Dear fellows and friends,

As the end of the year is approaching, we look back with pleasure at what we have achieved. We experienced many presentations and events that gave us food for thought. We especially thank everyone involved: the organizers, speakers and guests who came in person or joined virtually this year and shared new and exciting perspectives with us!

An important piece of news is that the fourth ZUKOnnect Fellowship call for applications as well as the second Herz Fellowship call for applications for early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America have been launched. The application deadline for ZUKOnnect is 15 February, for Herz 15 March 2022. The Herz Fellowships are part of the Henriette Herz Award launched by the Humboldt Foundation. Please also note that the Zukunftskolleg has issued a new call for applications for six intra-university funding programmes (read on for more information). The deadline for all these programmes is 15 February 2022.

We are proud to present the ZuKo podcast, which has been officially launched to better promote our various funding programmes.

Regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we suggest that you please continue to follow the latest updates. We hope you and your families are staying safe!

Finally, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas as well as a Happy New Year! Enjoy the “most wonderful

New calls for applications

- Fourth call for applications for early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America
- New call for applications for the Zukunftskolleg Herz Fellowships 2022
- New call for applications for funding programmes at the Zukunftskolleg

Recent calls for applications

- 84 applications for 2-year and 5-year Fellowships

News review

- New ZuKo Podcast Series

Review of events

- Jour fixe: Welcome to the 2021/22 winter semester
- Jour fixe: Babu Thaliath (Senior Fellow / Philosophy) “The Epistemic-Structural Intuition”
time of the year”, and we hope to see you soon back at the Zukunftskolleg!

We wish you a great holiday season!

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

New calls for applications
Fourth call for applications for 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. The application deadline is 15 February 2022.

Up to four (post)doctoral stipends for an on-campus research stay at the Zukunftskolleg are available for up to three months (with justification for up to four months). The on-site ZUKOnnect Fellowships are complemented by a digital affiliation, thus extending them to a duration of twelve months. The start date for the digital affiliation is summer 2022. The preferred start date for the on-site ZUKOnnect Fellowships is between 1 September 2022 and 16 October 2022.

Starting in 2021, the foundation “Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft” at the University of Konstanz is supporting the ZUKOnnect Fellowships with the Manfred Ulmer Scholarship worth € 6,000 and thus funding one of the four scholarships.

The ZUKOnnect Fellowships aim to strengthen cultural diversity at the Zukunftskolleg and in so doing promote and stimulate 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 ZUKOnnect Fellows will team up with Zukunftskolleg Fellows, who will help them to settle down in their departments and support them during their entire research stay. The ZUKOnnect Fellows will thus be an integral part of the community at the Zukunftskolleg, despite the rather short duration. Zukunftskolleg Fellows likewise will benefit greatly from this intercultural exchange.

New call for applications for the Zukunftskolleg Herz Fellowships 2022

For the second time, the Zukunftskolleg has launched the Zukunftskolleg Herz Fellowship call, which is similar to the ZUKOnnect Fellowship but relies on active recruitment rather than open applications.

The Herz Fellowship is part of the Henriette Herz Award launched by the Humboldt Foundation. To actively identify the best candidates from all disciplines, the Zukunftskolleg encourages all (junior) professors at the University of
New call for applications for funding programmes at the Zukunftskolleg

The Zukunftkolleg has published calls for applications for several funding programmes open to all non-tenured researchers of the University of Konstanz. The application deadline for all programmes is 15 February 2022.

The following programmes are offered:

**Independent Research Grant**
(Researchers in the early phase of their career are especially encouraged to apply.)

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

**Mentorship Programme**

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 maintain these contacts.

**Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects**

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

**Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching**

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.

**Intersectoral Cooperative Programme**

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

Please send any queries to: zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de

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**Recent calls for applications**

**84 applications for 2-year and 5-year Fellowships**

In its latest call for three 2- and three 5-year Fellowships (the closing date for applications was 15 October 2021), the Zukunftskolleg received 84 applications.

Of these, 67 were applications for 2-year Fellowships and 17 were applications for 5-year Fellowships. Of all 84 applications, 28 came from Germany and 56 from abroad. 53 came from male and 31 from female applicants.

At the beginning of December, the Recruitment Committee has chosen 30 2-year and 14 5-year candidates for further consideration. In its second meeting on 27-28 January 2022, the committee will decide on the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellows who will be offered positions. On 17-18 February 2022, the “Workshop on Future Research Directions” for the candidates applying for a 5-year Research Fellowship will take place.

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**News review**
New ZuKo Podcast Series

For all early career researchers at the University of Konstanz, the Zukunftskolleg offers funding to advance their research projects, such as an Independent Research Grant, a Mentorship Programme or funding for Transdepartmental Collaborative Teaching courses. To better promote these funding options, the ZuKo podcast series was started, in cooperation with KIM Recording.

**Episode 0** gives a short overview of the work at the Zukunftskolleg.

**Episode 1** answers all questions regarding the Independent Research Grant, especially for researchers in the early phases of their careers. And how better to do that than to let one experienced winner tell how she came to apply for it!

Find more information on the ZuKo podcast series [here](#).

Stay tuned for the next episodes as well!

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Review of events

**Jour fixe: Welcome to the 2021/22 winter semester**

On Tuesday, 26 October 2021, the Zukunftskolleg welcomed everyone back and wished them a great start to the new winter semester!

The current Executive Committee members were presented, new postdoctoral and research fellows were introduced to the Zukunftskolleg community and ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows were welcomed. Finally, the obligatory safety instructions were explained.
Jour fixe: Babu Thaliath (Senior Fellow / Philosophy) “The Epistemic-Structural Intuition”

On 2 November 2021, Babu Thaliath (Senior Fellow / Dept. of Philosophy / School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India) spoke about “The Epistemic-Structural Intuition”.

Abstract:

The concept of “structural intuition” was developed by renowned art historian Martin Kemp in 25 short articles that appeared in the journal Nature between 1997 and 2000. In the introduction to his work “Visualizations. The nature book of art and science”, in which these articles are collected and edited, Kemp explains the principle of structural intuition as the infallible resonance that exists between internally intuitive and externally phenomenal structures. In my talk, I try to demonstrate how the structural intuitions in the context of early modern mathematical and material sciences prove to be compositional in that they unify mathematical formality with mechanical and material phenomenality. The compositional nature of structural intuition points to its epistemological potential, based on which this doctrine can be extended to “epistemic-structural intuition” and, as such, substantiated as the characteristic trait of axiomatic intuitions in early modern sciences.

Jour fixe: Joint session with the Martin Buber Society of Fellows from Jerusalem/Israel

On 9 November 2021, the Martin Buber Society and the Zukunftskolleg held a kick-off meeting for the Martin Buber-Zukunftskolleg Symposium 2022!

The partnership between the Martin Buber Society and the Zukunftskolleg has a long tradition and has already born many fruits in interdisciplinary and international dialogue. The two institutions are endeavouring to revive their partnership after the long COVID break and organize a joint symposium in 2022. The symposium is a year-long project with one meeting in Konstanz in June/July 2022 and another one in Jerusalem in December 2022, with the opportunity to work collaboratively on a digital platform in between.

In the past, the fellows came together and discussed themes such as “forgetting”, “mobility” or “un/certainty”, which led to book or blog publications. The themes were always inspired by a bottom-up approach, and both the Zukunftskolleg and the MBS would like to follow this path together once more. In this virtual kick-off meeting on 9 November 2021, the two fellow communities met, got to know each other and...
brainstormed in smaller groups about new, inspiring themes.

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**Public talk: (Mis)translating Deceit: Disinformation’s Hidden Translingual Journey**

On **10 November 2021**, Vera Tolz and Stephen Hutchings, both from the Department of Russian and East European Studies at the University of Manchester and mentors of Associated Fellow Maria Zhukova, presented their research on "(Mis)translating Deceit: Disinformation’s Hidden Translingual Journey".

This event was a joint action by the Zukunftskolleg and the Zentrum für Kulturwissenschaftliche Forschung (ZKF) and supported by the Mentorship Programme of the Zukunftskolleg. Maria Zhukova chaired the event.

**Abstract:**

Despite growing concern about misinformation, lack of knowledge about how the term originated, or how uses of that term change over time and across different languages and cultures, is seriously hampering our ability to counter it. Professors Stephen Hutchings and Vera Tolz (University of Manchester, UK) will present a paper that tells part of the story of disinformation’s hidden journey. Hutchings and Tolz link inattention to disinformation’s multi-dimensional journey with the growth of what has recently been termed the ‘Big Disinfo’ industry (the burgeoning of disinformation monitoring and countering initiatives), in whose interests it is to simplify, conflate or ignore disinformation’s numerous border crossings. This, we argue, merely plays into the hands of the authoritarian actors most guilty of disinformation practices. The paper draws on research carried out in a range of different national language corpora, allowing the speakers to pinpoint how the meanings and uses of the term ‘disinformation’ have changed over time and between cultures, and how those different meanings have shaped both one another, and their associated practices. The paper also presents two examples of key narratives identified by contemporary disinformation trackers, demonstrating the perils of failing to account for the linguistic, cultural and historical contexts in which those narratives are embedded.

**About the authors:**

**Vera Tolz:** Sir William Mather Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Manchester. Her most recent books are Nation, Ethnicity and Race on Russian Television: Mediating Post-Soviet Difference (with Stephen Hutchings) and Russia’s Own Orient: The Politics of Identity and Oriental Studies in the Late Imperial and Early Soviet Periods. In 2012-2016, she was co-director of the UK’s Centre for East European Language-Based Area Studies. She is a fellow of the UK’s Academy of Social Sciences.

**Stephen Hutchings:** Professor of Russian Studies at the University of Manchester. Author and co-author of six monographs on aspects of Russian media and culture, he is a fellow of the UK’s Academy of Social Sciences and former president of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies.

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**Jour fixe: Prerna Nadathur (Postdoctoral Fellow / Linguistics) “Talking about causation: cause, make, and causal intentions”**

On **16 November 2021**, Prerna Nadathur (Postdoctoral Fellow / Dept. of Linguistics) was “Talking about causation: cause, make, and causal intentions.”
Abstract:

Like many languages, English has a variety of verbs which can be used to describe causal relationships between two individuals and/or events.

(1) a. Stravinsky caused the audience to riot.
   b. Stravinsky made the audience riot.
   c. Stravinsky had the audience riot.
   d. Stravinsky got the audience to riot.

Each of the periphrastic causative verbs in (1) conveys that Stravinsky played a role in bringing the riot about. However, the claims are not simply paraphrases of one another, but are understood to describe different kinds of causal situations: (1b), for instance, suggests that Stravinsky exerted some kind of force over his audience, while (1c) might indicate that he took a more hands-off ‘director’ role, and so on.

Traditional approaches to causal language take these verbs to be unified by referring to a (cognitively basic) relation of causal dependence, typically called cause (Dowty 1979). As a “lexical atom” (or basic unit of meaning), the “cause” is often identified with the meaning of the English verb “cause” and assumed to describe a counterfactual relationship in which an event designated as the effect would have been impossible in the absence of the cause. On this hypothesis, the implications specific to each of the causatives in (1b)-(1d) must follow from additional, non-causal lexical atoms which are encoded alongside cause in the meanings of these verbs: this predicts that the set of contexts in which “make”, “have” and “get” can be used are, respectively, subsets of the set of appropriate contexts for the cause.

The linguistic data do not support this monolithic view of causal dependencies. Against the idea of a single causal primitive (“cause”), I argue that causal language employs an inventory of basic and contrasting causal relationships, which can be modelled as different structural configurations within a computational causal model (e.g. Shoham 1990, Pearl 2000). I develop the argument for a pluralist view of linguistic causation by focusing on a comparative analysis of make and cause, showing that intuitive (linguistic) judgements about contrasts in the appropriate use and interpretation of these verbs are best explained by a theory which establishes a basic distinction between verbs which predicate causal sufficiency of a cause for an effect (e.g. “make” and German “lassen”) and those which instead predicate causal necessity (e.g. “cause”). I offer definitions of these dependence relations within the framework of a Pearl-style structural equation (network) model for causal reasoning and show how they interact with context-dependent and variable features such as (a participant’s) agency and intentions. The ways in which we talk about causation naturally reflect the cognitive representation of causation: the success of the pluralistic approach in explaining the use and interpretation of causative verbs thus suggests that causation is not conceptualized in terms of a single binary dependence relation, but instead in terms of complex networks in which individuals, intentions and events affect one another in distinct ways.

Jour fixe: Poster session with new ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows: Presentation of the research projects of eight ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows

On 23 November 2021, the eight current ZUKOnnect & Herz Fellows (2021 cohort) held a poster session in a hybrid format.

The participants came together in person and began with
a short round of lightning talks, in which each of the ZUKOnnect and Herz Fellows presented their research topic in two minutes to the whole audience. Afterwards, the posters were presented in person to the audience. The poster session was opened by our director Giovanni Galizia, and Dorothea Debus (Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Equal Opportunity and Diversity) closed the session.

For those who were unable to join in person on 23 November, a digital alternative was offered: the lightning talks were streamed online, and in the week following the lightning talks (from 29 November to 3 December), individual poster discussions with all Herz and ZUKOnnect Fellows took place online.

**NetIAS Lectures Series “Machine Learning Approaches for Debugging a Quantum Computer”**

On 25 November 2021 and as part of the European NetIAS Lectures Series, Violeta Ivanova-Rohling gave a talk on “Machine Learning Approaches for Debugging a Quantum Computer”.

The European NetIAS Lecture Series is jointly organized by the institutes participating in NetIAS. In the 2021/22 winter semester, the New Europe College is responsible for organizing the current series of conferences.

Researchers from different fields and various European centres invite the participants to reflect on knowledge in a digital age.

More information [here](#).

**Abstract:**

In the past decades, the mounting evidence that quantum algorithms can solve specific tasks with efficiency beyond the capability of a state-of-the-art classical computer has attracted tremendous interest in the field. A turning point was Shor’s algorithm for prime factorization, a polynomial quantum algorithm solving a problem that is hard for classical computers. A fully functioning all-purpose quantum device would have an enormous impact on our lives, with
applications in science, drug discovery, disaster preparedness, space exploration and environmental sustainability among many others. As a consequence, an increasing number of countries and companies are investing billions of dollars in a race to produce and commercialize the quantum computer. Various physical systems for quantum computation have already been developed, and hybrid quantum algorithms, which aim at solving optimization problems more efficiently, can run on existing noisy intermediate-sized quantum devices. However, a full-size general-purpose quantum computer is still out of reach. One of the difficulties in developing such a device is that as the size and complexity of the quantum computer grow, more sophisticated techniques for calibration and evaluation of their performance are required in order to develop fault-tolerant devices. Quantum state tomography (QST) is a prominent technique for the verification of a quantum computer, which allows for the reconstruction of a given quantum state from measurement data. By providing comprehensive information for a given quantum state, QST is known as the “gold standard” for the verification of a quantum device. However, its computational costs make it infeasible for a system larger than a few qubits. Moreover, it can be time-consuming even for small systems, i.e. building blocks of a quantum computer of only one or two qubits. Efficient QST would be an important step to making a general-purpose quantum device possible. One aspect of the efficiency of the QST procedure depends on the choice of the measurement scheme, which determines the number of measurements one needs to do in order to perform the QST. Finding a measurement scheme that minimizes the number of required measurements can be formulated as an optimization problem. My work focuses on applying and developing various optimization and machine learning methods with the goal of finding measurement schemes which minimize the number of measurements needed. By using prior knowledge of the landscape of potential solutions, such as particular symmetries and invariances, one could improve the exploration of the search space and find the optimal measurement schemes.

Jour fixe: María Cruz Berrocal (Associated Fellow / History and Sociology)
“Archaeology in the Pacific: interdisciplinary approaches to the archaeological record”

On 30 November 2021, Maria Cruz Berrocal (Associated Fellow / Dept. of History and Sociology) talked about "Archaeology in the Pacific: interdisciplinary approaches to the archaeological record".

Abstract:

Archaeometric approaches are widely used in archaeology to better understand the archaeological record in many dimensions that go beyond the recovery and study of archaeological artefacts. In this talk, I will present some of the research questions and some of the methodological approaches that I am using, in collaboration with a broad group of researchers of different disciplines, to unravel questions of large historical consequences through small-scale analysis. I will present my main scientific concerns and a particular case study located in northern Taiwan.
Jour fixe: Alice el-Wakil (Postdoctoral Fellow / Politics and Public Administration)
“Citizens as Agenda-setters in Democratic Systems”

On 7 December 2021, Alice el-Wakil (Postdoctoral Fellow / Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) discussed: “Is voters’ incompetence a reason not to include referendums in democratic systems?”.

Abstract:

In political and academic debates about whether referendums and initiatives should be included in democratic systems, an objection to these processes keeps coming up: voters are too incompetent or uninformed to cast their ballot on policy issues. Therefore, democrats should instead support the institutionalization of democracy through conventional representative institutions. This article revisits the normative basis for this enduring objection. It argues that the assumption on which it rests, namely that ordinary voters should be more competent or knowledgeable when casting their ballot in popular votes than in elections, is unjustified. None of the four reasons advanced in the literature – popular votes are more complex than elections; they undermine voters’ decision-making competence; they produce irreversible decisions, and they turn voters into legislators – stands up to scrutiny. Thus, unless democrats are ready to renounce elections too, the incompetence or lack of knowledge of voters cannot serve to reject popular vote
Jour fixe: Assembly of Members and Stephan Streuber (Associated Fellow / Computer and Information Science), Lorenz Assländer (Postdoc / Sports Science) and Alejandra Quiros (Associated Fellow / Computer and Information Science)

“Augmented Reality”

On 14 December 2021, the Assembly of Members elected Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow / Dept. of Literature & Politics and Public Administration) as new member to the Executive Committee. The election was conducted digitally with an anonymous voting procedure.

After the election, Stephan Streuber (Associated Fellow / Computer and Information Science), Lorenz Assländer (Postdoc / Sports Science) and Alejandra Quiros (Associated Fellow / Computer and Information Science) presented two projects on “Augmented Reality”.

Abstracts:

**Augmented visual orientation cues to improve balance and prevent falls**

Stephan Streuber / Lorenz Assländer

*Falls in the elderly are a major problem for individuals and society. In the aging process, sensory and motor systems deteriorate through losses in receptor density and sarcopenia, a loss in muscle mass. This also affects the balance control mechanism, leading to an increase in spontaneous sway and to changes in the feedback control mechanisms maintaining balance. We hypothesize that reliable and valid augmented visual orientation (AVO) cues improve the sensory input available to the central nervous system and thereby improve balance. The proposed project investigates whether augmenting visual orientation with additional space veridical cues projected into the field of view can improve balance and prevent falls. The basic idea of augmented visual orientation (AVO) is analogous to that of an artificial horizon in an aircraft. Technical sensors are used to extract the position of a device in gravito-inertial space and augmented reality techniques are used to provide space veridical visual cues for a user. To the best of our knowledge, using AVO or similar techniques to improve balance has not been described in the literature and therefore may be a novel approach for fall prevention.*

**Red shape, blue shape: political ideology influences the social perception of body shape**

Alejandra Quiros / Stephan Streuber / Michael Black

More information [here](#).

*Political elections have a profound impact on individuals and societies. Optimal voting is...*
thought to be based on informed and deliberate decisions, yet it has been demonstrated that the outcomes of political elections are biased by the perception of candidates’ facial features and the stereotypical traits voters attribute to these. Interestingly, political identification changes the attribution of stereotypical traits from facial features. This study explores whether the perception of body shape elicits similar effects on political trait attribution and whether these associations can be visualized. In Experiment 1, ratings of 3D body shapes were used to model the relationship between perception of 3D body shape and the attribution of political traits such as ‘Republican’, ‘Democrat’ or ‘Leader’. This made it possible to analyze and visualize the mental representations of stereotypical 3D body shapes associated with each political trait. Experiment 2 was designed to test whether political identification of the raters affected the attribution of political traits to different types of body shapes. The results show that humans attribute political traits to the same body shapes differently depending on their own political preference. These findings show that our judgements of others are influenced by their body shape and our own political views. Such judgements have potential political and societal implications.

Forthcoming events

**Jour Fixe**

*Mirjam Lücking (Research Visit Fellow)*

“Not only at Christmas: Souvenirs from Bethlehem in Indonesians’ Cosmopolitan Religious Identities”

21 December 2021
15:15 – 16:30
Virtual

**Visit by Rector Katharina Holzinger**

Ten lightning talks by fellows, followed by discussion

11 January 2022
15:15 – 16:30
Y326 / hybrid

**Gabriella Gall**

(Postdoctoral Fellow / Biology)

“Exploring the Effect of Early Experience on Individual Vocal Flexibility and Group Functioning”

18 January 2022
15:15 – 16:30
Y326 / hybrid

**Jennifer Randerath**

(Research Fellow / Psychology)

“Motor Cognition and Neurorehabilitation”

25 January 2022
15:15 – 16:30
Y326 / hybrid
Daniela Rößler (Postdoctoral Fellow / Biology)
"Hungry Eyes: An Experimental Framework Testing Eye Camouflage in Active Predators"
1 February 2022
15:15 – 16:30
Y326 / hybrid

Assembly of Members
Election of members for the Executive Committee
8 February 2022
15:15 – 16:30
Y326 / hybrid
See the current Jour fixe programme [here](#).

Executive Committee meetings in the 2021/22 winter semester
11 January 2022
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual
8 February 2022
13:00 – 15:00
Virtual
The deadline for handing in applications for a forthcoming EC meeting is one week before the meeting, e.g. for the meeting on 11 January the deadline for handing in applications is 4 January 2022, 12:00 noon.

Event Series “Racism in Academia”
As a reaction to Black Lives Matter and the university’s solidarity statements, some Zukunftskolleg fellows started to organise a digital/hybrid event series in the winter semester 2020/21, which continues to winter semester 2021/22. More information [here](#).
Máximo Sozzo (Professor of Sociology and Criminology at the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina)
“Southern perspectives on crime and punishment: debates and dilemmas”
9 February 2022
Public talk
14:00 - 15:30

NetIAS Lecture Series
The European NetIAS Lecture Series is organized jointly by the institutes participating in NetIAS. In the winter semester 2021/22, the New Europe College is responsible for the organization of the current series of conferences.

Researchers from different fields and from various European centres invite to reflect on knowledge in a digital age.

27 January 2022, Ruben Pauwels
Biomedical scientist, Associate Professor, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (Denmark)
“Evolution of the Radiology Profession due to Artificial Intelligence”

Abstract:
In this talk, a particular example of ‘Knowledge in a Digital Era’ will be discussed. Digitization of medical imaging started well over 30 years ago and is still ongoing. Within this time span, certain innovations did not require a significant adaptation in radiological know-how (e.g. photostimulable phosphor plate), whereas other technologies required significant adaptations of training curricula and/or additional post-graduate certification (e.g. CT, MRI). Currently, artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the radiological landscape. Following the development of highly performant algorithms for deep learning, along with the ever-increasing computational power available to us, the use of AI for diagnostics as well as image processing has been explored. While the development of clinical AI tools is very much work in progress, the hype around AI has already raised several questions regarding its impact on the radiological profession. Although it is generally believed that radiologists will not become obsolete any time soon, and that the ultimate responsibility for a patient’s diagnosis and treatment will remain in human hands, several questions can be raised regarding the effect of AI on the required knowledge and competencies of...
future radiologists. Most of the current perspectives regarding the use of AI in radiology are somewhat simplified and static, and focus mainly on how AI can enhance the diagnostic workflow (‘augmented radiology’). The reality, however, may be much more complex and dynamic, and may require a significant alteration to the training requirements of radiologists or, perhaps, the inception of an entirely new profession.

Careers, distinctions, and grants

DFG-AHRC 3-year-grant for Tina Bögel

We congratulate Tina Bögel (former Associated Fellow / Linguistics) who has received a 3-year grant from The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) for her collaborative project with Alice Turk on the “Prosodic Structure at the Interface between Language and Speech”.

“In 2016, I received an Independent Research Grant from the Zukunftskolleg for a pilot experiment in cooperation with Alice Turk in Edinburgh as well as a Mentorship Grant in 2018 for visits to and from Edinburgh. The direct result of this support is a DFG-AHRC 3-year grant recently awarded to me and Alice Turk,” says Tina Bögel. And she adds: “A heartfelt ‘Thank you!’ to the Zukunftskolleg for its support!”

The award aims to bring together arts and humanities researchers in the UK and Germany to conduct outstanding projects spanning a wide range of academic disciplines. It is part of a long-standing collaboration between the AHRC and the DFG, which was renewed earlier this year. The bilateral funding agreement has been extended for five years and will facilitate a total of eight funding measures.

Read more here.

Manfred-Ulmer-Stipendium awarded to ZUKOnnect Fellow Ilesha Avasthi

On 15 November 2021, on the occasion of the Regional Science Forum in Tuttlingen,
the foundation “Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft” at the University of Konstanz officially awarded Ilesha Avasthi the Manfred-Ulmer-Stipendium.

The “Manfred Ulmer-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft” has been funding early career researchers active in research and teaching since 1979. Long-standing, fruitful cooperation between the Zukunftskolleg and the foundation dates back to 2001.

As of 2021, Zukunftskolleg director Giovanni Galizia is a member of the foundation’s board of trustees. The foundation’s scholarship fund supports the ZUKOnnect Fellowship with € 6,000 each year. “This new development enables the foundation to play an even more active role in attracting international early career researchers and supporting the ZUKOnnect Fellowship programme,” says the foundation. ZUKOnnect Fellow Ilesha Avasthi has been selected as the first winner.

“I am grateful to have met Tina Ulmer. Moreover, I was given a bouquet and a certificate. I enjoyed the event and I thank the foundation for its great support,” she says.

The application and selection process for the ZUKOnnect Fellows takes place in an open and competitive call for applications supervised by the Zukunftskolleg.

More information about the ZUKOnnect Fellowship and its current open call are available here.

Watch a video here about Ilesha and her research in the framework of the award of the Manfred-Ulmer-Stipendium.

Critical Criminologist Award for Valeria Vegh Weis

We congratulate Valeria Vegh Weis (Research Fellow / Dept. of Literature & Law) who has been selected as the Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice’s “Critical Criminologist of the Year 2021” by the American Society of Criminology.

The selection committee explained its choice as follows:

“The committee was deeply impressed by the scope, scale and impact of Dr Weis’s work. In particular, the committee noted the impact of Dr Weis’s research, teaching and service across issues, languages, and continents. Publishing in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, on issues ranging from southern Abolitionism to climate change to transitional justice to Marxism and criminology, and in prestigious academic
venues as well as trenchantly radical and crucial trade presses like Haymarket, Dr Weis is an exemplar of international and internationalist critical criminology. In addition to her impressive scholarly record, which in addition to her publications includes multiple prestigious Post-Docs, she also serves on Editorial Boards of journals in the U.S., the U.K., and Argentina; reviews for journals in multiple countries and languages; and has supervised PhD students in the U.S. and Argentina.

Valeria Vegh Weis has been a Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg since July 2021, working on the project “Confronting state crimes and dealing with the aftermath. Towards a victim-driven approach in transitional justice processes”.