



Universität  
Konstanz



# Zukunftskolleg

## Newsletter

### Issue 1/2020

Dear fellows and friends,

We wish you a Happy New Year! As the new year is only beginning, we look back with pleasure at what we have achieved in 2019. We experienced many workshops, lectures and other events that gave us food for thought. We especially thank the organizers, speakers and other guests who came to the Zukunftskolleg and shared new and exciting perspectives with us!

Towards the end of the last year, we received many applications for the various funding programmes offered by the Zukunftskolleg. We are especially happy to announce the second call for Zukunftskolleg Konnect Fellowships (further information below). Furthermore, we would like to announce that the Annual Report 2018/19 is available. We hope you enjoy reading about all the prestigious research projects our

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fellows have been a part of and other great developments at the Zukunftskolleg.

Finally, we wish you a good start to the new decade! We are happy to see you back at the Zukunftskolleg!

With warm greetings

The Zukunftskolleg team

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- Group leader position for Oleksandra Kukharenko

# New call for applications for funding programmes

The Zukunftskolleg has issued new calls for applications for six funding programmes. The deadline for all programmes is **15 February 2020**, except for the Research Visit Programme, for which the application deadline is **28 February 2020**.

The **Mentorship Programme** enables postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz to meet with distinguished colleagues both in Germany and abroad and to maintain these contacts. [Read more](#).

The **Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme** aims to promote the development of new teaching courses and expand departmental syllabi. It gives the opportunity to explore new, innovative topics in teaching and to expand participants' teaching skills and their interdisciplinary approach to teaching. [Read more](#).

The **Intersectoral Cooperative Programme** aims to promote collaboration between early career researchers and the nonacademic sector. It supports collaboration on joint research projects with companies, social and cultural institutions, archives, public institutions or nonprofit organizations. [Read more](#).

The **Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects Programme** gives grant holders the opportunity to identify and explore new, innovative or risky research perspectives with neighbouring disciplines and across disciplines. [Read more](#).

The **Independent Research Grant** aims to promote independent research by postdocs at the University of Konstanz. In particular, we encourage applications to support exploration of new ideas and in carrying out pilot projects. The grant may cover consumables, equipment, travel costs and student research assistants. Funding of doctoral or postdoctoral positions is excluded. [Read more.](#)

These programmes are **open to all postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz.**

The **Research Visit programmes** (for Zukunftscolleg's fellows only!) seek to enhance international research cooperation and to support international mobility. They fund temporary research stays both at the Zukunftscolleg and abroad that promote international exchange among peers:

(1) The Research Visit programme for Zukunftscolleg fellows encourages temporary assignments for one to three months at either a partner institution or a location of the applicant's choice (Outgoing Research Visit).

(2) Zukunftscolleg fellows can nominate international early career researchers for a Research Visit to the Zukunftscolleg lasting from one up to three months (Invited Research Visit).

(3) Early career researchers from the Zukunftscolleg's partner institutes can apply for a Research Visit at the Zukunftscolleg lasting from one up to three months (Network Research Visit).

(4) In honour of the 25th anniversary of the Iași-Konstanz partnership, the Zukunftscolleg and the International Office of the University of Konstanz jointly provide funding for Network Research Visits for early career researchers from the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași at the Zukunftscolleg.

The grant will cover travel and accommodation costs. [Read more.](#)



# New call for Zukunftscolleg Konnect Fellowships

The Zukunftscolleg is pleased to announce the second call for Zukunftscolleg Konnect Fellowships (former AAA Fellowships). The ZUKOnnect Fellowships support early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America associated with one of the thirteen departments of the University of Konstanz.

The ZUKOnnect Fellowships will help to strengthen the cultural diversity at the Zukunftscolleg and will thereby promote and stimulate the intellectual and integrative discourse amongst our fellows. By broadening our academic horizons to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, we want to advance intercontinental dialogue in research.

The fellowships have a duration of three to four months, which gives the fellows enough time to extend their research networks into new regions, and initiate intercontinental research partnerships. The research stays at the Zukunftscolleg also enable ZUKOnnect Fellows to get to know the research environment at the University of Konstanz and enrich the scientific discussions at the university without losing ties to their home universities. [Read more.](#)



# Recent call for research funding opportunities at the Zukunftskolleg

In late 2019, the Zukunftskolleg had issued calls for applications for funding programmes, open to all postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz. The deadline for all programmes was 31 October 2019, except for the Research Visit Programme, for which the application deadline was extended to 30 November 2019.

The **Mentorship Programme** enables postdoctoral researchers at the University of Konstanz to meet with distinguished colleagues both in Germany and abroad and to maintain these contacts. [Read more.](#)

Five applications were submitted. The following applications were approved:

Eva Lievens (Biology), Mentor: Kayla King (University of Oxford); Project title: "*The effect of multistep infections on the evolution of host-parasite systems*"

Katharina Zahner (Linguistics), Mentor: Anne Cutler (MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University, Australia); Project title: "*Towards promoting awareness for the teaching and learning of prosody in a foreign language*"

Maria Zhukova (Literature), Mentors: Stephen Hutchings and Vera Tolz (University of Manchester, UK); Project title: "*Reframing Russia for the Global Mediasphere: From Cold War to 'Information War'*"

Katarina Zigova (Sociology), Mentor: Chris Doucouliagos (Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia); Project title: "*Ideological Biases in Effect Size Reporting (continuation of Publication Bias and Authors' Characteristics)*"

The **Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects Programme** gives grant holders the opportunity to identify and explore new, innovative or risky research perspectives with neighbouring disciplines and across disciplines. [Read more.](#)

Two applications were submitted, one was granted:

Yury Shevchenko (Psychology); Project title: "*Open Lab: an open-science platform for online data collection*"

The **Intersectoral Cooperative Programme** aims to promote collaboration between early career researchers and the nonacademic sector. It supports collaboration on joint research projects with companies, social and cultural institutions, archives, public institutions or nonprofit organizations.

One application was submitted and granted:

Cristina Ruiz Agudo (Chemistry) in cooperation with the IPG Pulvertechnik AG  
Project title: "*Super-hydrophobic powder-coatings for self-cleaning surfaces*"

The **Research Visit Programme** seeks to enhance international research cooperation and to support international mobility. The Zukunftskolleg provides funding for Research Visits for international early career researchers (Invited Research Visits), Research Visits for international early career researchers (Network Research Visits), as well as Research Visits

for Zukunftskolleg Fellows (Outgoing Research Visits).

Three applications have been received in total, two for a Network Research Visit, one for an Invited Research Visit. All three were granted:

Ebi Antony George (Biology); National Centre for Biological Sciences", India; Invited Research Visit; Project title: "*The effect of social and individual information in regulating the foraging behaviour in bumblebee colonies*"

Juan Javier Rivera Andía (History and Sociology); Department of Anthropology/ University of Bonn, Germany; Network Research Visit; Project title: "*Symbiotic Entanglements of Humans and Non-Humans in the Anthropocene: Ethnographic Perspectives from South America*"

Sergiu Sava (Philosophy); Al. I. Cuza University of Iași, Romania; Network Research Visit; Project title: "*Collective Intentionality, Counter-Intentionality: Analytic Philosophy, Phenomenology*"

**We congratulate the researchers on having their projects approved!**



## Recent call for 2-year and 5-year fellowships

In its current call for three 2- and two 5-year Fellowships (the closing date for applications was 15 October 2019), the Zukunftskolleg received 132 applications. Among them 109 applications for the 2-year Fellowships (applicants: 65 male, 43 female, 1 other) and 23 applications for the 5-year Fellowships (applicants: 19 male, 4 female). From all 132 applications, 18 came from Germany, 114 from abroad.

In its first meeting on 4 December, the Recruitment Committee chose the finalists for the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships and the 5-year Research Fellowships. In its second meeting on 23 and 24 January 2020, the committee will decide on the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellows who will be offered positions. From 12-13 February 2020, the "Workshop on Future Research Directions" for the candidates applying for a 5-year Research Fellowship will take place. [Read more.](#)



## Latest reports

### Annual Report 2018/2019

The Zukunftskolleg's Annual Report is published once per academic year. The newest edition covers the academic year 2018/2019 and is available now.

The Annual Report includes information about recent activities and research projects of our fellows while providing insight into our institutional structures and positioning within the academic world.

If you wish to receive a printed copy, please email Sigrid Elmer at [zukunftskolleg-pr@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:zukunftskolleg-pr@uni-konstanz.de). The report can also be downloaded [here](#).



## Blog on Un/certainty

In 2018, the Zukunftscolleg and the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem organized a symposium entitled Un/certainty. This symposium has now resulted in a joint [blog](#). There you can read the posts "Three Kinds of Uncertainty in Multilingualism Research" by Tanja Rinker, "The Experiment: What are Errors and why do we keep on making them?" by Lina Nikou, Maria Zhukova, Julian Torres-Dowdall, and Yonatan N. Gez, and "Knowledge under Un/certainty" by Andrea Lailach-Hennrich.

Just like the Zukunftscolleg the Martin Buber Society is interdisciplinary oriented and supports excellent research. Therefore collaboration and exchange between the two institutions bears high potential and proved to be fruitful





# Review of events

## Scientific Advisory Board meeting

The [Scientific Advisory Board](#) focuses on the future development of the Zukunftskolleg. Its members are renowned researchers from Germany and abroad who enjoy international recognition in their research fields. With their external perspective and expertise, they advise the Executive Committee and propose strategies for advancing the Zukunftskolleg's profile.

The meeting took place on 29 October 2019 at the University of Konstanz. The advisory board was welcomed by the rector of the University, Dr Kerstin Krieglstein, and held an internal meeting with the Executive Committee. In the afternoon, the fellows presented their interdisciplinary projects as part of an open meeting and at a poster session.





## Migration meets Music - vernissage and music at Café Mondial

On 6 November 2019, the exhibition of five pieces of art by British illustrator George Butler had its opening at Café Mondial in Konstanz followed by music from the “Blue Stockings”.

After the special jour fixe series on “Migration” in summer 2019 within the UBIAS’ Topic of the Year 2019 and the exhibition “Anima Mundi” in the foyer of the library of the university, the artwork by George Butler came to Café Mondial.



At the opening ceremony, Andrea Flack (Biology/ Cluster of Excellence “Collective Behaviour”) presented her research on storks and their migratory routes “In graphic detail: revealing the secret flight of storks”; followed by Lorenz Wiese (Politics and Public Administration / member of the managing board of Café Mondial) who provided input on current migration and asylum policies. After a lively discussion, the all-female band “Blue Stockings” rounded off the evening by performed a selection of their songs. [Read more.](#)

**We thank Andrea Flack and Lorenz Wiese for their contributions and George Butler for sharing his illustrations with us!**



## Netias meeting in Edinburgh

The Netias Directors met at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities on 11 and 12 November in Edinburgh. Daniela Kromrey from the Zukunftscolleg participated in the meeting and the discussion about the network’s future orientations and activities.







## Presentations by AAA fellows

**Jour fixe talks by Hamadjam Abboubakar, Denisha Gounden and Abena Yalley on 15 October 2019**

**Hamadjam Abboubakar** (Mathematics and Statistics, Cameroon)  
"Mathematical Modelling and optimal control of typhoid fever"  
[Read more.](#)

**Denisha Gounden** (Chemistry, South Africa)  
"Synthesis of alternative materials for the construction of photovoltaic cells"  
[Read more.](#)

**Abena Yalley** (Gender Studies, Nigeria)  
"Police interventions in domestic violence: A cure or a curse for battered women in Southern Ghana and Lagos, Nigeria"  
[Read more.](#)



## Presentation by new fellow (I)

**Jour fixe talk by Benjamin Eva on 22 October 2019**

**Benjamin Eva** (Philosophy)  
"The Lockean Theory of Belief Change"  
His research project focuses on the problem of identifying the basic rules and strategies that rational agents should follow if they hope to successfully develop new theories and concepts for describing the world in a fruitful way.  
[Read more.](#)



## Presentations by new fellows (II)

**Jour fixe presentations by Henri Kauhanen and Ariana Strandburg-Peshkin on 5 November 2019**

**Henri Kauhanen** (Linguistics)  
"{Big|small} data, {big|small} theory? Some thoughts on the past, present and future of language dynamics"  
[Read more.](#)

**Ariana Strandburg-Peshkin** (Biology)  
"Communication and collective behaviour in animal societies"  
[Read more.](#)



## Open Mic Jour fixe winter semester(I)

**Jour fixe on 12 November 2019 organized by Katarina Zigova**

**Katarina Zigova** (Economics / Associated Fellow via mentorship)  
"Publication Bias and Academic Career: Evidence from a Meta-Study in Development Economics"

[Read more.](#)



## Jour fixe: Mittelbauinitiative

**Jour fixe talk on 19 November 2019 concerning the “Mittelbauinitiative” (mid-level academic staff initiative Konstanz) organized by Carolin Antos-Kuby**

**Carolin Antos-Kuby** (Philosophy) invited **Sibylle Roth** (History) and **Hansjörg Neth** (Psychology) from the “Mittelbauinitiative” to discuss with us the problems and possible solutions to the precarious employment system for early career researchers at German universities. [Read more.](#)



## Jour fixe: Transfer Science into Society

**Jour fixe talk on 26 November 2019 on “Transfer Science into Society” organized by Julia Wandt**

**Julia Wandt** (Communication and Marketing (KUM), University of Konstanz) reported on possibilities and strategies at the university to "Transfer Science into Society"



## Open Mic Jour fixe winter semester (II)

**Jour fixe talk on 3 December 2019 given by Thomas Böttcher and Maria Zhukova**

**Thomas Böttcher** (Chemistry)  
"A Story of Dinosaurs and Molecules"  
[Read more.](#)

**Maria Zhukova** (Literature)  
"The most important thing is, that people believe': Political Leaders on TV screen in Russian Cinema, 1980s-2010s".  
[Read more.](#)



## Open Mic Jour fixe winter semester (III)

**Jour fixe talks by Janina Beiser-McGrath, Klaus Boldt and Robert Hussein on 10 December 2019**

**Janina Beiser-McGrath** (Politics and Public Administration)  
"Public goods and service provision in academia - a discussion"  
[Read more.](#)

**Klaus Boldt** (Chemistry)  
"A Look into Nanocrystals"  
[Read more.](#)

**Robert Hussein** (Physics)  
"How does a string sound on the nanoscale?"  
[Read more.](#)



# Upcoming events

## Executive Committee meeting

The next meeting will take place on 28 January 2020, 13:00 - 15:00, Y 132.



## Exhibition: 100 Spectres

Art, created from water samples from all over the world, is the subject of the exhibition. The works on paper by the artist Sarah Bildstein build a bridge between natural phenomena and sensory forms. The exhibition was created in cooperation with the Zukunftskolleg, the Limnological Institute and the Department of Literature, Art and Media Studies at the University of Konstanz. Art students co-curated the exhibition within the framework of Tanja Klemm's seminar "100 Spectres" that was funded by the Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching Programme. [Read more.](#)

**Until 16 February 2020**

Kulturzentrum am Münster,  
Wessenbergstraße 43, Konstanz



## Jour fixe winter semester 2019/2020

Jour fixe on the topic: "Change, Progress and Complexity" at the Zukunftskolleg

**Open Discussion**  
**14 January 2020**  
**15:15 - 16:45**  
**Y 326**

—

Jour fixe on the topic: "Change, Progress and Complexity" at the university  
Sebastian Findeisen (Department of Economics)

Stefan Leins (Department of History and Sociology / Anthropology, focusing on cultures of economy): “Complexity in economic practice: A case for ethnography”

**21 January 2020**

**15:15 - 16:45**

**Y 326**

—

Jour fixe on the topic: “Change, Progress and Complexity” regarding digitalization

**28 January 2020**

**15:15 - 16:45**

**Y 326**

—

Jour fixe: Funding programme winners

Mentorship: Michael Smith (Biology): “How honey bees move within their nest”  
Intersectoral Cooperative Project: Moritz von Brescius (History and Sociology)

**04 February 2020**

**15:15 - 16:45**

**Y 326**

—

Jour fixe: Assembly of Members

Election of new members to the Executive Committee

**11 February 2020**

**15:15 - 16:45**

**Y 326**

—

See all dates for the weekly Jour fixe sessions in the [current winter semester](#).



## New EC member elected

In its meeting on 26 November 2019, the Assembly of Members elected Morgane Nouvian (Department of Biology) to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Jolle Jolles' current term of office of one year in the Executive Committee expires at the end of December. We thank Jolle for his commitment in the Executive Committee and wish Morgane good luck for her term of office!



# Careers, distinctions, and grants

## María Cruz Berrocal participates in the Alofi project

[María Cruz Berrocal](#) (Associated Fellow / History and Sociology) investigates the consequences of the first European contact for local peoples in the Western Pacific in the 16th and 17th centuries. The project is a two-year programme funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The island Alofi, northeast from the Fiji Islands, is fairly isolated with limited resources. What happened between 1616, when the Dutch entered Alofi and 1837, when the French set foot on the island? Could the pathogens introduced by the Europeans have decimated Futuna and Alofi's people? The purpose of the Alofi project is to solve these questions.

We congratulate María and wish her every success!



## Julián Torres-Dowdall receives DFG Grant

We congratulate [Julián Torres-Dowdall](#) (Fellow / Department of Biology) on receiving a 3-year DFG Grant worth 370,450 euros for the project "Ontogeny and evolution: parallel cooption of developmental pathways in the adaptive evolution of the visual system of Neotropical cichlid fish in recently colonized crater lakes".

The project aims to determine if parallel phenotypic evolution in the visual system of closely related species of Nicaraguan Midas



cichlid fishes is underpinned by genetic parallelisms originated from the cooption of common developmental pathways.

Julià Torres-Dowdall has been a Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since August 2013.



## Publication by Julien Bernard

[Julien Bernard](#) (Alumnus / Department of Philosophy) published the collective book "Weyl and the Problem of Space" at Springer Nature.

"This publication is the result of four years of work (redaction of the articles, editing, locating funds for translations, etc.) which began in Konstanz, thanks to the Zukunftskolleg and the Department of Philosophy", says Julien. The editors, Julien Bernard and Carlos Lobo, thanked the Zukunftskolleg for making the book possible.

Julien Bernard was at the Zukunftskolleg from September 2013 until August 2015.

We congratulate Julien on his publication!



## ERC Consolidator Grant for Thomas Böttcher

[Thomas Böttcher](#) (Fellow / Department of Chemistry) head of the Emmy Noether junior research group Biological Chemistry at the University of Konstanz, has now received an ERC Consolidator Grant to study which chemical factors control the transition of phages from a latent to an active state. Such substances might be used for the development of alternatives to

antibiotics. From 2020 on, the research team will receive a funding sum of around two million euros over five years.

We congratulate Thomas on receiving the ERC Consolidator Grant!



## Andrea Lailach-Hennrich wins prize question of Collegium Helveticum and Zukunftskolleg on “Disrupted Order?”

[Andrea Lailach-Hennrich](#) (Alumna / Politics and Public Administration) won the 2019 prize question competition of the Collegium Helveticum and the Zukunftskolleg with her essay entitled “Von der Aufklärung zur Utopie”. Her article offers interpretations of how our «being-in-the-world» is framed by given social orders. As the jury highlighted, Andrea’s contribution meets the standards of a philosophical essay and indicates the author’s academic background, but is still accessible to non-philosophers.

[Jeff Kochan](#) (Associated Fellow / Philosophy), came in second in the year’s prize question competition. His piece of experimental poetry – the fractal poem „One seeks to find measures” disrupts the explicitly ordered metric feet and fixed line measures of English poetry that has prevailed for centuries.

The joint prize question of the Collegium Helveticum and the Zukunftskolleg invited the contributors to unravel ‘order’ and to show how it can be disrupted and what consequences may result from disrupted orders.

### Andrea Lailach-Hennrich: “Von der Aufklärung zur Utopie”

#### *Abstract:*

In his 1783 essay “Answering the Question: What Is Enlightenment?”, German philosopher Immanuel Kant defines enlightenment as “...man’s emergence from his self-incurred immaturity (Unmündigkeit)”. According to Kant’s definition, persons are immature when they tend to rely



more strongly on the leadership of others than on their own ability to reason. Kant misses, however, a key aspect: that people are linked to each other socially. People are organized into communities; their actions are structured by social orders. Social orders create the framework for interpreting the world and ourselves, because they provide us with categories we can use to try and discover who we are. It is this aspect of the social orders that makes it necessary to understand how and why they should be disrupted. My text shows that disrupting social orders is an act of enlightenment. This modified understanding of enlightenment applies when social orders, as a result of their ideology, legitimize existing power relations and inequality. I offer a contrasting definition of “enlightenment” to Kant’s. I maintain that enlightenment has three moments: the critical moment, where an existing ideology is called into question, the utopian moment, where the will to break social orders identified as unjust comes into play, and the imaginative moment, where the courage exists to devise a more just world.

[Read more.](#)

### **Jeff Kochan: “One Seeks to Find Measures”**

Disciplined metrical assay, catenated head to toe,  
spun from a crenelated brain, blocked out into nested feet.  
While time and space catapult through sky, city, and wilderness,  
kettling discord in the streets, softening the human soul.  
And now, and now, flipping from the start, cautiously, carefully,  
reverse the steps, calibrate anew, most careful, most cautious.

Tattered grey bandages shift up, cover the contusions, press  
blood vessels back under a skin fractured by the vision quest.  
One seeks to find measures left untouched, sunk beneath consciousness,  
sediments generating thought-spandrels in a lace of sound,  
while iambs break open on the line, bleeding immaculate  
dactylic beats, sliding on the sharp edge of hegemony.

To mould a time future from a time past. Does Pythagoras  
perhaps presage Mandelbrot? Does time present precipitate  
scalar geometry, or vice versa? The Platonic sun  
may be a mere phantom in the dried husk of ontology.  
Formal illumination still radiates the wasted land  
even as Being, with its parts, fizzles in the twilit loam.

Seeder and harvester now turn back from the frontier, repeat  
furrow on furrow the ingrained course of an unrestful age.  
But Earth persists, reckons with the brute layers of history,  
patterns its movements in a self-similar arithmetic,  
alive, awake, arcing through the dust field of the universe.  
One seeks to find freedom in the rule-governed audacity

of structured art, forging new techniques, founding new settlements.  
But reason chafes, pitches on the reins, bids for more liberty,  
more than is warranted by life, more than will abide in love.  
One seeks to find poetry in mixed feelings of autarky,  
doubt and community, with words braided into textured strings,  
opening pathways from the sealed subject to the shared plateau.

To tinker pure thought into untried worlds, where humility  
and courage push out from a conceit-ravaged interior,  
draping the woodlands in a rich, rhythmical, syncretic song.  
The mind reflutes channels into dark strata, recirculates  
ritual cadences through blank turbulence, and gently rings  
disciplined metrical refrains, catenating toe to head.

We congratulate Andrea and Jeff on winning the prize question!



**Group leader position for Oleksandra Kukharenko**

[Oleksandra Kukharenko](#) (Fellow / Department of Chemistry) accepted a new position as a group leader in the Theory Department at the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz.

She started there on 1 January 2020.

We congratulate her to the new position!

