



Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 02/2023



Dear fellows and friends,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful and sunny summer semester in Konstanz and are looking forward to an interesting winter semester.

In July, we launched the call for the 2-year Fellowships at the Zukunftskolleg. In addition, we welcomed our new Postdoctoral and Research Fellows Daniel Skibra and Tobias Sutter, as well as the 2023 Cohort of the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows. We also congratulate our Research Fellow Anna Stöckl from the Department of

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Biology, who has been appointed as Junior Professor at the University of Konstanz.

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Warmest regards,

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Recent calls for applications

New call for five 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships at the Zukunftskolleg

The Zukunftskolleg has just opened its 18th call for applications for five Postdoctoral Fellowships.



Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended for researchers in the early stages of their careers who plan to develop and implement an independent research project. The fellowships are open to researchers from all fields represented at the University of Konstanz. Each fellow is a member of both a university department and the Zukunftskolleg. Additionally, fellows of the Zukunftskolleg can be affiliated to the Clusters of Excellence at the University of Konstanz: [“Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour”](#) or [“Politics of Inequality”](#).

Up to two Cluster-Zukunftskolleg Fellowships related to the study of collective behaviour can be funded by the “Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour” directly.

You can find the call for applications, the link to the online application platform as well as information about the eligibility criteria on the Zukunftskolleg [website](#).



Welcoming members to the Zukunftskolleg

Postdoctoral Fellow Daniel Skibra

Daniel Skibra is one of our new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 17th call for applications for fellowships. He started his fellowship in March and is affiliated with the Department of Philosophy.

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

His research project at the Zukunftskolleg – entitled “Reassessing Desire for Mode and Content” – has to do with desire, its peculiar representational properties, and how these differ from other psychological states such as belief, for example. His project involves evaluating this mode/content account of desire by taking the challenges seriously. “And I have a suspicion that we can provide an account of desire that indicates this way of thinking of psychological states after all.”

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



Senior Fellow Philip Welch

Philip Welch holds a professorship at the Department of Mathematics at the University of Bristol, UK.

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

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

He was invited by Research Fellow Carolin Antos-Kuby and stayed in Konstanz until the end of June.





Research Fellow Tobias Sutter

Tobias Sutter is one of our new Research Fellows from the 16th call for applications for fellowships. He started his fellowship in June and is affiliated with the Department of Computer and Information Science.

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



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

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



Senior Fellow Raghavendra Gadagkar

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

Specialization: Evolution of Social Life in Insects, Insect Ecology, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Social Organization

and Division of Labour in Insect Societies

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



2023 ZUKOnnect and Herz Cohort at the Zukunftskolleg

We cordially welcome the following ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows, who joined the Zukunftskolleg online on 1 July 2023 for one year. They will be on-campus for 3 to 4 months from the autumn of 2023:



The ZUKOnnect and Herz Cohort of 2023 from left to right: Oscar Eduardo Escobar Lasso, Ashwinder Kaur, Israel Ehizuelen Ebhohimen, Nadia Martin, Natascha Roth Eichin, Khanyile Joseph Mlotshwa, Jennifer de Sousa Barros, Sarveswaran Kengatharaiyer.

Jennifer de Sousa Barros (Biology; postdoctoral researcher from Brazil; research project: "The Influence of Collective Behaviour on Energy Expenditures and Thermoregulation in Egyptian Fruit Bats"; local host: Meg Crofoot/ Dina Dechmann)

Israel Ehizuelen Ebhohimen (Biology; postdoctoral researcher from Nigeria; research project: “Comparative analyses of the molecular toxicity of natural bioactive compounds”; local host: Alexander Bürkle)

Oscar Eduardo Escobar Lasso (Mathematic and Statistics; postdoctoral researcher from Columbia; research project: “Implementation of Aedes aegypti control strategies in spatiotemporal dynamics using insect techniques”; local host: Stefan Frei/ Reinhard Racke)

Ashwinder Kaur (Physics; doctoral candidate from India; research project: “Perovskite solar cells for integrated self-charging supercapacitors”; locals host: Lukas Schmidt-Mende).

Sarveswaran Kengatharaiyer (Linguistics; postdoctoral researcher from Sri Lanka; research project: “Creating a Tamil treebank to support language application development”; local host: Miriam Butt)

Nadia Martin (Literature, Art and Media; postdoctoral researcher from Argentina; research project: “Posthuman landscapes in Latin America Art”; local host: Kirsten Mahlke)

Khanyile Joseph Mlotshwa (Politics and Public Administration; postdoctoral researcher from Zimbabwe; research project: “The colonial and apartheid roots of urban authoritarianism in South Africa”; local host: Thomas Kirsch)

Natascha Roth Eichin (Educational Science; postdoctoral researcher from Chile; research project: “Practices, experiences and aspirations at school”; local host: Jeanine Grütter)

We are very happy to attract new people from different countries – such as Chile, Sri Lanka, Columbia and Nigeria – and from various disciplines – ranging from Literature, Art and Media to Mathematics and Statistics as well as Physics.

You can find more information about the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows [here](#) and [here](#).



News review

Celebrating Europe Day

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

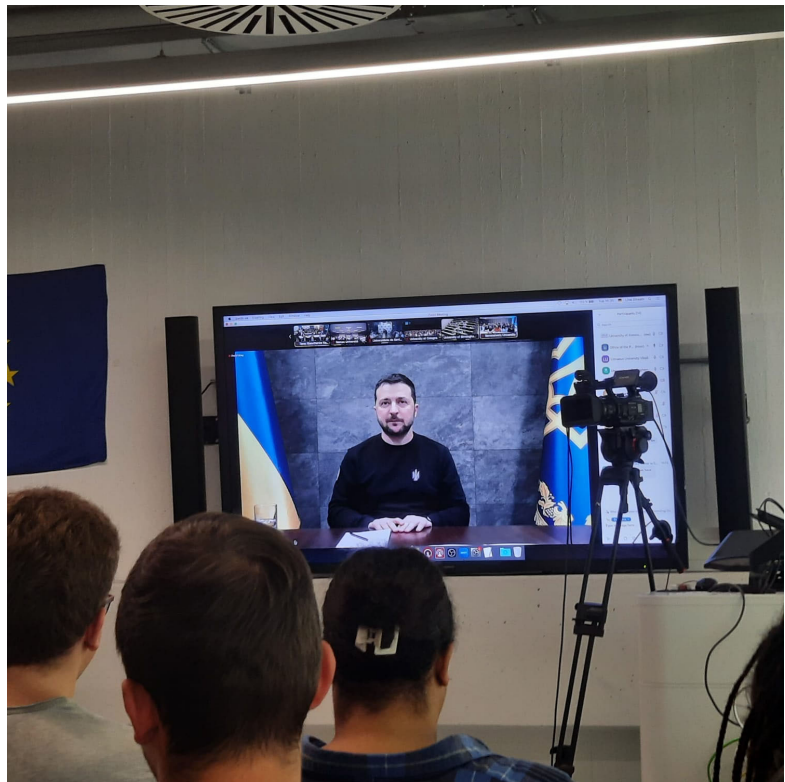
For this occasion, the International Office, the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Zukunftskolleg organized an event with various talks in English.

Programme:

- Opening: Dorothea

Debus, Vice Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity

- Talk: Dirk Leuffen, Professor of Political Science and International Politics, on “Schuman 2023”
- Talk: Yeliena Kovalska, sociologist from Ukraine and MSCA4Ukraine fellow at the University of Konstanz, on “Ukrainian War Refugees in Konstanz: Main Problems and Plans for Future”



Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

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

The President’s Office published the following article about the event [here](#).

See also an article on the website of the University of [Konstanz](#).

And in the magazine [DER SPIEGEL](#).



Three new EC members elected

At the Assembly of Members on 4 July, the fellows re-elected Noelia Martinez Doallo (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Law) and elected Svetlana Boycheva Woltering (Research Fellow/Dept. of Biology) and Philipp di Dio (Research Fellow/Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics) to serve as new members of the Executive Committee.

The term of office of the Executive Committee came to an end for Violeta Ivanova-Rohling (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Physics) at the end of June and will come to an end in September for Gruia Badescu (Research Fellow/Dept. of History and Sociology) and Noelia Martinez Doallo (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Law). Noelia’s re-election/a 2nd term of office were possible. Gruia and Violeta have already served two terms in the EC.

We thank Violeta and Gruia for their commitment to the EC and wish Noelia, Svetlana and Philipp good luck for their new role!



From left to right: Noelia Martinez Doallo, Philipp di Dio and Svetlana Boycheva Woltering.



Recommendations for the future of the Zukunftskolleg

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



The Scientific Advisory Board Meeting and the Executive Committee of the Zukunftskolleg.

Special thanks go to Raghavendra Gadagkar, David Gugerli, Sabine von Heusinger, Michael Matlosz, Elke aus dem Moore, Manuela Nocker, Jane Ohlmeyer, Vinod Subramaniam and Ingrid Wüning-Tschol. It was great having you with us, discussing with you and receiving helpful recommendations!

A more detailed report about the meeting and the SAB's recommendations will follow in the Zukunftskolleg's next annual report.

More information about the [Scientific Advisory Board members](#).

Review of events

Public Talks and Workshops

17 April 2023, Roksoliana Liubachivska
Visiting Fellow
Block Seminar on “Green Economy”

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

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



During the seminar, students also played an exciting game called “Circula – The Circular Economy and Entrepreneurship Game”, which was developed with funding from the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. The game helped the participants to learn about the circular economy and entrepreneurship, which are essential aspects of the green economy. In addition to these activities, the students also worked on creating posters for the Green Index for University/Schools/Accommodation, which provided them with the opportunity to showcase their creativity and understanding of green economy concepts.

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

18-21 April and 24-28 July 2023: Members of the Zukunftskolleg and the Martin Buber Society

Workshop: “Design: Thinking, Making, Doing. Thinking about design and thinking with design to solve big questions”

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

Led by Daniela Mavazaran and her colleagues Katja Tschimmel and Frederico Granda, the symposium was intended to introduce academic researchers to the potential benefits of applying the ‘design thinking’ methodology to their research.

In order to explore the potential of this approach, symposium attendees identified a series of ‘wicked’ problems (complex societal issues that are difficult to define and seemingly impossible to solve). The iterative stages of the ‘design thinking’ approach was intended to give participants a clear method for creating interdisciplinary solutions to these complex multifaceted problems.



27 April 2023, NetIAS Debate Series

Madrid Institute for Advanced Study
“Labour and Migration”

The three participants were:

- María Hernández Carretero, MIAS fellow, Madrid
Anthropologist and migration researcher, with a background in sociology and international development and peace studies
- Julie Weise, IMéRA fellow, Marseille
Associate Professor of History, University of Oregon – Holder of the Fulbright-IMéRA Chair in Migration Studies
- Irina Nicorici, New Europe College fellow, Bucharest
Sociologist working on Migrations between Romania and the Soviet Union, 1960-1990

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

Netias.

21 May 2023, Ariane Bertogg

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History and Sociology
Public talk: “pro.log: Einfache Leute”

Abstract:

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

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

25 May 2023, NetIAS Debate Series

IMÉRA, Marseille

“Health. Interdisciplinary, ethical and alternative approaches”

The four fellows who participated in the event were:

- Amy Padula, fellow at HIAS, Hamburg
Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco
- Noelia Martinez Doallo, fellow at the Zukunftskolleg, Konstanz
Doctoral candidate in law, her research interests are bioethics, health law, philosophy of law
- Cristina Nombela, fellow at MIAS, Madrid
Psychologist working on cognitive disturbances in neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Parkinson's disease
- Michael Koslowski, fellow at IMÉRA, Marseille
Psychiatrist, researcher at CHU Charité Berlin, his current research topic is: The renaissance of psychedelics for the treatment of mental diseases

The transmission of health information, both at individual and collective levels, is of great importance in biomedical sciences, yet it also concerns other academic fields such as philosophy and law. From various examples gathered from the four fellows' expertise in environmental chemical exposure, mental health, therapy with psychedelics, and biomedical decision-making, the discussion focused on the role of scientists and scholars in striking a fair balance between individual freedom and common good.

“The event served to facilitate the communication between a range of academic disciplines involved in questions related to scientific research on humans at various

levels,” says Noelia Martínez-Doallo. “Although the aforementioned balance between individual interests and collective aims must be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering the particular interests at stake, any democracy worth its name must provide the adequate means for long-lasting discussions about the goals of science and its limits, given that both science and society as a whole are under continuous development. It was precisely on this point that the debate was especially fruitful.”

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

Netias.

12 June 2023, Noelia Martinez Doallo
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Law
Logic Colloquium: “Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Semantics”

Abstract:

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

12-14 June 2023, Gisela Kopp and Nathaniel Dominy
Research Fellow and Senior Fellow
Workshop: “Animating trade routes through primate lifeways”

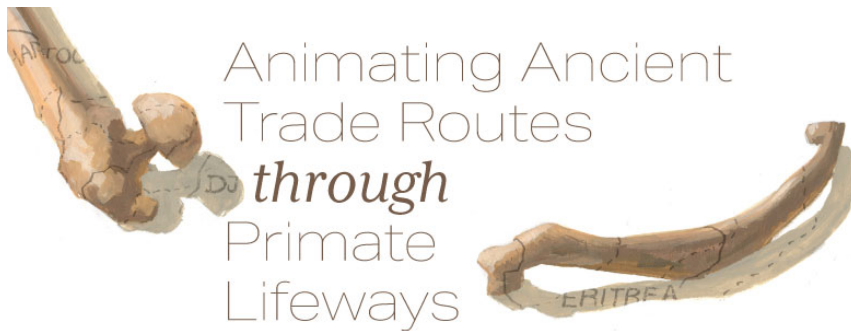
This was a three-day workshop at the Zukunftskolleg that brought together primatologists, biogeographers and archaeologists, with the aim of fostering scholarly exchange, future collaborations and of taking important steps towards a new, integrated research programme in anthropology that centres on primates in antiquity..

Organizers:

Gisela Kopp, University of Konstanz
Nathaniel Dominy, Dartmouth College

More information available [here](#).

A detailed report about the workshop will be published in the next annual report of the Zukunftskolleg.



3-4 July 2023, Anamaria Bentea

Research Fellow, Department of Linguistics
Workshop: "Heritage Language Syntax"

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

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

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

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



7 July 2023, Abena Valley

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Literature and Politics and Public Administration
Public talk: "Feminist Approaches and Masculinity in Policing Research"

Abstract:

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

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



Forthcoming events

NetIAS directors' meeting

11-12 October 2023

Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature)

“Public book launch: Drag – A British History”

31 October 2023
15:15 – 16:45
Foyer of the library, University of Konstanz

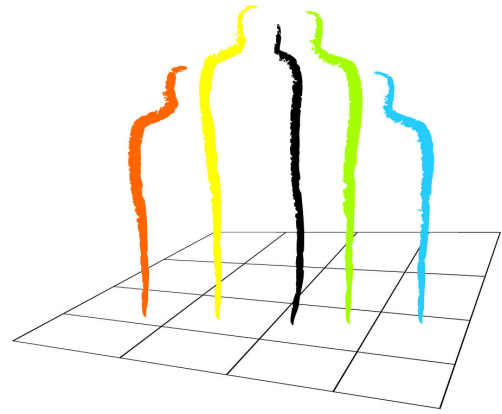
Executive Committee meetings in the 2023/2024 winter semester

18 October 2023
14:30 – 16:30

29 November 2023
14:30 – 16:30

10 January 2024
14:30 – 16:30

31 January 2024
14:30 – 16:30



ZukunftsKolleg

Careers, distinctions and grants

Daniela Rößler acknowledged as Cozzarelli Prize finalist 2022

The article “Regularly occurring bouts of retinal movements suggest a REM sleep-like state in jumping spiders” by biologist Daniela C. Rößler was one of the finalists for the 2022 Cozzarelli Prize. With this award, the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) aims to highlight the exceptional quality and importance of research work. When published in PNAS in the summer of 2022, it generated a great deal of media coverage in national and international media. National Geographic, for example, acknowledged Rößler’s research as one of the [“22 most amazing discoveries of 2022”](#).

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

About the prize

The PNAS Cozzarelli Prize is an award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the scientific disciplines represented by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The annual prize acknowledges papers that reflect scientific excellence and originality. The prize was established in 2005 as the Paper of the Year Prize and was renamed in 2007 to honour late PNAS Editor-in-Chief Nicholas R. Cozzarelli.

For the 2022 Cozzarelli Prize, papers were chosen from more than 3,200 research articles that appeared in the journal last year and represent the six broadly defined classes under which the NAS is organized. Additionally, the Editorial Board has recognized six papers – one in each class – as finalists for the 2022 Cozzarelli Prize.

Daniela Rößler is a behavioural and evolutionary ecologist. Since May 2021, she has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Zukunftskolleg and the Department of Biology at the University of Konstanz as well as at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour. Her research interests include animal colouration, sensory ecology and animal behaviour with a focus on anti-predator adaptations.

Natural history observations from the field form the basis for most of her research questions. She uses integrative and interdisciplinary approaches in both the field and the lab to experimentally test the function of signals and/or behaviour. Daniela Rößler focuses on visual signals, cognition and anti-predator adaptations in jumping spiders. She is currently studying the ecology of fear and sleep in jumping spiders.

More information can be found [here](#).



Junior Professorship for Anna Stöckl

We congratulate Research Fellow Anna Stöckl from the Department of Biology, who has been appointed as Junior Professor at the University of Konstanz.

Anna Stöckl has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since June 2022 and is Emmy Noether Group Leader at the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour at the University of Konstanz. As an expert in sensory physiology, her main research interest lies in understanding how insects take in information from their environment, process it and use it to control their behaviour.



MSCA4 Ukraine Fellowship for Yeliena Kovalska

We congratulate Yeliena Kovalska (Visiting Fellow/History and Sociology), who has been awarded a MSCA4 (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) Ukraine Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.



During the MSCA4Ukraine Fellowship of one year, Yeliena will continue the research project that she started during her Visiting Fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg: the “Use of factorial survey design to determine the significance of personal social status characteristics”, mentored by Thomas Hinz, Chair of Empirical Social Research with a Focus on Survey Research at the University of

Konstanz.

“Just a year ago, I was forced to leave Ukraine and to change the direction of my research and teaching career,” says Yeliena. “Thanks to a long and very strong partnership between the Department of Sociology of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the Department of Sociology at the University of Konstanz, I was able to apply for a Visiting Fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg. Since I became part of the Zukunftskolleg, I have received a lot of support and help in my adaptation to the new German academic reality, which was and still is very challenging for me. I learned about the MSCA4Ukraine scholarship from the Zukunftskolleg and then received all the necessary information for preparing my application. I still cannot believe that in such a short time I was able to receive this prestigious grant. With many thanks to the whole team of the Zukunftskolleg.”

Yeliena Kovalska has been a Visiting Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since June 2022 and is now an Associated Fellow.

More information about the [MSCA4 Ukraine Fellowship](#).



“Young Scientists”

Die Junge Akademie’s children’s book “Young Scientists” has recently been published by Hanser-Verlag. In the publication, biologist Gisela Kopp – member of the Zukunftskolleg, Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour (CASCB) and Max Planck Institute (MPI) at the University of Konstanz – reveals how she researches animals even without meeting them face to face.



Illustration links: Alexandra Pustitschka / rechts: Marion Blomeyer

The book’s aim is to illustrate which paths (and detours) actually lead to a research career. 30 researchers from different disciplines talk about their first encounters and formative experiences in research, about coincidences and decisions, flashes of insight and lasting interest in research. About how an outsider in nursery school can become a professor of computer science. Why, as the daughter of an illiterate woman, one teaches Islamic theology. Or how a legal scholar simply wants to understand why rules are so important for our coexistence. 30 exciting life stories of humanities, social, natural and engineering scientists that inspire and awaken interest in research.



Tenured Associate Professorship for Angelo di Bernardo

We congratulate Angelo di Bernardo, who started a tenured Associate Professorship in Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Salerno, Italy, on 1 May 2023.

“I will, however, remain affiliated with the University of Konstanz for the next two years,” Angelo is pleased to say. Angelo has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since May 2021, working on the project “Superconducting spintronics”.

We congratulate Angelo and wish him all the best!



Award of Peter Hünemann Prize to Babu Thaliath

We congratulate Senior Fellow Babu Thaliath on receiving the 2023 Peter Hünemann Prize of the KAAD Foundation.



The award ceremony took place at the foundation's annual academy on 28 April in Bonn, Germany. "It was a unique experience," says Babu Thaliath. "There was music and a laudation to which I was invited to respond in a short talk. I talked about "participation" – more in a philosophical framework. The speech was well received by the audience."



Visiting Research Fellowship for Jeff Kochan

We congratulate Jeff Kochan (Associated Fellow/Philosophy), who has been appointed as a Visiting Research Fellow by the University of Western Australia from August to September 2023.

Jeff Kochan was nominated by Professor Rob Wilson, with the aim of fostering international ties between Rob's ARC-funded research group "Keeping Kinship in Mind" and Jeff's Zukunftskolleg research project "Animism and Science in European Perspective." Both projects address topics in the history, philosophy and sociology of anthropology, and the social and life sciences more generally.





Gisela Kopp is new Chair of Die Junge Akademie

We congratulate Gisela Kopp, member of the Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour, the Zukunftskolleg and the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behaviour at the University of Konstanz – who has been elected as the new chair of Die Junge Akademie.



Following Die Junge Akademie's summer plenary session on 24 June 2023, the new board has started its work. Upon a proposal by the designated board, the members elected Gisela Kopp as the new chair of Die Junge Akademie. It is her second term as a member of the board.

"In the coming months, we want to focus on internationalization practices and look at how research environments can be positively shaped. In addition, just like last year, we wish to significantly shape the discourse on research policy," says Gisela Kopp.

Read [more](#).



Abena Yalley receives funding from Fritz Thyssen Foundation

Congratulations to Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature & Politics and Public Administration), who has received a grant from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation to implement the project "Body Politics: Gender, Healthcare and Obstetric Violence in Nigeria".

The grant covers her own position for 21 months as well as additional funds for travel costs and material expenses.

“In this project, I interrogate the gendered dynamics of obstetric violence in Nigeria,” says Abena Yalley. “I particularly explore how gender inequality in health systems and society as a whole contribute to women’s experiences of obstetric violence.”

