntlich ein Irrtum. Im preußisch-deutschen Nationalmythos des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts spielte Friedrich Wilhelm I. die Rolle des großen Staats- und Heeresbaumeisters; selbst kritischen Historikern galt er als derjenige, der „das deutsche Volk zum Preußentum erzog“. Daran konnte der Alliierte Kontrollrat nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg anknüpfen, als er Preußen als „Träger des Militarismus und der Reaktion“ von der Landkarte strich. Es ist kein Wunder, dass sich der König derzeit wachsender Beliebtheit bei der Neuen Rechten erfreut.

Was mich an dieser bizarren Figur interessiert, ist zweierlei. Zum einen lässt sich an dem Umgang des Königs mit seinen Favoriten, Ministern, Beamten und Untertanen die soziale Logik der Autokratie veranschaulichen. Meine These ist, dass dieser König sich verhielt wie ein sozialer Außenseiter statt wie ein Erb-

monarch und die Grundlagen seiner eigenen Legitimität untergrub. Zum anderen interessiert mich der radikale Normenwandel, den er einleitete: vom Wandel des Männlichkeitsideals, des körperlichen Habitus und des Kleidungsstils bis hin zum Wandel des Wirtschaftsverhaltens, der Regierungspraxis und der Organisation physischer Gewalt. Die Frage ist: Wie kam es dazu, dass das, was besorgte Zeitgenossen als Folge einer schweren Affektstörung des Königs betrachteten, nachträglich als genialer Plan erscheinen konnte?

Lektüreempfehlung

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

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

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

RONI TAHARLEV
from February to July 2025
Artist
Jaffa

Born in 1964 in Kibbutz Yagur, Israel

THE SWING

I am an Israeli artist, investigating portraits and human figures from observation, and in continual dialogue with the classical tradition of Western art. In particular, my work over the past fifteen years focuses on how bodies are gendered and on the social and cultural expectations from supposedly gendered bodies, reflecting relations of power in 21st-century contexts. The project I wish to carry out at the Wissenschaftskolleg takes this work to the key topic of sexual apprehension. By sexual apprehension I mean that ubiquitous sense of vulnerability and potential danger into which women are socialized from a very early age, an ever-present socio-cultural grounding that shapes and conditions their physical comportment, body language, and gestures in the public sphere and in the company of others. These practices are so ingrained that they are rarely conscious, and it is precisely for this reason that they are one of the most fundamental experiences of women, as if inscribed onto their DNA, even today at the age of supposed women's liberation and the #MeToo movement.

Although I conceptualized this series before the war of 7 October 2023, my own personal trauma and the collective Israeli and Palestinian traumas that have been accruing since then, not least the unimaginable sexual assaults and violence that have since been documented, obviously shape my conception of this project and alter its meaning.

My starting point is Jean-Honoré Fragonard's *The Swing*, a famous painting from the Rococo period that is usually taken as the sugar candy of relations between the sexes in a period of frolic and playfulness. In fact, however, this painting is the epitome of the embodied and embedded experience of sexual appre-

hension. A woman without a face, really a faceless dress, a passive woman toy, that has no agency as she is rocked up and down by one man while another is looking up her dress. My proposed series will use the swing – with its back-and-forth mixture of swinging action and passive subjection – in subtle ways to explore questions of objectification versus agency, passivity versus power, apprehension versus control. I will try to explore the inherent sexual apprehension already conditioning woman's bodies as against more forceful and nonconforming female figures that defy and subvert this predicament.

Recommended Reading

Taharlev, Roni: Undressing the Nude. Edited by Haim Maor. Be'er Sheva: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 2018. Exhibition catalog.

Taharlev, Roni: White Ravens 2015–2019. Edited by Aya Lurie. Herzliya: Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, 2019. Exhibition catalog.

Taharlev, Roni: Not This Light, the Other Light. Edited by Galit Landau Epstein. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 2023. Exhibition catalog.

JOANNA TOKARSKA-BAKIR

from February to July 2025

Dr. habil., Professor of Humanities

Institute of Slavic Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Born in 1958 in Warsaw

M.A. in Ethnology and Dr. in Ethnology from the University of Warsaw

TOWARDS A POGROM MODEL KIT. THE CASE OF BRZESKO 1918

My current work in progress is a trilogy on the major Polish postwar pogroms, covered in reverse order: starting from the last one in Kielce (July 4, 1946), then on to Kraków (August 11, 1945), then to the earliest pogrom in Rzeszów (June 12, 1945). My first book, *Cursed: A Social Portrait of the Kielce Pogrom*, was published in English by Cornell University Press in 2023. My second book, *Rough Music: A Polyphonic History of the Kraków Pogrom*, will be out in Polish this June. The third book will deal with the Rzeszów Pogrom of June 1945, and I am now preparing to embark on this task.

In order to approach my objective with fresh eyes, I have decided to turn to the Brzesko pogrom of 1918, comparing its plot and the resultant trial with the parallel aspects of the aftermath of the Holocaust. How were pogroms treated under the imperial Austrian system in comparison with Communist times? What patterns can be distinguished in the behavior of a minority group? What impact did the verdicts reached in this trial have on the turbulent anti-Jewish sentiment that accompanied Poland's regained independence?

While working on my books, I have made numerous requests at Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (and cross-checked with other archival resources) to view files concerning specific people. These inquiries pertained not only to the victims, but to every single Communist militiaman, railway security guard, Secret Police functionary, and soldier of the Polish Army whose names feature in the investigation that was launched following the pogrom.

My approach is premised on the methodological assumptions akin to the prosopographic method of Lewis Namier, who, while exploring the collective biography of the English political elite of the 18th century, was able to prove that it was guided by their own interest, constituency, or faction, while the declared ideology of their parties was largely a fiction.

Recommended Reading

Tokarska-Bakir, Joanna. *Pogrom Cries: Essays on Polish-Jewish History, 1939–1946*. Translated by Blanka Zahorjanova, Avner Greenberg, Paul Vickers, and others. Berlin: Peter Lang, 2017.

—. *Jewish Fugitives in the Polish Countryside, 1939–1945: Beyond the German Holocaust Project*. Translated by Yechezkiel Anis, Ewa Gedroyc, Nicholas Hodge, Jerzy Jurus, Jessica Taylor-Kucia, Benjamin Voelkel. Berlin: Peter Lang, 2022.

—. *Cursed: A Social Portrait of the Kielce Pogrom*. Translated by Ewa Wampuszyc. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023.

ASONZEH UKAH

Dr. phil., Professor and Chair of the Study of Religions
Director of the African Centre for Religions, Ethics, and Society
University of Cape Town

Born in 1965 in Takoradi, Ghana
BA in Comparative Religions, MA in Sociology of Religion, and MSc in
Industrial Sociology from the University of Ibadan, Dr. phil. in History of
Religions from the University of Bayreuth

INFRASACRED FORMATIONS: THE MORAL ECONOMIES OF SACRED SPACE IN AFRICA

My project intends to interrogate the conceptualisation, practice, and meaning of apocalyptic politics as embedded in the material constructions of religious structures in secular urban environments in two African cities, Lagos in Nigeria and Kampala in Uganda. Because of the influence of Christianity and Christian scholars, until recently the history of the academic study of religion was dominated by the focus on dogma, beliefs, rituals, ceremonies, and morality. Recently, however, a materialist turn has started paying critical attention to the role of material objects, visuality, aesthetics, and images in the construction of belief and the social significance of religion, lived religion, and religious community. Following on the heels of this materialist gaze is another significant intervention, that of a spatial turn in understanding the role of place in the constitution and construction of religious identity, autonomy, sacred practices, and community (of) belief and unbelief. My research engages with and contributes to these two significant scholarly trajectories in the academic study of religion: materialist and spatial turns in understanding the role and place of religious social transformation in Africa. I have done ethnographic fieldwork in some prayer camps or ritual retreat centres in or on the fringes of large African cities under the “Miracle Cities Project,” a comparative research project I managed from 2016 onwards. However, there are aspects of my research that are yet to be fully

analysed and reported, which will be the focus of my attention during my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Using data from Lagos (Nigeria) and Kampala (Uganda), I am particularly interested in the intersection of sacred infrastructural formations and constructions within Prayer Camps and ongoing political and economic restructuring in urban Africa in contemporary times. My research underscores a central feature of ongoing transformations in Africa resulting in arguably the most profound changes in the realm of the religious, especially in the making, remaking, and unmaking of sacred spaces and places. These changes have given rise to new forms of urbanities, spectacularisation of religious identities, and new practices of city-making that intersect and interrogate modern concepts and practices of cities and secularities, as well as inform the emergence of apocalyptic politics, attempts at political restructuring based on claimed revealed insights from metasocial sources.

Recommended Reading

- Ukah, Asonzeh. "Emplacing God: The Social Worlds of Miracle Cities – Perspectives from Nigeria and Uganda." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 36, no. 3 (2018): 351–368. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02589001.2018.1492094>.
- . "'God Reloaded': The Pentecostal Political Transgression and Africa's Non-secularity." In *Religion in the Era of Postsecularism*, edited by Uchenna Okeja, 148–170. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.
- . "Sacred Surplus and Pentecostal Too-Muchness: The Salvation Economy of African Megachurches." In *Handbook of Megachurches*, edited by Stephen Hunt, 323–344. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

JULIANE VOGEL

Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs

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

Literaturwissenschaft

Universität Konstanz

Geboren 1959 in Mainz, Deutschland

Studium der Germanistik und Anglistik an der Universität Wien und der

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

TRAVELING FORMS. A GLOSSARY

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

tigen, wobei ich mich mit den kognitiven Voraussetzungen dramatischer Konstruktionen auseinandersetze.

Lektüreempfehlung

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

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

NIKOLAUS WACHSMANN

PhD, Professor of History

Birkbeck College, University of London

Born in 1971 in Munich, Germany

BSc in Government and History from the London School of Economics and Political Science, MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History from the University of Cambridge, PhD in History from Birkbeck College, University of London

AUSCHWITZ. A NEW HISTORY

I am writing a new history of Auschwitz, the biggest and deadliest camp in Nazi Germany. During World War Two, over one million men, women, and children were murdered here, the vast majority of them Jews. The camp existed for less than five years, following its establishment by the SS in occupied Poland in 1940. During this brief period, Auschwitz was never the same from one day to the next, reflecting dramatic changes in its function. Set up by the occupiers to subjugate the Polish population, it evolved into an enormous camp complex with multiple overlapping purposes, from slave labour for the German war effort to the Holocaust. Operating as both concentration camp and death camp, Auschwitz played a singular role in the Third Reich, and has become the “central metaphor for evil in our time” (Saul Friedländer). My book will offer a comprehensive history of the camp, using different levels of magnification. Viewing Auschwitz through a wide lens reveals the broader historical context, while microscopic lenses provide close-up views of those who lived and died here and of their immediate surroundings. To help us imagine the “unimaginable reality” of Auschwitz (as one inmate put it at the time), the study focuses on the lived experience of prisoners, perpetrators, and local onlookers. Drawing on a wide range of source materials and approaches, it aims to reconstruct essential elements of everyday life – including spaces, sights, sounds, and smells – as well as the daily routines that came to define the camp.

Recommended Reading

- Wachsmann, Nikolaus. *Hitler's Prisons: Legal Terror in Nazi Germany*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004. German: *Gefangen unter Hitler: Justizterror und Strafvollzug im NS-Staat*. Munich: Siedler, 2006.
- . *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*. London: Little, Brown; New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015. German: *KL: Die Geschichte der nationalsozialistischen Konzentrationslager*. Munich: Siedler, 2016.
- . "Lived Experience and the Holocaust: Spaces, Senses and Emotions in Auschwitz." *Journal of the British Academy* 9 (2021): 27–58.

ABRAHAM WINITZER

Ph.D., Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies
University of Notre Dame

Born in 1970 in Haifa, Israel

B.A. and M.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University,
M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Ph.D. in Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University

A PHILOSOPHICAL REFORMATION? BIBLICAL DEMYTHOLOGIZATION OF MESOPOTAMIAN MYTH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

My project concerns some central mythic texts and traditions from Mesopotamia – both on their own and in their reformation in the Hebrew Bible – and how these may be understood. Specifically, the question I will try to answer is whether these materials qualify as examples of philosophical expression – of philosophy. In the case of Mesopotamia, the answer to this question has been, for nearly a century, a flat no, owing to a perceived inability of this literature to “emancipate” itself from mythic language and forms taken as fundamental to the thinking underlying it. Yet great strides made of late in thinking about the possibility of philosophical and scientific thinking in Mesopotamia with respect to related literatures have challenged previous thinking. The finding of systematic expressions, formal logic, and epistemology in Mesopotamian scholarly texts has led to proposals to understand those texts as reflective of Mesopotamian philosophy and science. For reasons noted, the same has not been true for the mythic texts, though a new way of looking at things may challenge this conception as well.

Specifically, I propose to approach the question from a partly comparative perspective, informed by important new findings on a deeper knowledge of these traditions in the Hebrew Bible. These findings, moreover, shed better light on the manner by which mythic imagery, forms, and thought in these traditions are replaced by naturalistic and even abstract ways of presentation in

their biblical reformations. My project aims to put these cases together so as to investigate their collective significance. I shall inquire whether the biblical adaptation of Mesopotamian mythology can be explained as a process of demythologization or the removal of mythic elements in favor of non-mythic representations and understandings of the same traditions. I will also weigh in on the question of whether such a program would mark a radical turn in human intellectual development, perhaps even the beginnings of rationalism worthy of the designation of philosophy? Finally, I will return to the Mesopotamian texts and traditions and reevaluate them in light of the preceding. As a conclusion to the project, I will strive to answer whether mythic parallels to later demythologized counterparts may simply be discounted as philosophy solely on account of the imagery, language, and forms by which they are conveyed.

Recommended Reading

- Winitzer, Abraham. "Etana in Eden: New Light on the Mesopotamian and Biblical Tales in Their Semitic Context." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 133, no. 3 (2013): 441–465.
- . "World Literature as a Source for Israelite History: Gilgamesh in Ezekiel 16." In *Writing and Rewriting History in Ancient Israel and Near Eastern Cultures*, edited by Isaac Kalimi, 103–120. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2020.
- . "Atrahasis, behind the First Sin that Cried to Heaven and Related Matters." *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 23, no. 1 (2023): 69–106.

EYAL WINTER

from April to July 2025

Ph.D., Silverzweig Professor of Economics

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Born in 1959 in Jerusalem

Ph.D. in Game Theory from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

GAME THEORETIC MODELS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

During the past several decades, social media have changed modern society, but the influence of academic research on social media's practices and policies has been limited. The purpose of my research project is to use game theoretic and behavioral economic modeling to understand the incentives and motives behind the behavior of social media platforms and their users. Game theory and behavioral economics are two academic disciplines that are very relevant for studying social media's policies. Game theory is the theory of interactive decision making. Through many decades of research, the field has produced plenty of analytical tools that allow us to understand better how different policies may affect behavior. In recent years the sub-fields of mechanism design and network theory flourished, and tools/results that are more specifically relevant for policy making in the sphere of social media have been developed. Behavioral economics (which emerged from game theory) brings psychological and sociological aspects into the discussion, as well as empirical tools such as lab and field experiments. Game theory and behavioral economics are my main fields of interest. In recent years my work has been highly interdisciplinary and I have published jointly with economists, psychologists, legal studies people, and computer scientists. During my fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg I intend to study incentive mechanisms for online social networks and interact with other Fellows in the institute with a similar interest. In addition to standard game theoretic analysis, we will address relevant behavioral biases (such as confirmation bias or ingroup-outgroup bias) to reflect on some of the anomalies that take place in social media

and to suggest remedies. We hope that the by-products of our studies will help to improve the quality of content that appears on social media, increase the efficiency and fairness of social media practices, and eventually improve users' benefits and experience from their interactions on social media.

Recommended Reading

Winter, Eyal. "Incentives and Discrimination." *American Economic Review* 94, no. 3 (2004): 764–773.

—. *Feeling Smart: Why Our Emotions Are More Rational than We Think*. New York: PublicAffairs Publishing, 2014. German: *Kluge Gefühle: Warum Angst, Wut und Liebe rationaler sind, als wir denken*. Translated by Harald Stadler. Cologne: DuMont, 2015.

Nora, Vladyslav, and Eyal Winter. "Exploiting Social Influence in Networks." *Theoretical Economics* 19 (2024): 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.3982/TE5068>.

LEA YPI

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

PhD, Professor in Political Theory

London School of Economics and Political Science

Honorary Professor in Philosophy, Australian National University, Canberra

Born in 1979 in Tirana

Laurea in Philosophy and Laurea Specialistica in Literature from the University of Rome La Sapienza, Master of Research in Political Science and PhD in Political Theory from the European University Institute

DIGNITY AND HISTORICAL INJUSTICE: THE HISTORY OF AN ALBANIAN FAMILY

Ypi will work on a book project provisionally entitled “Indignity” that explores the moral and political meanings of dignity (both individual and collective). Written as a hybrid text merging literature, history, and philosophy, the book starts with the description of a series of visits to the archives of the former secret police of communist Albania, where the narrator tries to piece together the files contained on her grandmother: Leman Ypi. As the author revisits events in Balkan history, from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to the rise of communism, and as she reimagines and reconstructs transformative events in Leman’s life, the book addresses a series of questions: upon what do we base our conceptions of the past? Out of the stories of our lives, whose perspective do we recreate? Does truth and truth alone preserve the dignity of a life? How can one achieve reconciliation in societies divided by the legacy of the past?

Recommended Reading

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

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

— *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History*. Penguin Press, 2021. German: *Frei: Erwachsenwerden am Ende der Geschichte*. Translated by Eva Bonné. Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2022.

BÉNÉDICTE ZIMMERMANN

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Dr., Directrice d'études

École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris

Born in 1965 in Mulhouse, France

Studied History and Political Science at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-

Sorbonne and the Institut d'études politiques de Paris

IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABLE WORK

Work has been a latecomer to sustainability debates, and it remains unclear what sustainability exactly means in relation to work. Whereas trade unions and labor studies used to focus on the individual and social sustainability of work (in the sense of work that does not endanger the physical and mental health of workers and may contribute to their well-being), another understanding that asks how work relates to ecological sustainability (in the sense of the contribution of work to climate warming, pollution, and loss of biodiversity) is gaining importance. How do these two understandings interrelate? And can work be sustainable at all in a growth- and profit-oriented capitalist economy?

Based on an empirical examination of initiatives claiming to pursue social and ecological sustainability in the sphere of work, the project aims to contribute to a critical conceptualization of sustainable work.

Recommended Reading

Renard, Léa, and Bénédicte Zimmermann. “‘Gute Arbeit’ und ‘qualité de vie au travail’: Kategorisierungsprozesse im deutsch-französischen Vergleich.” *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 30, nos. 3–4 (2020): 421–451. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11609-021-00432-y>.

Herzog, Lisa, Katrin Sold, and Bénédicte Zimmermann. “Essential Work: A Category in the Making?” In *Shifting Categories of Work: Unsettling the Ways We Think about Jobs, Labor and Activities*, edited by Lisa Herzog and Bénédicte Zimmermann, 252–264. London: Routledge, 2022.

Herzog, Lisa, and Bénédicte Zimmermann, eds. *Shifting Categories of Work: Unsettling the Ways We Think about Jobs, Labor and Activities*. London: Routledge, 2022.

COLLEGE FOR LIFE SCIENCES

Mit dem *College for Life Sciences* will das Wissenschaftskolleg Forscherinnen und Forschern aus den Lebenswissenschaften am Beginn ihrer Karriere Gelegenheit geben, in der anregenden Atmosphäre eines internationalen und multidisziplinären Institute for Advanced Study zu arbeiten. Je nach persönlicher Situation soll der Aufenthalt den ausgewählten Junior Fellows dazu dienen, frühere Arbeiten oder empirische Daten zu analysieren oder zu überdenken, Ideen zu entwickeln, Forschungspläne zu entwerfen, sich neu zu orientieren – jedenfalls für eine beschränkte Zeit aus der Routine der täglichen Arbeit auszuweichen und dabei mit Wissenschaftlerinnen, Künstlern und Intellektuellen verschiedenster Fachgebiete und Traditionen zu interagieren.

Die Fellows des *College for Life Sciences*, die nach Begutachtung durch ein Scientific Committee für eine Dauer von drei bis fünf Monaten eingeladen werden, sind den Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs gleichgestellt. Das Wissenschaftskolleg stellt Stipendium, Unterkunft und Dienstleistungen zur Verfügung.

With the *College for Life Sciences*, the Wissenschaftskolleg wants to provide early-career researchers in the life sciences with the opportunity to work in the stimulating atmosphere of an international and multidisciplinary Institute for Advanced Study. Depending on the personal situations of the selected Junior Fellows, the residency should serve them to analyze or rethink earlier work or empirical data, develop ideas and research plans, gain new orientation – at any rate, to drop out of the routine of their daily work and to interact with scientists, artists, and intellectuals from the widest possible spectrum of fields and traditions.

Selected by a Scientific Committee, the Fellows of the *College for Life Sciences* are invited to come for three to five months. They are on equal terms with the Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg. The Wissenschaftskolleg provides the stipend, accommodation, and services.

Fellows des College for Life Sciences

Ashley Dungan	Microbial Ecology	Melbourne / Townsville, QLD
Mariana Gómez-Schiavon	Systems Biology	Queretaro
Rachel Gregor	Chemical Microbial Ecology	Cambridge, MA
Yolanda Ohene	Neuroimaging	Manchester
Michael L. Smith	Animal Behavior	Auburn

ISO LOMSO FELLOWSHIPS

Iso Lomso bedeutet in isiXhosa „das Auge von morgen“: in die Zukunft blicken, den Grundstein für das Morgen legen. Mit dem *Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme* hat das Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) im Jahr 2017 eine Förderlinie speziell für afrikanische Nachwuchswissenschaftlerinnen und -wissenschaftler aus allen Disziplinen etabliert. Die Fellowships in diesem Programm erstrecken sich über drei Jahre, von denen zehn Residenzmonate – in drei Etappen – am STIAS absolviert werden. Einige dieser Residenzmonate können alternativ an einem internationalen Partnerinstitut verbracht werden. Das Wissenschaftskolleg ist ein solches Partnerinstitut und lädt in jedem akademischen Jahr in der Regel zwei Fellows aus dem *Iso Lomso Programme* ein, für drei Monate ans Kolleg zu kommen.

Iso Lomso means “the eye of tomorrow” in isiXhosa: seeing towards the future, laying the foundations for tomorrow. In 2017, the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) established with the Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme a support programme especially for young African academics from all disciplines. The fellowships in this programme last for three years, of which ten months consist of residence in three stages at the STIAS. Alternatively, some of these residence months can be spent at an international partner institute. The Wissenschaftskolleg is such a partner institute and, as a rule, each year invites two Fellows from the Iso Lomso Programme to come to the Kolleg for three months.

Iso Lomso Fellows

Philippe Djourwe	Quantum Optics	Ngaoundéré
Jerry Ochola	Materials Engineering	Eldoret

VUIAS FELLOWSHIP

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

Im akademischen Jahr 2024/2025 werden voraussichtlich etwa 40 VUIAS-Fellowships an ukrainische Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler unterschiedlicher Disziplinen vergeben. Etwa die Hälfte davon sind *VUIAS Fellowships abroad*, die von verschiedenen Institutes for Advanced Study in Europa und den USA ausgeschrieben und finanziert werden. *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* werden an Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler vergeben, die ihre Arbeit an Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen in der Ukraine weiterführen.

VUIAS Fellow abroad 2024/2025 am Wissenschaftskolleg ist
Volodymyr Ryzhkovskyi.

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

Planned for the academic year 2024/2025 is to award about 40 VUIAS Fellowships to Ukrainian scholars from various disciplines. About half of them are *VUIAS Fellowships abroad*, funded and hosted by some of the world's leading Institutes for Advanced Study in Europe and the USA. *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* are granted to scholars continuing their work in universities and research institutions in Ukraine.

VUIAS Fellow abroad 2024/2025 at the Wissenschaftskolleg is
Volodymyr Ryzhkovskyi.

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