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Von: Zukunftskolleg <zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de>

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An: zukunftskolleg-pr@uni-konstanz.de





# Zukunftskolleg Newsletter Issue 04/2020

Dear fellows and friends,

Welcome to the 2020/21winter semester!

The long summer days at the lake are coming to an end and we look back on an extraordinary last summer semester. Unforgettable the new challenges, as the last months where filled with dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and a new normal is slowing taking place.

Now, we look forward to the winter semester that starts a little later than usual. A particularly new start with new teaching methods, hybrid university approaches and everyday challenges. Nonetheless, an important piece of news is that the application phase for the 15th call for 2-year Postdoctoral and 5-year Research Fellowships is almost over (application deadline: 15 October 2020).

Furthermore, the Zukunftskolleg has launched a new call for applications for its 2021/22 cohort of Senior Fellows (application deadline: 15 December 2020).

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.

What is next? Both the **Executive Committee** meetings and the **Jour fixe** will start in November 2020.

Since the current situation is still new for all of us and updates are coming in rather sporadically, we suggest that you please continue to follow the latest updates regarding the <u>coronavirus crisis</u>. We hope you and your families are staying safe!

#### **Current calls for applications**

- 15th Call for Applications for Postdoctoral and Research Fellowships
- New call for applications for Senior Fellowships
- 2020 CAT call Pre-selection

#### **Review of news**

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- Extension of fellowships in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
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## New fellows at the Zukunftskolleg

- We welcome Gruia B\u00e4descu to the Zukunftskolleg
- We welcome Sidney Carls-Diamante to the Zukunftskolleg
- We welcome Jacob Bloomfield to the Zukunftskolleg
- Start of digital ZUKOnnect Fellowships

#### Review of events

Despite the pandemic and the new normal, we wish you a great start to the autumn.

Warmest regards,

The Zukunftskolleg team

- European NetIAS Lecture Series
- Jour fixe summer semester 2020

#### Forthcoming events

- Executive Committee Meetings
- Jour fixe winter semester 2020/2021

## Careers, distinctions and grants

- Gisela Kopp new member of Die Junge Akademie
- Double success for alumnus Ilja Serzants
- Lecturer position for Janina Beiser-McGrath
- DFG grant for Elliot Lash

# **Current calls for applications**

# 15th Call for Applications for Postdoctoral and Research Fellowships

The Zukunftskolleg has published its 15th call for applications for **Postdoctoral and Research Fellowships**.

The 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowship is aimed at researchers at the early stage of their careers who plan to develop and implement an independent research project. The 5-year Research Fellowship is attractive for researchers with significant work experience and an established academic profile at postdoctoral level. Both fellowships are open to applicants from all disciplines represented at the University of Konstanz. A special feature of this call: one Cluster-Zukunftskolleg 2-year Fellowship related to the study of collective behaviour can be funded by the "Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour". directly. An additional Cluster-Zukunftskolleg 2-year

Fellowship can be funded by the

Cluster of Excellence "Politics of

investigating the political causes and consequences of inequality.

Inequality" for projects





Applications must be submitted via the <u>online application portal</u>. The **deadline for submissions is 15 October 2020** (11:00 Konstanz time).

Please find more information on the <u>Zukunftskolleg's website</u>. If you have any additional questions, please contact Anda Lohan by email: <u>zukunftskolleg-application@unikonstanz.de</u>.



#### New call for applications for Senior Fellowships

The Zukunftskolleg has launched a new call for applications for its 2021/22 cohort of Senior Fellows.

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 of independent academic work experience and enjoy exchange and collaboration with younger generations. Applicants will be required to describe how their proposed work will contribute to research conducted at the Zukunftskolleg. Special



attention will be paid to envisaged collaboration with a current Zukunftskolleg fellow.

You can find the call for applications as well as information about eligibility criteria and the application process on the <u>Zukunftskolleg website</u>. The **application deadline is 15 December 2020**.



#### 2020 CAT call - Pre-selection

Incubated in the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS), the CAT initiative (Constructive Advanced Thinking) aims to foster networks of excellent early-career researchers dedicated to conceptualising new ideas with which to understand and tackle current or emerging societal challenges.

The 2nd call for the 2020 CAT programme has just closed and all eligible groups will now be pre-selected by the participating IAS before they enter the evaluation stage.

The Zukunftskolleg is responsible for this 2nd call and cooperates with its 9 European sister IAS:

- IAS CEU, Budapest
- Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem
- Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions, Montpellier
- Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, Amsterdam
- Paris Institute for Advanced Study, Paris
- Scienza Nuova, Torino
- Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala
- Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Berlin
- Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Bielefeld

Successful applications will be notified at the beginning of December 2020. Invitations start after 1 January 2021.

Questions can be sent to Daniela Kromrey via email: CAT2020@uni-konstanz.de.





# Review of news

#### Anton Faistauer exhibition with Sarah Bildstein

Starting in June, an exhibition in Salzburg presented ten nominees for this year's **Anton** Faistauer Award for Painting – artist Sarah Bildstein was among them.

In 2019, Sarah Bildstein organised the exhibition "100 Spectres" in the Gewölbekeller cultural centre in Konstanz – funded by the Zukunftskolleg. She collected water samples from throughout the world; in collaboration with scientists from the Zukunftskolleg, she then identified the individual constituents of the water and translated them into aesthetic forms.

Every three years, the Federal State of Salzburg awards a prize for painting to promote the younger generation of artists. It is named after the painter Anton Faistauer, who comes from the Federal State of Salzburg. The prize is worth € 7,000.

The competition is open to painters under 40 who were born in Austria or have lived in Austria permanently for at least five years.



## **Zukunftskolleg Statement of Solidarity**

People in the USA and around the world are coming together to **protest against institutionalised racism and racialised violence**. We too cannot remain silent and continue with 'research as usual'.

We recognise that racism and discrimination are a genuine problem both in Germany in general and in German academia in particular. We acknowledge the underrepresentation of BIPoC\* in the scientific community as well as the inequalities

they face in that community, and we express here our commitment to fight against these inequalities.

Within our own institute, the Zukunftskolleg, we want to critically reflect and act upon the repercussions of racism inherent in our societies and institutional structures. We will:

- Create a Jour fixe series on institutional racism in academia, led by experts
- Diversify our curriculum through the increased inclusion of texts and research by BIPoC in teaching
- Provide certified training to our fellows on racism, unconscious bias, and diversity and gender competence
- Acquire expert advice for our selection processes for fellowships and provide training to those holding decision-making positions for other grants and funding instruments within the Zukunftskolleg (such as members of the Executive Committee)
- Increase outreach to BIPoC and advertise our funded programmes (postdoctoral fellowship, research fellowship, senior fellowship, research visit, mentorship) more widely, as well as further advance the ZUKOnnect Fellowships programme
- Review the progress of all these measures in the last EC meeting every academic year in July and make the progress report public to ensure transparency

<sup>\*</sup>Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour



# Extension of fellowships in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Zukunftskolleg had published an internal call for applications for the extension of fellowships in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this call for applications, the Zukunftskolleg aimed to ensure that Postdoctoral and Research Fellows, whose research projects had been negatively impacted by COVID-19, are subsidised through contract extensions – subject to budgetary capacity and taking into account the legal regulations of the Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz (WissZeitVG) (Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law) and the Landeshochschulgesetz (LHG) (State Law on Higher Education)

Affected fellows could apply for a contract extension of either three or six months if:

- They were within their regular fellowship time (2+1 years or 5 years)
- They held an employment contract or scholarship between 1 March and 30 September 2020 and
- Their research projects had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic regulations to a significant degree.

All affected fellows could, irrespective of the end date of their regular fellowship, apply for a contract extension by 1 September 2020.



## Avoiding summer's sting

Stinging insects – especially those with a predilection for our picnics – can be the sting in the tail of summer. But knowing a bit about the biology and behaviour of stinging insects can help us coexist for the brief period we're together outdoors, says bee researcher Morgane Nouvian, member of the Zukunftskolleg and the Cluster of Excellence "Centre for the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour".

Nothing says summer like warm weather,

outdoor BBQs – and pesky black-and-yellow insects. These are the offenders of outdoor dining. They crawl on our food and fall into our drinks for as long as the weather is warm enough to eat outside.

Bees, wasps and flies make up the collection of striped insects that are conspicuous during the warmer months. But each has unique behaviours, especially in relation to interactions with people. Only wasps pose a nuisance when food is about, and the risk of getting stung can be easily managed with a bit of knowledge about their biology.

"If you don't bother them, they won't bother you. The best thing to do is stay calm and move away if you can," says biologist Morgane Nouvian, Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg who studies the stinging behaviour of bees. Or, she says, just share. "Letting them feed on a bit of food at a distance can distract them enough to leave you alone."

According to Morgane, bees and wasps will never sting if unprovoked. "Swatting them away is the worst thing we can do as it triggers their defensive behaviour. Similarly, trying to kill or catch them will also lead them to sting."

If they feel the colony is in danger, bees and wasps also engage in other non-stinging defensive behaviours.

Read more in campus.kn, the online magazine of the University of Konstanz.



# New fellows at the Zukunftskolleg

#### We welcome Gruia Bãdescu to the Zukunftskolleg

Gruia Bãdescu is one of five new Research Fellows from the 14th call for applications. He started his fellowship on 1 July and is affiliated with the Department of History and Sociology.

Gruia did his PhD at the Centre for Urban Conflicts Research at the Department of Architecture of the University of Cambridge, UK. Before coming to Konstanz, he was a departmental lecturer and research associate at the



University of Oxford. He was also a fellow of the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) Southeastern Europe at the University of Rijeka and a visiting lecturer at SNSPA Bucharest. His research so far centred on the relationship between reconfigurations of urban space and processes of dealing with the past in Southeastern Europe, also in dialogue with other regions, specifically South America and the Middle East. His publications examined urban memory in post-war and post-authoritarian contexts. He is currently completing a book on post-war reconstruction and dealing with the past.

"Until December 2021, I will also be an Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral fellow in Konstanz, working with Jan and Aleida Assmann as part of the Balzan Prize Research Group 'Reconstructing Memory in the City'," reports Gruia.

"My research project at the Zukuftskolleg examines how urban imaginaries – the way that urban actors understand what a city is – are shaped and reconfigured after historical ruptures, such as end of empire, aftermath of war and transition from dictatorship. I analyse the relationship between urban imaginaries, city-making in spatial-architectural terms, and economic and political processes. The project focuses on the historical experiences of cities that identify with two particular urban imaginaries, related to understandings of cosmopolitanism and modernity. First, it examines post-imperial cities in Europe such as Sarajevo, where the dominant imaginary is one of being cosmopolitan places of diversity, but which have in fact experienced different forms of conflict, population change and exclusions. Second, it discusses how a particular form of urban modernity – the imaginary of Paris, which Harvey (2004) deemed the "capital of the nineteenth century" – was embraced by three cities in different geographical contexts – a "Paris of the Middle East" (Beirut), "Paris of the Balkans" (Bucharest) and "Paris of Latin America" (Buenos Aires) – and how this imaginary morphed during war, dictatorship and neoliberal transitions."



#### We welcome Sidney Carls-Diamante to the Zukunftskolleg

Sidney Carls-Diamante is one of five new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 14th call for applications. She started her fellowship in July and is affiliated with the Department of Philosophy.

"As a philosopher by training, I specialise in investigating underexplored topics in cognitive science that challenge standard conceptions and received views about the mind," explains Sidney. "My research integrates scientific and medical findings with philosophical insights to generate novel



perspectives on the structure and function of the mind." Among her past research projects is a series of papers on cognition and consciousness in octopuses. In 2019, she was awarded the Werner Callebaut Prize for interdisciplinary research by the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology.

Sidney did her PhD at the University of Auckland, Australia. After that, she worked at the Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research (KLI) in Klosterneuburg, Austria.

Her research project at the Zukunftskolleg introduces a philosophical dimension to research on bipolar disorder (BD), a severe and common psychiatric illness. It addresses the pressing need for humanistic research in psychiatry, wherein the existential concerns arising from mental illness are examined from the perspective of the patient's life experiences. "The project explores the existential issues pertaining to the complex relationship between BD and personhood, and offers new perspectives on addressing these challenges," says Sidney. "It explores questions such as the extent to which BD is part of the personality, the role of BD in structuring self-concepts, and the

relationship between BD and creativity. These philosophical issues have extensive implications for the structure of treatment programmes, improving the accuracy of personal and clinical recognition of symptoms and diagnostic practices, insurance cover policies and government health care subsidies, and development of medications that effectively address the symptoms of BD without unpleasant side effects."



#### We welcome Jacob Bloomfield to the Zukunftskolleg

Jacob is one of five new Postdoctoral Fellows from the 14th call for applications. He started his fellowship today and is affiliated with the Department of Literature.

Jacob completed his PhD at the University of Manchester in Manchester, UK. His thesis was entitled "Male Cross-Dressing Performance in Britain, 1918-1970".

After finishing his PhD, Jacob lived in London. During this time, he worked as an associate lecturer at the



University of Kent, teaching courses on the history of sexuality and the social history of medicine. Additionally, he was an instructor at the Bader International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, where he taught gender studies. He also published an article entitled "Splinters: Cross-Dressing Ex-Servicemen on the Interwar Stage" in the journal Twentieth Century British History.

"I am terrifically gratified and excited to become a Zukunftskolleg fellow," says Jacob. His research investigates the career and legacy of musician Little Richard. "Specifically, I am probing the question of how the singer, as a highly effeminate, flamboyant African-American man, achieved an extraordinary degree of mainstream popularity in both the United States and Europe in a period defined by racial bigotry and the repression of sexual and gender expression."

Since rock musician Little Richard passed away on 9 May 2020, many people at the University of Konstanz have extended their condolences to him: "It warms my heart, and it tickles me, that I am indelibly associated with the self-proclaimed 'King of the Blues ... and the Queen, too!' as a result of the fact that my two-year Zukunftskolleg Fellowship is predicated on a historical study of Richard's career and legacy."

Read more on Jacob's developing research on Richard and an overview of his project's aims.

In addition to the aforementioned project, he is in the process of revising his first monograph with University of California Press. The monograph is on the modern history of British drag performance.



### Start of digital ZUKOnnect Fellowships

We welcome the following ZUKOnnect Fellows that joined the Zukunftskolleg digitally on 1 October:

- Giovanna Rodriguez-Garcia (Politics and Public Administration, Colombian PhD candidate from Mexico, Local Host: Christian Breunig)
- 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 amend 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 combined with an on-campus stay for 3 to 4 months from April 2021.

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 an active member 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.



# Review of events

#### **European NetIAS Lecture Series**

The Zukunftskolleg, as part of the European Network of Institutes for Advanced Studies (NetIAS), has been responsible for co-organizing a European NetIAS lecture series. "Borders" was the overarching theme for the series in the 2020 summer semester.

## International Marine Expeditions Crossing Borders: Notes from the Gulf of California

On 2 July 2020, Andreas Teske (Professor of Marine Microbiology, Department of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fellow at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Delmenhorst, Germany) reported on "International Marine Expeditions Crossing Borders: Notes from the Gulf of California"

#### Transgressive Materialities: The Afterlife of the World Trade Center

On 9 July 2020, Laszlo Muntean (Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies and American Studies at Radbout University, Nijmegen, Fellow at the IAS CEU, Budapest, Hungary) spoke about "Transgressive Materialities: The Afterlife of the World Trade Center".

## Crossing the Borders of Chemistry and Biology for targeting the Corona Virus Proteases

On 16 July 2020, Thomas Böttcher (Research Group Leader, Department of Chemistry, University of Konstanz, Research Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg, Konstanz, Germany) talked about "Crossing the Borders of Chemistry and Biology for targeting the Corona Virus Proteases".

All lectures were held online.

## Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study.





#### Jour fixe summer semester 2020

Open discussion on "Covid-19 research at the university – What is happening in your department?"

05 May 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

Open discussion on "Fellows' e-Learning / e-Teaching experiences"

12 May 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

## "The effect of social and individual information in regulating the foraging behaviour in bumblebee colonies"

Ebi Antony George (Biology / Research Visit Fellow)

19 May 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

#### "Open Lab: an open-science platform for online data collection"

Yury Shevchenko (Psychology / Winner of Interdisciplinary Collaborative Projects Programme 2019)

26 May 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

#### "Autophagy: My journey to the recycling world"

Svetlana Boycheva Woltering (Biology / Research Fellow)

02 June 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

# "Reconciliation of employment and family labour in the second half of life - What we (don't) know about it and why it matters to learn more about it"

Ariane Bertogg (History and Sociology / Postdoctoral Fellow)

09 June 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

#### Discussion on Movie "Holy Trinity"

organized by Cornelia Klocker (Law / Postdoctoral Fellow) & Jacob Bloomfield (Literature / new Postdoctoral Fellow)

16 June 2020 15:15 - 16:15

virtual

## "Complexity in phototactic behaviour: why "like a bee to a flame" would not work..."

Morgane Nouvian (Biology / Research Fellow)

23 June 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

#### "Controlling crystallisation towards developing advanced materials"

Cristina Ruiz Agudo (Chemistry / Research Fellow)

30 June 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

#### "Machine learning for customised quantum state tomography"

Violeta Ivanova Rohling (Physics & Computer Sciences / Postdoctoral Fellow)

07 July 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual

Assembly of Members: Election of two new members to the Executive Committee

14 July 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual



# Forthcoming events

## **Executive Committee Meetings**

3 November 2020 13:00 - 15:00 virtual

8 December 2020 13:00 - 15:00 virtual

12 January 2021 13:00 - 15:00 virtual

9 February 2021 13:00 - 15:00 virtual



#### Jour fixe winter semester 2020/2021

"Welcome to the 2020/21 winter semester"

3 November 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

"Tutti Frutti - Little Richard, Sex, Gender, and Transgression in America and Europe"

Jacob Bloomfield (Postdoctoral Fellow/ Literature)

10 November 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

"Philosophical Explorations of Bipolar Disorder"
Sidney Carls-Diamante (Postdoctoral Fellow/ Philosophy)

17 November 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

"Neural basis of perceptual decision-making in larval zebrafish" Armin Bahl (Research Fellow/ Biology)

24 November 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

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

Abena Yalley (Postdoctoral Fellow/ Literature)

1 December 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

"Architectures of memory: Dealing with difficult pasts in urban space" Gruia Badescu (Research Fellow/ History and Sociology)

8 December 2020 15:15 - 16:15 virtual/hybrid

See all dates for the weekly Jour fixe sessions in the winter semester.



# Careers, distinctions and grants

## Gisela Kopp new member of Die Junge Akademie

Gisela Kopp was selected as one of 10 new members of Die Junge Akademie.

The welcome ceremony on 3 July 2020 marked the beginning of a five-year membership in the academy. Die Junge Akademie unites 50 outstanding scholars and artists and provides a platform for academic collaborations, interdisciplinary discourse, dialogue at the interface of science and society, and engagement in science policy. This year's selection was held by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.



Die Junge Akademie was founded in 2000 as a joint project of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and has inspired dozens of similar academies worldwide.



## **Double success for alumnus Ilja Serzants**

We congratulate Ilja Serzants (Alumnus / Dept. of Linguistics) who was appointed to a professorship in slavic linguistics with a focus on historical linguistics at Kiel University.

In addition, he was accepted in the Heisenberg Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The Heisenberg Programme is directed primarily at researchers who have qualified for a professorship but not yet obtained one. It provides a unique opportunity for researchers to pursue their own research programme for five years.

Ilja Serzants was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from February 2013 to January 2015. We wish him all the best!





### Lecturer position for Janina Beiser-McGrath

We congratulate Janina Beiser-McGrath (Alumna / Dept. of Politics and Public Administration) who has accepted a lecturer position in Politics and International Relations (Quantitative Methods) at the Centre for International Security at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

Janina's research focuses on ethnic politics, authoritarian politics, political violence and quantitative methods. Recent work is forthcoming in the British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, and Political Science Research and Methods.



Janina was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from April 2016 to September 2018. We wish her all the best!



## **DFG** grant for Elliot Lash

We congratulate Elliot Lash (Alumnus / Dept. of Linguistics), who received a DFG grant for a "Temporary Position". The grant will allow him to pursue a 3-year project on "Irish Linguistics" at the University of Göttingen, which will start on 1 December 2020.

Elliott Lash was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from May 2014 to April 2016. We wish him all the best!



