

Betreff: Zukunftskolleg | Newsletter 05/2020

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Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 05/2020

Dear fellows and friends,

As the end of this very exceptional year approaches, we look back with satisfaction at what we have achieved in these challenging times. An extraordinary year with new teaching methods, hybrid university approaches and everyday challenges throughout the “new normal” in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. We had many workshops, lectures and other events that gave us food for thought in a really different way and mainly online. We especially thank the organizers, speakers, other guests and those of you who participated this year. We are truly thankful for your patience and for sharing new and exciting perspectives with us.

Towards the end of the year, an important piece of news is that the new call for applications for the **2021/22 cohort of Senior Fellows (application deadline: 15 December 2020)** is over. The third ZUKOnnect call for applications for early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America has been launched, with the application deadline of **24 February 2021**. Furthermore, the Zukunftskolleg is also pleased to issue a new call for applications for six intra-university funding programmes (read on for more information). Please note that the deadline for all these programmes is **31 January 2021**. Additionally, we would like to announce that the 2019/2020 Annual Report is now available.

We are happy to welcome a number of new fellows to the Zukunftskolleg and wish all fellows a pleasant time and a good start at the University of Konstanz.

Since the current situation is still new for all of us and

Recent calls for applications

- › Recent call for applications for 2-year and 5-year Fellowships
- › Recent call for applications for Senior Fellowships
- › Recent Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) call

Current calls for applications

- › Current intra-university calls for research funding opportunities at the Zukunftskolleg
- › Third call launched for applications from early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America

Latest reports

- › 2019/2020 Annual Report

News review

- › “HERZlich willkommen”: A very warm welcome
- › Institutes for Advanced Study and the current pandemic – Potentials and capacities for the European Research Area

updates are coming in rather sporadically, we suggest that you please continue to follow the latest updates regarding the [coronavirus crisis](#). We hope you and your families are staying safe!

Finally, despite the pandemic we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas as well as a Happy New Year! Enjoy the “most wonderful time of the year” and we hope to see you soon at the Zukunftskolleg.

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

New fellows at the Zukunftskolleg

- › Start of digital ZUKOnnect Fellowships
- › Writer-in-residence Hari Sridhar at the Zukunftskolleg
- › We welcome Abena Yalley to the Zukunftskolleg

Review of events

- › European NetIAS Lecture Series
- › Opening lecture of “Racism in Academia” event series: “What we mean when we talk about Race”
- › Jour fixe 2020/2021 winter semester

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Careers, distinctions and grants

- › Lectureship for Sasha Kosanic
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- › Interim professorship (Vertretungsprofessur) for Julia Boll
- › Permanent position for Gianluca Rastelli
- › Group leader position for Claudius Kratochwil

Recent calls for applications

Recent call for applications for 2-year and 5-year Fellowships

In its recent call for **three 2-year and two 5-year Fellowships** (the closing date for applications was 15 October 2020), the Zukunftskolleg received **140 applications**. Among the 140 applications were 127 applications for the 2-year Fellowships (73 male, 54 female) and 13 applications for the 5-year Fellowships (11 male, 2 female). From all 140 applications, 47 came from Germany, 93 from abroad.

In its first meeting on 7 December 2020, the Recruitment Committee chose the finalists for the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships and the 5-year Research Fellowships. In its second meeting on 28-29 January 2021, the committee will decide who will be offered a 2-year position. The finalists for a 5-year Research Fellowship are invited to the digital Workshop on Future Research Directions on 18-19 February 2021.



Recent call for applications for Senior Fellowships

The Zukunftskolleg has launched a new call for applications for its 2021/22 cohort of Senior Fellows (**application deadline was 15 December 2020**).

The Senior Fellowship programme is designed to bring together excellent scholars from all countries and disciplines and to strengthen the intergenerational scientific dialogue between postdoctoral and established researchers. This application round offers fellowships for **three to twelve months** and is open to experienced researchers in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences.

Senior candidates must demonstrate a track record of significant and original research achievements, have at least seven years independent academic work experience and enjoy exchange and collaboration with younger generations. Applicants are required to describe how their proposed work will contribute to research conducted at the Zukunftskolleg. Special attention is paid to envisaged collaboration with a current Zukunftskolleg fellow.



You can find more information on the Senior Fellowship programme on the [Zukunftskolleg website](#).



Recent Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) call

The Constructive Advanced Thinking (CAT) initiative aims to foster networks of excellent early career researchers committed to developing new ideas in order to understand and tackle current or emerging societal challenges. CAT was incubated within NetIAS in 2019 and is supported by 11 European Institutes for Advanced (IAS) Study. The programme provides travel funds for an international and interdisciplinary teams of three to five early career researchers, possibly including a stakeholder, in order to advance constructive thinking and stimulate discussion.



In the latest call for applications, three innovative, young ideas have been selected:

1. **“Socio-ecological reshaping of European Cities and Metropolitan Areas”**

Joachim HACK (PI – TU Darmstadt), Carlos Oliveira Cruz (Universidade de Lisboa), Rieke Hansen (Hochschule Geisenheim) & Andrea Nóbrega Carriquiry (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

2. **“Reconstituting Publics through Remembering Transitions: Facilitating Critical Engagement with the 1980-90s on Local and Transnational Scales”**

Ksenia ROBBE (PI - University of Groningen), Agnieszka Mrozik (Polish Academy of Sciences), Andrei Zavadski (HU Berlin) & Alexander Formozov (Deutsch-Russischer Austausch e.V.)

3. “Light as a key predictor of human health and well-being: Robust evidence and translation to public health”

Manuel SPITSCHAN (PI - University of Oxford, Laura Kervezee (Leiden University), Renske Lok (Stanford University), Ray Najjar (Duke-NUS Medical School) & Elise McGlashan (Monash University)

During their project duration (up to three years), the groups will be hosted for a short research stay (up to two weeks) by five to six different European IAS. We are looking forward to exciting discussions and collaboration with the groups of Jochen, Ksenia and Manuel.

More information about the selected groups, the programme and participating IAS can be found [here](#).



Current calls for applications

Current intra-university calls for research funding opportunities at the Zukunftskolleg

The Zukunftskolleg has issued **calls for applications** for six funding programmes open to all non-tenured researchers of the University of Konstanz. The deadline for all programmes is **31 January 2021**.

Independent Research Grants

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

The funding programme aims to promote independent research by postdocs at the University of Konstanz. In particular, we encourage applications that support the exploration of new ideas and the implementation of pilot projects. The grant can cover consumables, equipment, travel costs and student research assistants.

More information [here](#).

Mentorship Programme

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

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

More information [here](#).

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects

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

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

More information [here](#).

Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching

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

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

More information [here](#).

Intersectoral Cooperative Programme

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

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

Research Visit Programmes

These programmes seek to enhance international research cooperation and support international mobility. They fund temporary research stays both at the Zukunftskolleg and abroad for international exchange among peers:

- The Research Visit programme for Zukunftskolleg fellows encourages temporary assignments to a partner Institute for Advanced Study or any international research university (Outgoing Research Visit). (Fellows only!)
- Zukunftskolleg fellows can nominate international early career researchers for a Research Visit at the Zukunftskolleg (Invited Research Visit). (Fellows only!)
- Early career researchers from the Zukunftskolleg's partner institutes can apply for a Research Visit at the Zukunftskolleg (Network Research Visit).
- A special Research Visit programme at the Zukunftskolleg supports temporary research stays of one to three months by international early career researchers from our partner university Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania.

The aim of the Research Visit programmes is to provide an opportunity to engage in a research project at the University of Konstanz, ideally in collaboration with a Zukunftskolleg fellow. No limitation is placed on the area of research within the humanities, natural and social sciences. Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary study is encouraged (Network Research Visit Iasi).

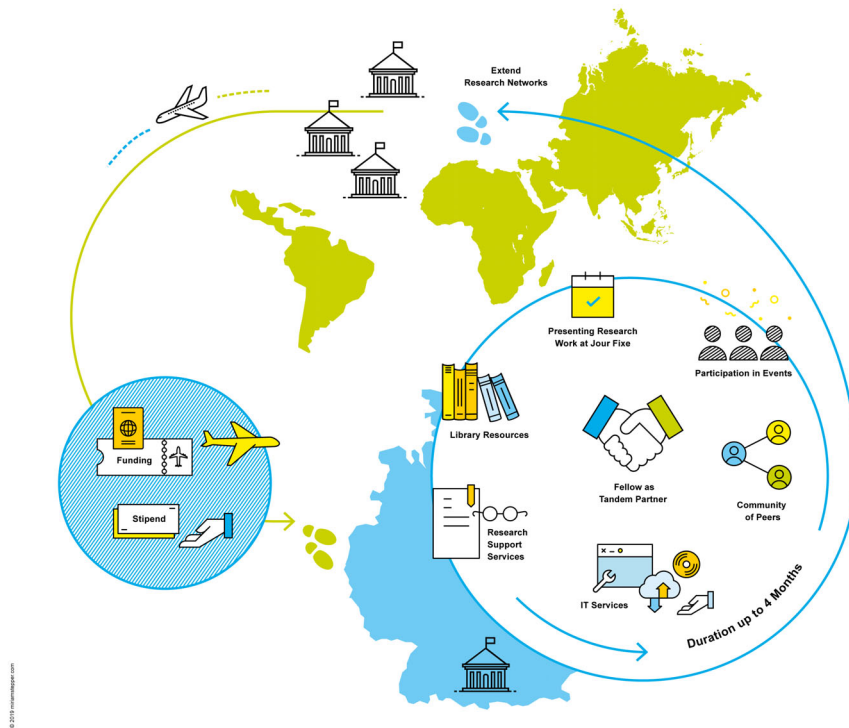
The duration of a Research Visit in either direction should range from one to three months. The grant will cover travel and accommodation costs. More information [here](#).



Third call launched for applications from early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America

The Zukunftskolleg is pleased to announce a new call for Zukunftskolleg Konnect (ZUKONnect) Fellowships. 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. **Application deadline is 24 February 2021.**



Up to 4 (post)doctoral stipends for an on-campus research stay at the Zukunftskolleg are available for up to 3 months (with justification up to 4 months). The start date is between 1 September 2021 and 1 October 2021. The on-site stipends are complemented by a digital fellowship extending it to a 12-month ZUKOnnect Fellowship.

The ZUKOnnect Fellowships will help to strengthen cultural diversity at the Zukunftskolleg and thereby foster 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 fellows will team up with Zukunftskolleg Fellows who will help them to settle into their departments and support them during their entire research stay. Thus, the ZUKOnnect Fellows will be an integral part of the community at the Zukunftskolleg, regardless of the rather short duration. Zukunftskolleg Fellows likewise will benefit greatly from the intercultural exchange.

You can find the call for applications as well as information about eligibility criteria and the application process on the [Zukunftskolleg website](#).

Latest reports

2019/2020 Annual Report

The Zukunftskolleg's 2019/2020 Annual Report is now available. The report is published every academic year, and the newest edition covers the academic year from August 2019 to July 2020.

This year's annual report presents both the recent achievements and research activities

of our fellows as well as their opinion on how the coronavirus pandemic might influence the future of their respective discipline; the report also introduces new members and contains information about our funding programmes and important events in the past year.

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



News review

“HERZlich willkommen”: A very warm welcome

The University of Konstanz has been acknowledged with the Henriette Herz Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for its active recruitment concept for excellent early career researchers from the Global South.

The project proposal was developed by the Zukunftskolleg, the International Office and Academic Staff Development in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Office, Research Support, the Clusters of Excellence “Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour” and “The Politics of



Inequality” as well as the University Alumni Association (VEUK).

With the prize money of € 125,000, the University of Konstanz will seek to actively identify highly qualified individuals from the Global South early on in their academic careers and invite them to spend time at the Zukunftskolleg – with the overall aim of building lasting relationships and global research networks.

Read [more](#).



Institutes for Advanced Study and the current pandemic – Potentials and capacities for the European Research Area

Public Statement by the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS), of which the Zukunftskolleg is a member:

One of the areas most tangibly affected by the current COVID pandemic is international mobility and the circulation of academics and researchers. With national borders temporarily closed, travel warnings

changing frequently, international flights severely reduced, and consular/visa services taking longer than normal, European and international fellowship programmes were and are subject to hitherto unknown levels of pressure and restriction. This is highly problematic since international mobility and scientific exchange define a central part of today's research and scholarship, locally and globally.

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

Netias.

You can find more information [here](#).



New fellows at the Zukunftskolleg

Start of digital ZUKOnnect Fellowships

We welcome our ZUKOnnect Fellows that joined the Zukunftskolleg digitally on 1 October 2020.

The new members are:

- Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia (Politics and Public Administration, Colombian PhD candidate from Mexico, Local Host: Christian Breuning)
- Krizler Tanalgo (Biology, Filipino PhD candidate from China, Local Host: Mag Crofoot)
- Josiah Taru (History and Sociology, postdoc from Zimbabwe, Local Host: Thomas Kirsch)
- Afrasa Mulatu Urge (Biology, PhD candidate from Ethiopia, Local Host: Erika Isono)
- Vishwanath Varma (Biology, postdoc from India, Local Host: Iain Couzin)



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to adjust our ZUKOnnect Fellowship for early career scholars from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Instead of short residential stays, we now offer a 12-month digital ZUKOnnect Fellowship starting from October 2020 and combined with an on-campus stay for 3 to 4 months from April 2021 onwards.

Thanks to the digital fellowship, the ZUKOnnect Fellows can already build first research ties to the University of Konstanz, contact their local host and are active members of the Zukunftskolleg community. Moreover, they will be able to use the digital services provided by the university. Combined with the on-campus stay, the ZUKOnnect Fellows will become an integral part of the community at the University of Konstanz, and the

Zukunftskolleg will benefit greatly from the intercultural exchange.



Writer-in-residence Hari Sridhar at the Zukunftskolleg

We welcome Hari Sridhar to the Zukunftskolleg. He has started his Senior Fellowship as writer-in-residence at the Zukunftskolleg – first digitally and in 2021 on campus.

Hari is an independent researcher (and an honorary fellow of the Archives at NCBS) based in Bangalore, India, who is interested in documenting and interpreting the making of ecological knowledge and its intersection with conservation practice. During his PhD and initial postdoctoral years at the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), Hari's research was aimed at understanding the causes and consequences of heterospecific sociality in animal communities, an interest that he continues to pursue independently and through [collaborative projects](#).



Since June 2016, he has revisited 170+ landmark papers in ecology and evolution, through interviews with their lead authors, to find out about the making of the paper, its impact on the field and the author's career, and the author's current reflections on the paper's results and interpretations.

"During my fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg, I would like to: 1. work on a book manuscript based on interview material (commissioned by Cambridge University Press); 2. write an essay about the role of chance events and natural history in the making of ecological knowledge; and 3. conceptualize and execute a digital exhibition of stories behind landmark scientific papers," says Hari.

We are looking forward to exciting discussions and collaboration with Hari Sridhar.



We welcome Abena Yalley to the Zukunftskolleg

Abena is one of five new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 14th call for applications. She started her fellowship digitally in September and was now able to join the Zukunftskolleg in person. Abena is affiliated with the Department of Literature.

Abena obtained her PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Before she was awarded her postdoctoral fellowship in Konstanz, she was one of the first cohort of the ZUKOnnect Fellowship launched by the Zukunftskolleg in 2019. Prior to that, she was a beneficiary of the ECOWAS Fellowship Programme at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, where she researched and taught African feminist theories and masculinities. She was also the country representative for the ECOWAS mobility project, researching

on gender and security. Abena's research focuses on gender inequalities, violence against women, masculinity, policing domestic violence, African feminism and development, migration, and security.

"The ZUKOnnect Fellowship provided an outstanding opportunity, where I engaged in interdisciplinary dialogue, accessed academic materials for publication and boosted my potentials for a successful transition to a postdoctoral fellowship at the Zukunftskolleg," says Abena. "I am highly excited to be back in Konstanz and look forward to an enriching research career."

Her research project at the Zukunftskolleg examines the correlation between women's experiences of obstetric violence and the low facility-based deliveries and the high maternal mortality rate in Ghana. Obstetric violence is a major health problem that violates the bodily integrity of women, their right to good health, freedom from discrimination, and could lead to complications and poor health outcomes, including death. Specifically, the project examines the prevalence of abuse and mistreatment of pregnant women by healthcare professionals during delivery and explores its dimensions. It further explores the factors that contribute to women's experiences of abuse and its impact on their wellbeing. Finally, the project seeks to determine ways/develop intervention strategies to address the abuse and mistreatment of women during delivery.

Abena is currently a member of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Working Group 1 ([multidisciplinary network of researchers on birth-related trauma](#)) and leader of the "Obstetric Violence" sub-group, where she is collaborating with other international researchers to publish a review paper titled "In Search of Dignity: A Review of Obstetric Violence Intervention Strategies in Healthcare Centres".



Review of events

European NetIAS Lecture Series

"Borders, Youth, Neoliberalism – How Global Sport Undermines and Strengthens National Borders"

On **8 October 2020**, Niko Besnier (Professor of Cultural Anthropology, University of Amsterdam and former fellow, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies) explained how global sport can undermine and strengthen national borders.

Neoliberalism has permeated the bodies and subjectivities of youth around the world as global sport industries have expanded their reach across national borders, aided by the global expansion of technologies such as satellite television. At the same time, the national economies of the Global South have collapsed under pressure from global capital. A career in sport has become the object of desires that can only be fulfilled by crossing increasingly impenetrable national borders. Athletes' migrations provide a novel angle on the global workings of neoliberalism.

"Spatial Perception and Genre Borders"

On **22 October 2020**, Merja Polvinen (Senior Lecturer in English Philology, University of Helsinki and former Erik Allardt fellow, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study) analyzed the following questions: How do readers imagine the places and spaces of fiction? What kinds of qualities of text encourage us to generate spatial imaginations, and what makes such imaginations “vivid”? What happens when texts turn our assumptions and imaginings inside out? Merja Polvinen approached these questions via China Miéville’s conceptual thriller *The City & The City* (2009), a story of two urban communities that maintain a border as unassailable as the Berlin Wall, but which consists only of conceptual and perceptual actions.

“Beyond the Borders of the Lab. Charmed Particles – about the Search for a Site for the Superconducting Super Collider”

On **5 November 2020**, Chrissy Kolaya (Assistant Professor of English, University of Central Florida and former fellow, Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Delmenhorst) shared excerpts from her novel *Charmed Particles* and discussed the research she conducted in preparation for writing it. As part of her background research for the book, she worked in the archives at Fermilab (one of the sites under consideration for the Superconducting Super Collider – SSC), interviewed theoretical particle physicists working at Fermilab at the time of the SSC proposal, and combed through Environmental Impact Statements and transcripts of public hearings to bring voice to both sides of the conflict over the push, in the late 1980s, to find a location in the USA for the proposed (but never completed) SSC.

“Learning a Different Language: Reading Shubhangi Swarup’s ‘The Latitudes of Longing’ and Aimee Liu’s ‘Glorious Boy’ in the Context of Anthropological Documentation and the Consolidation of the Indian Nation State”

On **19 November 2020**, Arunima Bhattacharya (Postdoctoral Research Assistant, School of History, University of Leeds, Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities, Edinburgh) talked about her aim to read two contemporary novels “*The Latitudes of Longing*” by Shubhangi Swarup and “*Glorious Boy*” by Aimee Liu, set in the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, in relation to the official anthropological documentation and interpretation of the complex socio-ecology of these islands, particularly in the context of the post-independence consolidation of the Indian nation state.

[Read more.](#)

“Hearing for All: Overcoming Borders in Acoustic Communication”

On **3 December 2020**, Birger Kollmeier (Professor and Chairperson, Medical Physics and Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All, University of Oldenburg and Speaker, Focus Group “The Future of Hearing”, Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Delmenhorst) talked about the fact that hearing impairment is the most frequent chronic neurosensory disease (progressively affecting 17% of our population); it often leads to social isolation. Improving hearing aids, auditory implants and other treatments is the goal of the Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All (Oldenburg/ Hannover). He presented an overview, with a focus on recognizing speech in noise – the classical “Cocktail Party Problem”: Listen yourself in order to experience the communication borders if hearing fails and learn about new ways to overcome them.

All lectures were held online.

More information on the European NetIAS Lecture Series can be found [here](#).



Opening lecture of “Racism in Academia” event series: “What we mean when we talk about Race”

On 2 December 2020, the opening lecture by Andrea Lailach-Hennrich (Politics and Public Administration / alumna of the Zukunftskolleg) on “What we mean when we talk about Race” took place in the framework of the event series “Racism in Academia”.

Abstract:
Why is race an issue worth discussing in academic circles? The most obvious answer is that it represents severe social injustice. In order to understand why this is the case and more importantly how we can change it, we have to understand how the concept of

“race” works in our language. What is its explanatory and epistemic role? Does “race” pick out a real entity and, if so, what kind? In my talk, I will give a brief overview of the current debate, explain why we need to talk about “race” and what the epistemic costs are if we don’t.



Why this event series? – Earlier this year, people in the USA and around the world came together to protest against institutionalized racism and racialized violence. At the Zukunftskolleg, we decided that we cannot stay silent at such a moment and expressed our solidarity with this movement. In order to translate this solidarity into action, we formulated a series of commitments.

This event series is part of our commitment to address institutional racism in our place of work, in research and teaching, in academia. The approach taken by this event series is broad. It features events on the fundamentals of racism, underpinning biases contributing to racial discrimination and different antiracist approaches, examples of research related to racism and racial discrimination from specific fields such as politics, anthropology and IT, a discussion of the experiences of African researchers in academia and the debate on racism and teaching, in particular curriculum design. Although this event series started in solidarity with oppressed communities in the USA, we are putting a special geographical focus on institutional racism and racial discrimination in Europe and Germany in order to highlight that racism is not an American issue, but an issue that

concerns us all.

More information on the event series can be found [here](#).



Jour fixe 2020/2021 winter semester

“Welcome to the 2020/21 winter semester”

- Short introduction of writer-in-residence Hari Sridhar
- Short introduction of ZUKOnnect Fellows
- Short introduction of “Antiracism” event series
- Safety instructions
- Presentation of funding programmes, especially Senior Fellowship Programme
- Q & A / open discussion
- Elections to the Executive Committee (re-election/replacement of Morgane Nouvian)

3 November 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“Tutti Frutti – Little Richard, Sex, Gender, and Transgression in America and Europe”

Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow / Literature)

Abstract:

He investigates the extraordinary career of the musician Little Richard between 1955 and 1964. The talk explores a range of facets regarding Richard’s legacy through its examination of a central question: How the singer became one of the most successful figures in mid-twentieth-century popular music, achieving ground-breaking popularity with cross-racial audiences in the United States and Europe, while consciously predicating his persona on male effeminacy and the suggestion of same-sex desire. I argue that Richard’s status as an internationally popular icon provides historians with a largely unacknowledged, unique insight into the intersections and assemblages of race, gender, sexuality, and consumption during a period defined by racial bigotry and pervasive repression of sexual and gender expression.

10 November 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“The Octopus: Implications for Cognitive Science and Philosophy”

Sidney Carls-Diamante (Postdoctoral Fellow / Philosophy)

Abstract:

The octopus is a fascinating organism that challenges common assumptions regarding the correlation between the nervous system and the mind, especially with regards to the structure of cognition. The cognitive and behavioural capacities of octopuses are highly sophisticated and similar to those of many vertebrates, despite the significant anatomical and functional differences between octopus and vertebrate nervous systems. This talk introduces a number of implications raised by the octopus for a number of issues within the philosophies of mind, cognitive science, and neuroscience.

17 November 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“Behaviour and Brain Dynamics in Zebrafish”

Armin Bahl (Research Fellow / Biology)

Abstract:

When animals move through the environment, they constantly need to make decisions about what to do next. They integrate information from their senses, retain a working

memory of such cues, and evaluate signals according to their internal state. Somehow, the nervous system effortlessly implements these computations and eventually controls behaviour. In today's Jour fixe presentation, I'll give an overview of how we use the larval zebrafish as a model organism to investigate the neural circuit mechanisms underlying sensory integration and decision-making. Larval zebrafish are tiny and almost perfectly transparent vertebrates. This allows us to use two-photon microscopy to observe brain activity at cellular resolution in behaving animals and to directly link circuit dynamics to individual swimming decisions.

24 November 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“Abuse and humiliation in the delivery room: The prevalence and impact of obstetric violence in Ghana”

Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow / Literature)

Abstract:

Unlike other forms of gender-based violence, obstetric violence is relatively unrecognized. Defined as the violence exercised by health personnel on the body and reproductive processes of women during pregnancy or delivery, obstetric violence is a major health problem which is also associated with human rights, compromises the bodily integrity of women and could affect women's decisions to deliver in health facilities which provide appropriate management of maternal and neonatal complications. In today's Jour fixe, I will be examining the problem of obstetric violence on birthing and maternal health in Ghana. This will allow for actions that promote humanized birthing and continual support for women during labour and childbirth.

1 December 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“Architectures of memory: Dealing with difficult pasts in urban space”

Gruia Badescu (Research Fellow / History and Sociology)

Abstract:

This presentation introduced one of the key aspects of his Zukunftskolleg project: The role of architecture in dealing with the past processes. His ZuKo project explores the impact of historical ruptures and political transformation on cities. It investigates how historical ruptures change the way cities are – their image and the way they are understood – their urban imaginaries. In his presentation, he discussed how various actors have used architectural interventions to respond to difficult pasts after ruptures such as war and end of dictatorship. He focused on post-war reconstruction as a process of dealing with the past and on memorialization of sites of political violence in cities after dictatorship. It laid out how threads from his previous work shape the conceptual frames for the new project with a focus on urban imaginary. The presentation introduced the interdisciplinary scope and methods of the project.

8 December 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual

“Naeem revisits Naeem et al. 1994: Reading between the lines of a scientific paper”

Hari Sridhar (writer-in-residence)

Abstract:

Writing scientific papers is, arguably, the most important task in a scientist's working life. Papers are the universal currency by which all scientists are compared and evaluated, and, often, the only scientific legacies they will leave behind. Unfortunately, a paper is an imperfect record of scientific activity because it presents a cleaned-up, simplified and reorganized version of the scientific process, leaving out any detail that might distract the reader from understanding its findings and arguments. Over the last four years, I have documented the stories behind 160+ landmark papers in ecology and evolution, through interviews with their lead authors. During the talk, I will use examples from the interviews to highlight what published papers leave out, and discuss what this might mean for the contemporary practice of science as well as its historical understanding.

15 December 2020

15:15 - 16:30

virtual



Forthcoming events

Executive Committee Meetings

12 January 2021
13:00 - 15:00
virtual

9 February 2021
13:00 - 15:00
virtual



Jour fixe 2020/21 winter semester

Open discussion on “Sustainability”
Zukunftskolleg

12 January 2021
15:15 - 16:45
virtual

Film screening “Coded bias” & discussion
in the framework of the event series “Racism in Academia”
Cornelia Klocker

19 January 2021
virtual

“A psychological approach to international criminal justice...” (tbc)
2019 CAT group: Anna Sagana (Maastricht), Gabriele Chlevickaite (Amsterdam), Dave van Toor (Bielefeld) & Nikolaos Aletras (Sheffield)

26 January 2021
15:15 - 16:45
virtual

“In the shoes of the African scientist: The strife towards global acceptance”
in the framework of the event series “Racism in Academia”
Victor Araujo, Silvio Almeida and Abenda Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow / Literature)

2 February 2021
15:15 - 16:45
virtual

Assembly of members and Executive Committee election

9 February 2021
15:15 - 16:45
hybrid virtual

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



Online information session: ZUKOnnect 2020/2021 call

20 January 2021
14:00 - 15:00
virtual

11 February 2021
13:00 - 14:00
virtual



Careers, distinctions

and grants

Lectureship for Sasha Kosanic

Sasha Kosanic (alumna / Dept. of Biology) has started a lectureship at the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences of Liverpool John Moores University, UK. She is teaching on “Climate Change Impacts on Biodiversity and Society”. Sasha was a Bridge / Associated Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from June 2016 to January 2020.



Professorship for Thomas Böttcher

Thomas Böttcher was appointed as Professor for Microbial Biochemistry at the University of Vienna. He has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg and junior research group leader at the Department of Chemistry of the University of Konstanz since 2014. We spoke with him about his experiences in Konstanz, his advice for the German university landscape and his plans for Vienna. Read the complete interview [here](#).



Interim professorship (Vertretungsprofessur) for Julia Boll

Julia Boll has joined the Department of Language, Literature and Media II of the

University of Hamburg as Interim Professor (Vertretungsprofessorin) for British Studies.

Julia studied English and German literature and political science at the University of Bremen and Liverpool John Moores University and holds a doctorate in English literature and in drama from the University of Edinburgh. She taught literature and theatre at the University of Edinburgh for five years, was director of the Scottish Universities' International Summer School and worked for the Edinburgh Review. In 2013, she joined the Zukunftskolleg as a Postdoctoral Fellow to research the representation of the bare life on stage.

She is a co-convenor of the "Political Performances Working Group" of the International Federation for Theatre Research, a founding member and co-convenor of the Humanities Pedagogy Workshop Series (University of Konstanz, University College Dublin, Manchester Metropolitan University), and has been on the board of the German Society for Contemporary Theatre and Drama in English (CDE) for four years.

Her work is located in the area of ethics, politics, literature and theatre. Her monograph "The New War Plays" was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013.



Permanent position for Gianluca Rastelli

Gianluca Rastelli (Research Fellow / Dept. of Physics) has obtained a permanent position as scientific researcher with Italy's National Research Council (CNR, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), where he is a fellow of the National Institute of Optics (INO, Istituto Nazionale di Ottica). He joined the INO group of the University of Trento on 1 October. Gianluca was a fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from March 2013 to September 2020. His research focuses on the theory of mesoscopic quantum systems.



Group leader position for Claudius Kratochwil

Claudius Kratochwil (Fellow / Dept. of Biology) has accepted a position as group leader at the Institute of Biotechnology of the University of Helsinki.

"It's a fantastic institute with a focus on genomics

and evolution as well as developmental biology, which I think fits perfectly. I am very much looking forward to this next career step, which will start in January,” says Claudius. The position is initially for five years with a possibility for a 4-year extension based on external evaluation.

Claudius will continue to work on “The molecular basis of evolutionary change”.

He started as a fellow at the Zukunftskolleg in September 2013, working on the evolution of transcriptional regulation during diversification and speciation in cichlid fish.

