



Universität  
Konstanz



# Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 01/2023



Dear fellows and friends,

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

In the autumn, we launched the calls for the 2-year and 5-year Fellowships as well as the call for the 2023 ZUKOnnect and Herz Cohort at the Zukunftskolleg. In addition, we chose our very first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors: Mahsa, Josiah and Priyanshu! We also congratulate our Postdoctoral Fellow Daniela Rößler,

## Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 01/2023

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whose research was named one of National Geographic's "22 most amazing discoveries of 2022". The biologist and her team discovered that jumping spiders experience a state similar to REM sleep.

Finally, we wish you a relaxed lecture-free period!

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

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- › ERC Starting Grant for Armin Bahl
- › Manfred Ulmer Fellowship 2022 for Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz
- › Jennifer Randerath secures MWK funding for post-COVID project
- › Junior professorship for Susanne Wißhak
- › Extension of substitute professorship for Ariane Bertogg
- › Raghavendra Gadagkar elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- › Valeria Vegh Weis is new member of the Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium
- › Hector Research Career Development Award for Anna Stöckl

- › Gisela Kopp appointed to guest professorship
- › New and permanent research position for María Cruz Berrocal

# Recent Calls for Application

## 2-year and 5-year Fellowships at the Zukunftskolleg

In its **latest call for one 2-year Postdoctoral and one 5-year Research Fellowship** (the closing date for applications was 31 October 2022), the Zukunftskolleg received **59 applications**.

Among them were six applications for the 5-year Fellowship and 53 for the 2-year Fellowship. Of all 59 applications, 19 came from Germany and 40 from abroad, 35 were from male applicants, 23 from female applicants and one was from a non-binary applicant. Most applicants came from the Department of History and Sociology, nine from Biology, eight from Literature, Art and Media Studies and seven from Politics and Public Administration.



In its meeting on 10 February 2023, the Recruitment Committee chose Daniel Skibra from the Department of Philosophy, who was offered a 2-year position. In its meeting on 3 March 2023, the winner of the 5-year Fellowship is selected.



## ZUKOnnect Call at the Zukunftskolleg

We have received **132 applications within the latest call for ZUKOnnect Fellowships** (the application deadline was 13 February 2023) from 25 countries. By far the most applications were from Nigeria and Afghanistan. 28.8 percent of the candidates were female. Most applicants came from the Departments of Politics, Computer Science, Biology and Chemistry.

The ZUKOnnect Fellowships support early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America related

to one of the thirteen departments of the University of Konstanz. The research stays at the Zukunftskolleg give the fellows enough time to extend their research

networks into new regions and initiate intercontinental research partnerships. They also enable ZUKOnnect Fellows to enrich scientific discussions within the university, without losing ties to their home university.

Deadline for nomination proposals within the **Herz Fellowship Programme** is 15 March 2023. [More information](#).

# ZUKONNECT

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## Welcoming members to the Zukunftskolleg

### Senior Fellow Peter Krapp

**Peter Krapp** (Department of Literature, Art and Media Studies) is a full professor of Film & Media Studies at the University of California, Irvine, where he is also affiliated with informatics, English and music. His research interests encompass cultural memory and the media history of games and simulations, the history of computing and secret communications, and aesthetic communication (title design, film music).

He was invited by Eduardo Luersen and stayed at the Zukunftskolleg from October to November 2022.



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### CAT group of Manuel Spitschan

The **Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT)** group of Manuel Spitschan visited the

Zukunftskolleg in the 2022/2023 winter semester to work on its project “The impact of light on human health – Current perspectives”. It gave a presentation at the Jour fixe on 15 November 2022.

Group members are:

Laura Kervezee, Leiden University (Netherlands)

Renske Lok, Stanford University (USA)

Elise McGlashan, Monash University (Australia)

Raymond Najjar, National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Manuel Spitschan, Technical University of Munich (Germany)



## CAT group of Damian Blasi

The **Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group** of Damian Blasi also spent one week at the Zukunftskolleg in the 2022/2023 winter semester and collaborated on its project “Challenges for the development of fair language-based assessments of health, education, behaviour, and beyond”. On 29 November 2022, it gave a presentation at the Jour fixe.

Group members are:

Damian Blasi (PI – Harvard University, USA – Max Plank Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany)

Joseph P. Dexter (Harvard University, USA)

Amber Gayle Thalmayer (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Camila Scaff (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Adolfo Martin Garcia (University of Chile)

**Constructive  
Advanced Thinking.**

**cat.**



# News Review

## We chose our first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors

This year, we have selected our **first ZUKOnnect and Herz Alumni Ambassadors**. Congratulations to **Mahsa, Josiah and Priyanshu!**

To ensure that Herz and ZUKOnnect Fellows remain part of our academic family and create lasting ties, we have placed a particular focus on forming a community of alumni fellows.

Our ambassadors will share their knowledge about the fellowship, take our active recruitment initiative home and contribute to the pilot programme's outreach and to raising awareness of the specific situation of researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Moreover, they will help us disseminate the new call in their networks and offer advice for new ZUKOnnect fellows or researchers interested in a research stay in Konstanz.

We will be very pleased to welcome them to Konstanz soon for their return research visits (supported by VEUK, the Alumni Association of the University of Konstanz).

More about the [ZUKOnnect Fellowship](#) and the current call for [Herz Fellowships](#) (deadline for nomination proposals: 15 March 2023).



Josiah, Mahsa and Priyanshu



## ZUKOnnect and Herz go ERUA

At the beginning of December 2022, four of our recent ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows attended the **ERUA ECR Workshop on “Interdisciplinary Research and Engaging the Non-academic”** at the University of Roskilde.

The fellows enjoyed the visit very much: “Just like at our home university, the organizers were very welcoming and friendly. It was a great opportunity for us to exchange experiences about interdisciplinary research with colleagues and staff from Roskilde and other partner universities. Taking part in the workshop was extremely important for us because it allowed us

to think about opportunities beyond academia – especially how to start our own research consortium and possible collaborations with people and organizations outside the academic sector in the short, medium and long term.

In addition, the workshop provided us with valuable contacts from the various disciplines and countries, which are of great value as our careers progress.”



## WIAS 15th Anniversary Symposium “Well-being in the time of uncertainty”

The Waseda Institute for Advanced Study (WIAS) of Waseda University organized the WIAS 15th Anniversary Symposium “Well-being in the time of uncertainty”, together with the Zukunftskolleg and the Institute for Advanced Research of Nagoya University.

At the symposium, WIAS members discussed the topic of “Well-being in the time of uncertainty” together with their guests and co-organizers, addressing aspects such as climate change, energy issues, natural disasters and food problems. They also shed light on the role of higher education institutions in meeting these challenges. The main target audience was researchers, but graduate students were also encouraged to attend.



The two-day symposium featured a programme of keynote lectures and roundtable discussions. Day 1 was dedicated to the sub-theme “Energy and Sustainability”, Day 2 to the sub-theme “Life”. The respective roundtable discussions addressed the following topics: “Energy Issues”, “Sustainable Society”, “Culture/Arts”, “Health and Security” and “Inclusive Society”. Researchers from the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities shared their knowledge across and beyond the boundaries of academic disciplines.

Giovanni Galizia gave a keynote speech on “Well-being in an animal society: thoughts about honeybee collectives – and comments on institutes for advanced studies”. Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature) gave a presentation and participated in the roundtable on “Culture/Arts”. Ariane Bertogg (Postdoctoral Fellow/History and Sociology) and Udith Dematagoda (Alumnus/Literature) gave a talk and participated in the roundtable on “Health &

Security”.

You can download the programme and all the presentations [here](#).

You can watch the videos of all the lectures on [YouTube](#).



## One of the most amazing discoveries of 2022...

Congratulations to Postdoctoral Fellow **Daniela Rößler**: National Geographic has named her research one of the “22 most amazing discoveries of 2022”.

Congratulations to Postdoctoral Fellow Daniela Rößler: National Geographic has named her research one of the “22 most amazing discoveries of 2022”.

Read more here:

<https://www.uni-konstanz.de/en/university/news-and-media/current-announcements/news-in-detail/koennen-springspinnen-traeumen-1/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/most-amazing-discoveries-2022>



## Mayor of Konstanz visits the Zukunftskolleg

The **Mayor of Konstanz, Uli Burchardt**, visited the Zukunftskolleg on 8 November to discuss urban and sustainable development.





Gruia Badescu, Mayor Uli Burchardt, Yeliena Kovalska, Tetyana Nikolaychuck and Giovanni Galizia

The Rector of the University of Konstanz, Katharina Holzinger, and the director of the Zukunftskolleg, Giovanni Galizia, welcomed him.

After a brief statement by Uli Burchardt and a short presentation of the Zukunftskolleg by Giovanni Galizia, three fellows presented their projects: “Research and urban development” by Research Fellow Gruia Badescu, “Post-war sustainable development in Ukraine” by Visiting Fellow Tetyana Nikolaychuck and finally Visiting Fellow Yeliena Kovalska presented the first results of a survey among refugees from Ukraine which she conducted in cooperation with Caritas Konstanz. Afterwards, the Mayor discussed the situation and perspectives of refugees in Konstanz with the fellows, as well as the possibilities and challenges of urban development.



# Review of Events

## Jour Fixe

### **ZUKOnnect & Herz Fellows** “Poster Session”

Our eight current ZUKOnnect & Herz Fellows (2022 cohort) organized a poster session followed by a small reception at our first Jour fixe on 25 October 2022. The poster session was opened by Dorothea Debus (Vice Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity). A short round of lightning talks followed, in which each of the ZUKOnnect & Herz Fellows presented their research topic in two minutes to the whole audience. Afterwards, the posters were presented to the audience.

### **Mayor of Konstanz** **Uli Burchardt** “Urban and Sustainable Development”

On Tuesday, 8 November 2022, the Mayor of Konstanz, Uli Burchardt, visited the Zukunftskolleg and discussed urban and sustainable development with us.

**CAT Group of Manuel Spitschan (Technical University of Munich, Germany)**  
“The impact of light on human health – Current perspectives”



On Tuesday, 15 November 2022, the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group of Manuel Spitschan (Technical University of Munich, Germany) gave a presentation at the Jour fixe of its project entitled “The impact of light on human health – Current perspectives”.

Presenters:

Laura Kervezee, Leiden University (Netherlands)  
Renske Lok, Stanford University (USA)  
Elise McGlashan, Monash University (Australia)  
Raymond Najjar, National University of Singapore (Singapore)  
Manuel Spitschan, Technical University of Munich (Germany)

*Abstract:*

*From synchronizing our circadian rhythms with the external light-dark cycle to controlling ocular growth, light has a profound impact on human physiology and behaviour. Some of these effects are mediated by a set of cells that were only discovered in the late 1990s – the so-called intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells. The “Light and Human Health” group, funded by the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) programme of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NETIAS), brings together diverse interdisciplinary perspectives. In this talk, the group presented recent highlights from its work.*

### **New Visiting Fellows from Ukraine**

On Tuesday, 22 November, four of our new Visiting Fellows from Ukraine gave a presentation: **Yeliena Kovalska** (History and Sociology), **Roksoliana Liubachivska** (Politics and Public Administration), **Maryna Lytvyn** (Economics) and **Kateryna Osadcha** (Computer Science/Economics Education).

Yeliena’s talk was entitled “**Use of factorial design to determine the significance of personal social status characteristics (according to the Adapted for Ukraine Warner’s Status Characteristics Index)**”.

*Abstract:*

*The Adapted Warner’s Index consists of four characteristics: Occupation, Income, Condition of the accommodation and Area of residence. The weight of the characteristics in the formula was calculated as a result of an expert survey (in the field of stratification of the Ukrainian society). To check the correctness of the weight of characteristics in the formula for calculating the Adapted Warner’s Index, using the factorial design method is proposed. The combination of the potential of the factorial design with the possibilities of methods of measuring social status have clear cognitive potential. The Adapted Warner’s Index, due to its scale-based structure, makes it possible to operationalize social status in terms of factorial design. All Adapted Warner’s Index characteristics can be redesigned to factors, and scales can be redesigned to levels.*

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Roksoliana spoke about **“Ukraine’s Energy Independence: the roadmap for recovery and energy security”**.

*Abstract:*

*Energy security is critical to sustaining the state’s economic functioning and prosperity. It is also an important component of residents’ quality of life and one of the key factors for returning temporarily displaced people to their homes. Furthermore, when Ukraine recovers, energy should become one of the important sectors that generates export income and contributes to the country’s financial stability. An informed approach to modernizing Ukraine’s energy would enable Ukraine to make a substantial contribution to safeguarding the EU’s strategic autonomy and lowering the bloc’s reliance on foreign energy supplies. This win-win strategy will hasten Ukraine’s accession to the EU. The last six months were the most challenging in the history of Ukraine’s independence for the Ukrainian energy industry. Such a destruction of energy infrastructure, e.g. the seizure and bombing of nuclear power plants, has never happened before. The primary goal of recovery is to create a stable and modern energy industry that attracts investments, provides Ukrainian consumers with clean, affordable and reliable energy, and relies on responsible domestic energy production development. The key direction is clean energy, namely renewable energy.*

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Maryna talked about **“Global Challenges of Sustainable Development of the World Economy”**.

*Abstract:*

*The research aims to prepare Ukraine for adjusting to the European Union. Germany’s experience in implementing policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be used for Ukraine. In November 2020, the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) ministers signed the Rome Communiqué, which highlights the key role of higher education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations and focuses attention on the support and development of higher education institutions’ ability and capacity to prepare their students for “green” work and other activities to achieve SDGs. The following objectives will be addressed in the research: to discuss and summarize the best practices for promoting SDGs, to identify how German universities consider SDGs in their policies, to develop recommendations for quality assurance systems regarding the achievement of SDGs in Ukraine in the context of global challenges.*

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Kateryna’s presentation was on **“Digital design trends and their influence on the training of designers: the experience of blended learning in the conditions of war in Ukraine”**.

*Abstract:*

*Modern digital art is rapidly developing and penetrating many spheres of human activity, capturing positions in the design of books, posters, advertising products, the computer game industry and cinema. Innovative areas of digital design are currently augmented and virtual reality, 3D art, cybernetic art, the art of artificial intelligence, media art, space modelling for virtual simulators, fractal graphics, digital painting, web design, character design, etc. Future designers should study all these modern digital design technologies during their professional training.*

*During the quarantine restrictions imposed by the increasing incidence of influenza (until 2019), the coronavirus pandemic (after 2019) and during the military aggression of Russia (2022) in Ukraine, the problem of organizing educational processes using blended, distance and e-learning technologies has become even more relevant.*

*How can the training of future designers be implemented in such conditions? This was not only a discussion but also a practical example.*

**CAT Group of Damian Blasi (Harvard University, USA)**

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

On Tuesday, 29 November 2022, the Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) group of Damian Blasi (Harvard University, USA) gave a presentation at the Jour fixe on its project entitled “Challenges for the development of fair language-based assessments of health, education, behaviour, and beyond”.

Presenters:

Damian Blasi (PI – Harvard University, USA – Max Plank Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany)

Joseph P. Dexter (Harvard University, USA)

Amber Gayle Thalmayer (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Camila Scaff (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Adolfo Martin Garcia (University of Chile).

*Abstract:*

*Linguistic behaviour serves as a reliable, inexpensive and increasingly automated resource for assessing different aspects of individuals and societies. Speech helps detect incipient health issues, newspaper corpora are used to identify stereotypes and societal biases, and wordlists are the basis for determining verbal development. However, these and other relevant developments (which we label language-based assessments or LanBAs) have been contrived, tested and deployed primarily on a handful of large and commercially central languages, with English dominating the scene. Since the 6,500 extant languages can and do vary substantially, transferring LanBAs from English to them is fraught with technical and linguistic challenges. The consequences of this bias, which we are only starting to understand, is that users of minority languages have at their disposal more expensive, less efficient and potentially biased LanBAs. A novel source of worldwide inequity looms large across multiple social arenas.*

### **Executive Committee Election and Presentations by new Visiting Fellows**

On Tuesday, 6 December 2022, the Assembly of Members (2-year Fellows, 5-year Fellows, Senior Fellows and the other fellows) elected one new member to the Executive Committee from January 2023 – Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/Dept. of Literature/Politics and Public Administration) was re-elected. After the elections, two of our (digital) Visiting Fellows from Ukraine gave a presentation:

**Nataliia Pyzhianova** (History and Sociology) talked about “**Transcultural migration of elements of song-ritual folklore in Eastern and Central Europe**”.

**Anatolii Koval** (Philosophy) presented his project “**Study of types of intelligence. New challenges for the intellect during the war in Ukraine**”.

*Abstract of Anatolii Koval’s talk:*

*This project is aimed at the study of intelligence (starting from the theory of multiple intelligences of G. Gardner), ways of adaptation of a person in their professional and personal life, especially in stressful conditions (such as war). In this project, Anatolii Koval would like to delve deeper into not only Gardner’s concept but also other authors and theories of intelligence (Craig Adams, Ian J. Deary, Mark M. Lowenthal, R. Keith Sawyer, Vera John-Steiner, Seana Moran, Robert J Sternberg, David Henry Feldman, and others) and use their research for his goals. This research will be useful for preparing children and students for the right choice of their main activity (profession) and for reconciling this activity with their type of intelligence. In summary, his goal is to create a seminar for teachers, which would be based on current advances in the study of intelligence and its types. He plans to present this seminar to Ukrainian teachers and educators. This will help them to better understand themselves and their students and to be more effective, especially in such difficult times.*

**Itay Kavalier (Postdoctoral Fellow/Philosophy & Mathematics and Statistics)**  
“The Speed of Bounded Rationality. Nash Players Take Longer to Stumble”

On Tuesday, 13 December 2022, Itay Kavalier (Postdoctoral Fellow/Philosophy & Mathematics and Statistics) gave a digital presentation of his project “The Speed of Bounded Rationality. Nash Players Take Longer to Stumble”.

*Abstract:*

*In the classical herding model, asymptotic learning refers to situations where individuals*

eventually take the correct action regardless of their private information. Classical results identify classes of information structures for which such learning occurs. Recent papers have argued that, even when asymptotic learning occurs, it typically takes a very long time. In this paper, reference is made to related questions. Itay Kavalier and his research group study whether there is a natural information structure representation for which the time it takes until individuals learn is uniformly bounded from above. They propose a simple bi-parametric criterion that defines the information structure representation and, in addition, compute the time by which individuals learn (with high probability) for any pair of parameters. Namely, they identify a family of structure representations where individuals learn uniformly fast. The underlying technical tool they deploy is a uniform convergence result on a newly introduced class of weakly active supermartingales. This result extends an earlier result of Fudenberg and Levine on active supermartingales.

**Eduardo Luersen (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature)**

“Overheating media: gaming in the cloud and the thermal entanglements of digital infrastructure”

On Tuesday, 20 December 2022, Eduardo Luersen (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature) presented his research project. The topic was “Overheating media: gaming in the cloud and the thermal entanglements of digital infrastructure”.

*Abstract:*

*Digital media have long been imagined as ephemeral, immaterial and cold, all adjectives which are given even more weight through the metaphor often used to explain outsourced, synchronous networked computing – “the cloud”. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive observation of the technical infrastructure supporting online entertainment platforms can help to grasp how media are always already entangling technical and natural systems. In this talk, Eduardo Luersen looked at data centres, the physical facilities that organizations employ to house data and critical digital applications, as cultural techniques that are used, among numerous other things, to store and process data for emerging, energy-intensive streaming services, such as cloud gaming. A number of examples were provided as a starting point for discussing how infrastructure providers geoengineer natural resources into utilities able to keep server farms running 24/7, triggering existing conflicts and contradictions and posing new challenges to the claims of environmental sustainability often raised by this same industry. As an introductory talk, this presentation sought to sketch an initial framework in order to discuss how the technical management of temperature in these strategic facilities sets the conditions for the seemingly continuous circulation of media through service-based models increasingly adapted to the principles of the platform economy.*

*Chair: Peter Krapp (University of California – Irvine, Senior Fellow at the Zukunftscolleg)*

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

“Criminalization of Activism”

At the beginning of the Jour fixe on 10 January 2023, Anda Lohan presented the current steps and dates regarding the next application round within the Excellence Strategy. Afterwards, Valeria Vegh Weis (Research Fellow/Law & Literature) presented her book “Criminalization of Activism”.

*Abstract:*

*The presentation explored the content of the book “Criminalization of Activism”, which Valeria Vegh Weis edited herself and was published by Routledge last year. The book draws on a multiplicity of perspectives and case studies from the Global South and the Global North to show how protest has been subject to processes of criminalization over time. Contributors are scholars and activists from different disciplinary backgrounds, with a balance between authors from the Global North and the Global South. Her introduction frames the topic within critical criminology while also highlighting the possible disciplinary approaches and definitions of criminalization of resistance/activism. The introduction also investigates the particularities of the current times in comparison to dynamics of criminalization in prior stages of capitalism, as well as the connections between historical criminology, indigenous studies, gender studies, critical criminology, southern criminology and green criminology for a comprehensive understanding of how dissent has been and continues to be the target of the criminal justice system on both sides of the Equator.*

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

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

James Wilson (Postdoctoral Fellow/History and Sociology) was responsible for “Tracing the roots of modern Crusader Orientalism” on Tuesday, 17 January 2023.

*Abstract:*

*Colonial era legacies and epistemological practices remain hugely influential in a number of academic disciplines. Even today, many Crusade historians remain reliant on a series of 19th century French translations of medieval Arabic texts. Yet despite the involvement of their orientalist editors in European colonial projects, no consideration has been given to how these translations – which can be found in the footnotes of most books (and Wikipedia entries) on the Crusades – were compiled. In this light, it is worth checking whether these translations were imbued with the orientalist zeitgeist of the 19th century. Through evaluation of the underlying editorial process (text selections, omissions and the translation of specific terminology), it is possible to assess the extent to which colonial-era attitudes have informed modern engagement with these texts and our understanding of the historical roots of Christian-Muslim relations more broadly.*

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

“Cross-linguistic influence in multilingual children and adults”

Anamaria Bentea (Research Fellow/Linguistics) reported on “Cross-linguistic influence in multilingual children and adults” on Tuesday, 24 January 2023.

*Abstract:*

*Heritage speakers are individuals who have learned a language at home as children, their heritage language. This language differs from the main language spoken in the community they live in. To date, little is known about how heritage speakers process the heritage language in real time and whether they can make use of language-specific properties to correctly interpret complex linguistic structures. By focusing on Romanian in contact with German and English, Anamaria Bentea examines whether heritage speakers of Romanian use morphosyntactic information when comprehending language input in real time similarly to Romanian monolinguals and to what extent the presence or absence of similar grammatical information in the dominant second language modulates comprehension and production in the heritage language.*

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

“An insect’s perspective on flowers – from inspection to pattern recognition”

On Tuesday, 31 January 2023, Anna Stöckl (Research Fellow/Biology) provided us with “An insect’s perspective on flowers – from inspection to pattern recognition”.

*Abstract:*

*Insect visual systems perform remarkable feats, extending in sensitivity to dim starlight and rapidly processing complex temporal and spatial stimuli. Their output provides the basis for intricate locomotor control, as well as crucial behavioural decisions. This is exemplified by insect pollinators, which inspect and choose between suitable flowers, using features such as colour, shape or patterns to decide which flowers to approach. The neural basis underlying these abilities sheds light on the efficient processing strategies implemented in their miniature brains and provides a model for robust visuomotor control. Anna Stöckl presented data from current projects on the role of patterns for flower inspection in hawkmoths and bees, and introduced how we plan to unravel the neural basis of pattern recognition in the insect brain.*

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

“Evolution on microbial communities: is the enemy of my enemy my friend?” At the last Jour fixe of the winter semester, Ana del Arco (former Associated Fellow/Biology) introduced everyone to the “Evolution on microbial communities: is the enemy of my enemy my friend?”.

*Abstract:*

*Microbe-host association is a defence strategy against pathogens, it is widespread from unicellular organisms to humans. Focusing on host-virus interactions and associated microbes interfering with virus replication, we find virophages. Virophages are virus-dependent, meaning virophage replication depends on their parasitism on the virus factory to produce their own virions. Consequently, virus production decreases or is*

*inhibited, which leads to a higher survival in host populations. Ana del Arco uses a model system consisting of host-virus-viophage (Cafeteria burkhardae-CroV-Mavirus). Little is known about viophage replication and reactivation. This is crucial to understanding under which conditions this protection of the natural host population by the viophage can inhibit virus infection and prevent an epidemic in the host population. Her aim is to contribute to filling this gap of unknown conditions for viophage reactivation and its impact in virus replication and host population survival.*



## Public Talks

### 3 November 2022, Senior Fellow Peter Krapp

Dept. of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Irvine, USA  
“Is the Internet a Museum of Computing?”

Senior Fellow Peter Krapp (Dept. of Film and Media Studies, University of California, Irvine, USA) gave a public talk entitled “Is the Internet a Museum of Computing?” on 3 November.

*Abstract:*

*How does the computer get into the museum and when does the museum get into the computer? “Information technology constitutes the twist in the Möbius strip that takes us from arguments internal to a field (how is the past conceptualized in the case of a historical science) to its exterior (how is information about the past stored)”, as Geof Bowker put it. Of course the internet is not a museum in any conventional sense – but then computers are not conventional media either, and a range of scholars have argued that the internet may be the most apt way to assemble, consult, commemorate and musealize what we know about computing. Inversely, we may wonder to what extent computer history museums actually do justice to computer history, from analogue and early digital machines to mainframes and from minicomputers and microcomputers to the creation of decentralized networks, up to and including the history of the internet.*

### 18 November 2022, Yuko Ulrich

Max Planck Institute  
for Chemical  
Ecology, Jena  
Zukunftskolleg  
Research Award  
Winner  
“Behaviour and  
Disease in Clonal  
Ant Societies”

The public lecture  
by the  
Zukunftskolleg  
Research Award  
winner, biologist Dr  
Yuko Ulrich (Max  
Planck Institute for  
Chemical Ecology,  
Jena), took place on  
Friday, 18 November 2022. The title of her talk was “Behaviour and Disease in Clonal Ant Societies”.



Research Award Winner Yuko Ulrich and Giovanni Galizia

*Yuko Ulrich’s research focuses on the evolutionary interplay between social organization and disease resistance in animal societies. Living in groups comes with both advantages and disadvantages. For example, group-living enables division of labour, which can increase efficiency; on the other hand, it can facilitate the spread of infectious diseases. Yuko Ulrich and her team are investigating the causes and consequences of social behaviour and whether there may actually be forms of social organization that can*

*reduce disease transmission, using ants as an experimental system.*

**17 December 2022, Abena Yalley**

Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature & Politics and Public Administration

“Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room: Patterns and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana”

The Zukunfts Kolleg extended an invitation to a public talk by Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature & Politics and Public Administration) entitled “Abuse and Humiliation in the Delivery Room: Patterns and Dynamics of Obstetric Violence in Ghana” on Wednesday, 17 December 2022.

*Abstract:*

*Obstetric violence, conceptualized as the abuse and mistreatment of women during pregnancy and delivery, has been recognized as a threat to women’s reproductive health. It is a major barrier to women’s use of health facilities, increasing the risk of preventable complications and maternal mortality. Obstetric violence is particularly humiliating, reducing women’s autonomy over their bodies and the reproductive process. Although the phenomenon is gaining worldwide attention, there is as yet limited evidence of the depths and dynamics of obstetric violence in Ghana, where maternal mortality is excessively high and skilled birthing is on a decline. This study interrogates the phenomenon from a wider perspective, using a larger sample size of 2,164 to measure the magnitude and qualitative interviews to investigate the drivers. This public lecture aims to answer the following intriguing questions: What is the magnitude of obstetric violence in Ghana? How does obstetric violence manifest in Ghana and which categories of women are more vulnerable to abuse? Why do healthcare professionals abuse women? How is obstetric violence perceived by healthcare workers? Does gender inequality within health systems contribute to women’s experiences of abuse?*

*Collaborators:*

*Professor Anke Hoeffler, Politics and Public Administration, University of Konstanz  
Dr Seth Christopher Aphiah, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana*

*Moderator:*

*Professor Kirsten Mahlke, Department of Literature, Arts and Media Studies, University of Konstanz*

**2 February 2023, Visiting Fellow Yeliena Kovalska**

Department of History and Sociology

“Presentation of the survey: Situation and living conditions of refugees from Ukraine in Konstanz”

On 2 February 2023, Yeliena Kovalska (Visiting Fellow/History and Sociology) presented the results of a survey she conducted in Konstanz on the situation and living conditions of refugees from Ukraine in Konstanz. Afterwards, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss, exchange views and develop joint ideas. The results of the survey could be helpful for designing new measures and projects for refugees in the region. The event was organized by the International Office and the Zukunfts Kolleg.



# Forthcoming Events

## Jour Fixe

Executive Committee election



25 April 2022  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Daniel Skibra  
(Postdoctoral  
Fellow/Philosophy)**  
"Reassessing Desire  
for Mode and  
Content"

02 May 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Angelo di Bernardo  
(Research  
Fellow/Physics)**  
"New approaches to  
low-dissipation logics"

09 May 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid



**Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/Literature)**  
"Gay icons" in the framework of the International Day Against Homophobia on 17 May

16 May 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**tba**

23 May 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Johanna Vogt (Quality Management)**  
Presentation of the results of the funding programme evaluation

30 May 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**tba**

13 June 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Giovanni Galizia**  
"Excursion: Honeybees"

20 June 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Liliana Abreu (Associated Fellow/Politics and Public Administration)**

27 June 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**Executive Committee election**

04 July 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

**tba**

11 July 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

### Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

18 July 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

### Workshop Martin Buber Society + Social Event

25 July 2023  
15:15 – 16:30  
Y326 / hybrid

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



## Events

**“Workshop: Design: Thinking, Making, Doing. Thinking about design and thinking with design to solve big questions” with the [Martin Buber Society](#).**

18 April – 21 April 2023: Workshop Part I in Jerusalem

24 –28 July 2023: Workshop Part II in Konstanz

Using a “Design theory” methodology, the symposiums will have four interlocking main themes or “wicked questions”, all of which are of an inter-disciplinary nature, and are highly relevant to ongoing and future challenges we face as researchers:

- How can we contribute to/ stimulate/ inspire different Nations, with different agendas, towards the common-good of **planetary health**?
- How can we include more diverse perspectives in the **decolonization of science** (including diversity discourse)?
- How can our **science communication** have a higher impact on society and governance?
- How can we raise awareness about successful **psychological treatment** and healing interaction in everyday life?

This is a great opportunity to **expand our academic networks, represent the Zukunftskolleg and engage in inter-disciplinary research** on these important issues.



Stiftungsfonds Martin-Buber-Gesellschaft



## Executive Committee meetings in the 2023 summer semester

12 April 2023  
14:30 – 16:30

3 May 2023  
14:30 – 16:30

14 June 2023  
14:30 – 16:30

12 July 2023  
14:30 – 16:30



## Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

17 - 18 July 2023  
Zukunftskolleg



# Careers, Distinctions and Grants

## Nicholas Kurti Science Prize 2022 for Research Fellow Angelo di Bernardo

We congratulate **Angelo di Bernardo** (Research Fellow/Physics) who has received this year's Nicholas Kurti Prize, together with Alexander Grimm from the Paul Scherrer Institute.

The award recognizes Angelo's achievements in the spectroscopy of spin-polarised (spin-triplet) states in superconductor/ferromagnet hybrids and for the discovery of new coupling effects and quantum phases existing at the surfaces and interfaces of strongly correlated electron materials and materials with low dimensionality.

The objective of the Nicholas Kurti Science Prize is to promote and acknowledge the innovative work of young scientists in Europe working in the areas of low temperatures and/or high magnetic fields (read the full press release [here](#)).

Angelo has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since 05/2021 and is working on the project "Superconducting spintronics".



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## Assistant professorship for Nadir Weber at the University of Lucerne

**Nadir Weber** (Alumnus/History and Sociology) has been appointed as first "Eccellenza" assistant professor at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland.

His project "Republican Secrets. Silence, Memory, and Collective Rule in the Early

Modern Period” is being funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation’s (SNSF) career funding instrument “Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship” with a total of 1.56 million Swiss francs for five years. The framework is highly competitive – of the 244 projects submitted this year, 32 will be funded.

Nadir will focus on the tensions between publicity and discretion in early modern Europe.

Nadir was a Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from February 2016 to March 2018.



## First monograph by Jacob Bloomfield

Congratulations to our Postdoctoral Fellow **Jacob Bloomfield**, who has published his first monograph “Drag - A British History”.

“Thanks for all the kind support from the Zukunftskolleg in getting me here,” says Jacob. “The Zukunftskolleg offered the perfect environment for me in which to complete it.”



## Babu Thaliath receives award for his outstanding academic achievements

Congratulations to our Senior Fellow **Babu Thaliath**, who has been awarded the 2023 Peter Hünemann Prize by the KAAD Foundation for his outstanding academic achievements.

The prize is worth €3,000 and will be conferred at the Annual Academy, which will take place in Bonn from 27 to 30 April 2023.



## 5-year Ramon y Cajal Fellowship for Jolle Jolles

We congratulate **Jolle Jolles** (Alumnus/Department of Biology), who has received a 5-year Ramon y Cajal fellowship at CEAB in Blanes, Spain.

“I also successfully applied for a permanent CSIC researcher position (Investigador Científico) at the same institute, to start next autumn – a position that people normally only get with 10 years more experience than me!” says Jolle happily. “It shows where Zukunftscolleg fellows end up, and in my case, I have also been successful because of all the support I got through my fellowship at the Zukunftscolleg!”

Jolle was a fellow at the Zukunftscolleg from March 2018 to February 2021 and worked on the project “Individual Differences in Collective Behaviour: From Proximate Mechanisms to Ecological and Evolutionary Consequences”.



## ERC Starting Grant for Armin Bahl

**Armin Bahl**, Professor of Neurobiology and Zoology at the University of Konstanz, has been awarded an ERC Starting Grant for his project “Neural basis of zebrafish collective decision-making”. The project has been awarded funds of €1.5 million. Armin Bahl is also a group leader at the Cluster of Excellence “Centre for the Advanced Study of

Collective Behaviour” and a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg.

“It is challenging for individual animals to reliably extract and integrate behaviourally relevant information from the natural environment,” Bahl explains. “Due to the limited sensory capacity of individuals, many animal species therefore share and evaluate cues collectively, allowing them to solve complex decision-making tasks as a group.”

The behavioural algorithms and neural mechanisms that provide the basis for these cognitive abilities remain poorly understood. In many fish species, these behaviours are largely vision-based and thus provide the opportunity to decipher the underlying general computational principles under well-controlled experimental conditions in the lab. At the same time, powerful neuroscientific techniques can be used that enable new detailed analyses of the neural circuitry that orchestrates behaviour.



Armin Bahl plans to establish the juvenile zebrafish as a model system because he believes it is optimally suited for studying collective decision-making. “At this intermediate developmental stage, zebrafish offer an excellent compromise between cognitive ability and experimental accessibility. They can temporally and spatially integrate information, they interact socially, and you can characterize and manipulate brain activity in intact animals,” he says.

With the help of virtual reality experiments, Bahl and his team will initially dissect the algorithmic rules by which juvenile zebrafish make decisions when swimming in heterogeneous groups. Then he intends to characterize the brain activity related to this behaviour.

“Thus, my proposed research in juvenile zebrafish will, for the first time, provide key insights into the behavioural algorithms and neural mechanisms of how individual animals and animal collectives acquire sensory information and make complex decisions,” summarizes Bahl, for whom the award is an “incredibly happy surprise”. “I feel deeply honoured to receive this prestigious award, which will enable my group to break new ground and add exciting neuroscientific perspectives to the study of complex decision-making and collective behaviour.”



## Manfred Ulmer Fellowship 2022 for Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz

The Manfred Ulmer Fellowship was awarded to ZUKOnnect Fellow **Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz** from the Department of Computer and Information Science at the Regional Science Forum in Donaueschingen in November.

In his current research project (“Development of continuous improvement QSAR models to predict sorption of organic pesticides in soils at field conditions”),

Angelo Javier Neira Albornoz from Chile wants to develop scientific models that can better characterize and predict the fate of organic pesticides in soils. In doing so, he takes into account decision-making processes in different socio-ecological contexts, such as science and politics.

The “Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft” at the University of Konstanz finances one of the four ZUKOnnect Fellowships with €6,000 per year. The [ZUKOnnect Fellowship](#) supports young researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The 39th edition of the Regional Science Forum was organized by the University of Konstanz and the Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft. The public event took place at the Museum Art.Plus in Donaueschingen. Katharina Holzinger, Rector of the University of Konstanz, and Severin Graf, Mayor of Donaueschingen, welcomed the guests.



## Jennifer Randerath secures MWK funding for post-COVID project

Congratulations to Associated Fellow **Jennifer Randerath** (former Research Fellow/Psychology) and her research group, who have secured funding for their post-COVID project “Multidimensional test concept for Fatigue Symptomatology in Long COVID”.

The Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts (MWK) is funding the project for two years with about €100,000 as part of its special funding measure for research on Long COVID. “On the one hand, this supports a topic that continues to be cutting-edge, and on the other hand, with this project my doctoral researcher Melanie Tempfli can earn her fast-track doctorate at the University of Konstanz in collaboration with Kliniken Schmieder,” says Jennifer happily.





## Junior professorship for Susanne Wißhak

Congratulations to **Susanne Wißhak** (former Associated Fellow/Economics) for her appointment to a junior professorship at the new Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU).

In January, she took up her position in educational science with a focus on organizational development at RPTU (University of Kaiserslautern-Landau). "I am very much looking forward to the new challenge, although it is, of course, difficult for me to say goodbye to Konstanz," says Susanne Wißhak. "In any case, I would like to thank the Zukunftskolleg for the great cooperation."



## Extension of substitute professorship for Ariane Bertogg

We congratulate **Ariane Bertogg**, whose Substitute Professorship at LMU in Munich has been extended for another semester.

In the 2023 summer semester, Ariane Bertogg will continue to hold the chair for "Political Sociology of Social Inequality" and thus enrich the course offer in that field.

"I am very well integrated into the institute at LMU, the exchange across the chairs is inspiring, and the students very much appreciate my expertise and interactive approach to teaching," says Ariane, summing up her good experiences at LMU. She is therefore looking

forward to another semester there. "I am also particularly happy that I manage to stay connected to my colleagues and remain a part of the vibrant community even from a distance, and I am grateful that I have the opportunity to return."

Ariane has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since April 2020.



## Raghavendra Gadagkar elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

We congratulate **Raghavendra Gadagkar** – Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Zukunftskolleg – who has been elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has elected 505 scientists, engineers and innovators from around the world and across all disciplines to the 2022 class of AAAS Fellows. They are being recognized for their scientific and socially notable achievements spanning their careers.



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## Valeria Vegh Weis is new member of the Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium

We congratulate **Valeria Vegh Weis** (Research Fellow/Law), who has been accepted as a member of the working group “Human Rights and International Relations” coordinated by Professor Achilles Skordas from the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law.

There are five thematic working groups in the Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium, composed of an approximately equal number of participants from Connecticut and Baden-Württemberg. The foci of the five groups are key human rights issues of our time.

“As a group, we will host different events,” she explains. “In April, there will be a big meeting of all the members of the consortium from Germany and the USA in Heidelberg. The goals of the consortium are dialogue and exchange between scholars on human rights issues, to work on policy ideas and to disseminate human rights scholarship. The working group “Human Rights and International Relations” in



particular works, as can be read on the website, on “the backlash against human rights and international courts; business and human rights; critical theory of human rights, including Marxist approaches; systems-theoretical analysis of human rights; regional human rights approaches, including in particular in Latin America and Africa; history of human rights and of human rights organizations (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch); geopolitics and human rights; and human rights and European integration.”

The group plans to host events related to these themes and build on the Human Rights Discussion sub-group at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg.

Read [more](#).



## Hector Research Career Development Award for Anna Stöckl

For the third time, the Hector Fellow Academy has presented the Hector Research Career Development (RCD) Award. At the end of January, the jury of experts selected three young scientists whose research careers the Hector Fellow Academy is now supporting. Among them is Research Fellow **Anna Stöckl** from the Department of Biology (and Affiliate Member of the CASCB).

“I am extremely grateful to receive this award, which recognizes not only my own achievements but also the support of my mentors and friends, and the hard work of my students and collaborators,” says award winner Anna Stöckl. She is an assistant professor of neuroethology and Emmy Noether group leader 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.

The [Hector RCD Award](#) is aimed at particularly talented young researchers from the natural and engineering sciences, medicine or psychology, who have already sharpened their scientific profile and taken their first career step. With the new awardees, eleven Hector RCD Awardees are currently members of the Hector Fellow Academy.



## Gisela Kopp appointed to guest professorship

Research Fellow **Gisela Kopp** (Department of Biology/Affiliate Member of the CASCB) has been appointed to a guest professorship in the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, USA. She will spend the 2024 spring term in the United States as part of the Harris Distinguished Visiting Professorship

Program.

Read [more](#).



## New and permanent research position for María Cruz Berrocal

We congratulate **María Cruz Berrocal** (Associated Fellow/History and Sociology), who has accepted a permanent research position at the Incipit (Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio) of the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas) in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

“My profile was Historical Archaeology, and I passed the public competition for the position (number 1 in the list of accepted candidates),” she says happily. “The CSIC is the most prestigious research institution in Spain, very large, and comprising all fields.”

María has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since September 2013.



