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Forum Transregionale Studien

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Forum Trans Studien

**Programm und Fellows
Program and Fellows
2023/2024**

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

Programm und Fellows 2023/2024
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Das Forum Transregionale Studien

Das Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin ist eine bundesweit aufgestellte Plattform zur Förderung der grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit von Wissenschaftler:innen unterschiedlicher Expertise und Perspektive zu globalen Fragen.

Prozesse von Globalisierung und Digitalisierung verbinden, entgrenzen und fragmentieren Gesellschaften und die Welt. Sie stellen Herausforderungen an die Wissenschaften dar, an die vorherrschenden Narrative und die Ordnung des Wissens selbst. Wissen wird weiterhin vorwiegend in Disziplinen, in national und regional organisierten Wissenssystemen, unter partikularen Bedingungen, in verschiedenen Sprachen produziert und in jeweils spezifische Öffentlichkeiten vermittelt.

Transregionale Studien verfolgen einen offenen Ansatz: Sie konfrontieren, verbinden und übersetzen unterschiedliche Perspektiven zu globalen und lokalen Forschungsfragen. Das Forum wird durch seine Mitglieder und die Vielfalt ihrer Forschungskompetenzen und Netzwerke konstituiert. Es ist der Stärkung der Regionalstudien und dem Prinzip nicht-hierarchischer Forschung verpflichtet. Es bietet Raum zum Austausch über wissenschaftspolitische, -epistemologische und -ethische Fragen, entwickelt Infrastrukturen und Formate, die es erlauben, transregionale Forschungsideen und -vorhaben zu erproben, umzusetzen und zu kommunizieren.

Im Sinne des Grundsatzes »Forschen mit, statt Forschen über« beruft das Forum Wissenschaftler:innen aus aller Welt als Fellows, engagiert sich mit Partnern aus Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen in- und außerhalb Berlins in Forschungsprogrammen, -projekten und Initiativen und entwickelt Formate transregionaler Wissenschaftskommunikation.

Das Forum verfügt über Erfahrungen, Netzwerke und eine Infrastruktur für die Organisation von internationalen Forschungsgruppen und -programmen. Darüber hinaus unterstützt die Wissenschaftskommunikation des Forums Wissenschaftler:innen dabei, ihre Forschungsfragen im Austausch mit anderen zu testen und zu entwickeln, Ideen und Forschungsergebnisse zu übersetzen und in verschiedene Öffentlichkeiten zu vermitteln.

Mit seiner Arbeit trägt das Forum zu einer Neubestimmung der Sozial- und Geisteswissenschaften unter den Bedingungen des 21. Jahrhunderts bei. Seine Programme und Initiativen reagieren auf weltweite Verflechtungen und Fragmentierungen, die gestiegene Mobilität und neue Grenzziehungen sowie auf die wachsende Bedeutung von regionenspezifischem Wissen für eine Reorientierung in der Welt in Zeiten von Krisen und Kriegen und für die Pluralisierung nationaler Kanons und Curricula.

Forschungsprogramme, Fellows und Initiativen

Mit seinen Forschungsprogrammen setzt das Forum längerfristige inhaltliche Schwerpunkte. Sie sind ein zentrales Format des Forums, mit dem kollegartige

The Forum Transregionale Studien

The Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien is a research organization for the promotion of cross-border cooperation between scholars of different expertise and perspectives on global issues.

Processes of globalization and digitalization connect, delimit, and fragment societies and the world. They pose challenges to the sciences, to prevailing narratives, and to the order of knowledge itself. Knowledge continues to be produced predominantly in disciplines, in nationally and regionally organized knowledge systems, under particular conditions, in different languages, and communicated to specific publics in each case.

Transregional studies take an open approach: they confront, connect, and translate different perspectives on global and local research issues. The Forum is constituted by its members and the diversity of their expertise and networks. It is committed to strengthening area studies and the principle of non-hierarchical research. It offers space for researchers to discuss questions of science policy, epistemology, and ethics, and infrastructures and formats that allow research ideas and projects to be tested, implemented, and communicated in and across the limits of areas or disciplines.

In the spirit of the principle “research with, instead of research on”, the Forum appoints researchers from all over the world as fellows, engages in research programs, projects and initiatives with partners from universities and research institutions in and outside of Berlin, and develops formats of transregional scientific communication.

The Forum has experience, networks, and an infrastructure for organizing international research groups and research programs. In addition, the Forum’s academic communication supports scholars in testing and developing their research questions in exchange with others, translating ideas and research results, and sharing them with different publics.

Through its work, the Forum contributes to the reorientation of the social sciences and humanities under the conditions of the 21st century. Its programs and initiatives respond to global interconnections and fragmentations, the increased mobility of people and ideas, but also to new border demarcations and the growing importance of region-specific knowledge for a reorientation in the world as well as for the pluralization of national canons and curricula.

Research Programs, Fellows and Initiatives

With its research programs, the Forum sets longer-term thematic priorities. They are a central format of the Forum, with which collegial international groups of researchers are formed to pursue a thematic area over a period of three, five, or more years. Programs are usually led by collegia composed of scholars from different fields of study, institutions and countries. As part of the research programs, the Forum appoints postdoctoral fellows from around the

internationale Forscher:innengruppen gebildet werden, um ein Themenfeld über einen Zeitraum von drei, fünf oder mehr Jahren zu verfolgen. Programme werden in der Regel von Kollegien geleitet, die sich aus Wissenschaftler:innen unterschiedlicher Disziplinen, Institutionen und Länder zusammensetzen. Im Rahmen der Forschungsprogramme beruft das Forum Postdoktorand:innen aus aller Welt als Fellows. Die Fellowships eröffnen den Wissenschaftler:innen Freiräume zur Arbeit an ihren selbstbestimmten Forschungsprojekten. Die Einbettung der Fellowships in Forschungsprogramme ermöglicht den Austausch und die gemeinsame Forschung in interdisziplinären Gruppen. Im Zusammenhang der Forschungsprogramme können durch Ideen von Fellows neue Projekte entstehen, die am Forum im Rahmen der bestehenden Programme oder an Partnereinrichtungen durchgeführt werden. Wesentliche Elemente des wissenschaftlichen Programms werden durch die Fellows gestaltet. Entsprechend ihres fachlichen Hintergrunds werden sie an Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen in Berlin oder anderen europäischen Städten angebunden.

Seit März 2020 experimentiert das Forum auch mit Non-Resident- oder Sur-Place-Fellowships, bei denen die Fellows ihr gesamtes oder einen Teil ihres Fellowships nicht in Berlin, sondern an einem anderen Ort forschen und über virtuelle Formen der Zusammenarbeit und intensive Workshops oder Akademien in die gemeinsame Arbeit der Programme eingebunden sind. Forschungsprogramme werden von der Geschäftsstelle des Forums organisiert. Nach erfolgreicher Arbeit können sie an anderen Einrichtungen weitergeführt werden. Sie können dem Forum verbunden bleiben, etwa über den Zugang zu seinen Formaten, Infrastrukturen und Netzwerken.

Das Forum entwickelt und beteiligt sich an Initiativen, die auf neue Herausforderungen in der Forschung reagieren. Initiativen sind zumeist in institutionellen Partnerschaften konstituiert, in denen spezifische Kompetenzen und Erfahrungen für ein Projekt gebündelt werden. Initiativen können zu Forschungsprogrammen oder mittel- bis längerfristigen Kooperationen oder auch neuen Institutionen führen. Eine Initiative aus dem Jahr 2014 war die Berlin-Brandenburg-Ukraine-Initiative, die sich zu dem Forschungsprogramm PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe entwickelt hat; eine andere die gemeinsam mit der Universität Duisburg-Essen und dem Kulturwissenschaftlichen Institut Essen im Jahr 2017 mit Mitteln der VolkswagenStiftung begründete AKADEMIE IM EXIL (AiE), deren Konsortium von 2019-2023 auch die Freie Universität Berlin angehörte. Die AiE hat zunächst Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaftler:innen aus dem Umfeld der »Academics for Peace« aus der Türkei eine Plattform geboten, um ihre Forschungen im Exil fortzusetzen. Ab 2019 hat sich die AiE für gefährdete Wissenschaftler:innen aus anderen Ländern und Regionen geöffnet, und 2021 erneut mit Unterstützung der VolkswagenStiftung ein Afghanistan-Programm eingerichtet, über das das Forum der AiE weiterhin verbunden bleibt. Seit August 2023 wird die AiE an der Technischen Universität Dortmund fortgeführt (weitere Informationen: www.academy-in-exile.eu).

world. The fellowships give the scholars the freedom to work on their own research projects. Embedding the fellowships in research programs enables exchange and joint research in interdisciplinary groups. In the context of the research programs, ideas from fellows may give rise to new projects that are carried out at the Forum within the framework of existing programs or at partner institutions. Essential elements of the programs are designed by the fellows. According to their disciplinary background, they are connected to universities and research institutions in Berlin or other European cities.

Since March 2020, the Forum has also experimented with non-resident or sur place fellowships, where fellows stay on-site for all or part of their fellowship and are involved in the joint work of the programs through virtual forms of collaboration and intensive workshops and academies. Research programs are organized by the Forum's office. After successful work, they may continue at other institutions. They can also remain connected to the Forum, for example through access to its formats, infrastructures, and networks.

The Forum develops and participates in initiatives that respond to new challenges in research. Initiatives are mostly constituted in institutional partnerships in which specific competences and experiences are bundled for a project. Initiatives can lead to research programmes or medium- to longer-term collaborations or even new institutions. One initiative from 2014 was the Berlin-Brandenburg-Ukraine Initiative, which developed into the research program PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe; another was the ACADEMY IN EXILE (AiE), founded jointly with the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen in 2017 with funding from the Volkswagen Foundation, whose consortium also included Freie Universität Berlin from 2019-2023. The AiE initially provided a platform for humanities scholars and social scientists from the “Academics for Peace” initiative in Turkey to continue their research in exile. From 2019 onwards, AiE opened its doors to scholars at risk from other countries and regions, and in 2021, with the support of the Volkswagen Foundation, it again established an Afghanistan program, through which the Forum will remain connected to AiE. Since August 2023, the AiE has been continued at TU Dortmund University (further information: www.academy-in-exile.eu).

In 2020, the Forum, together with six universities and research institutions from Germany and Tunisia, participated in establishing the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) at the Université de Tunis. “Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe” (EUTIM) is a new research college of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), the University of Potsdam, and the Forum Transregionale Studien, whose work started in 2021.

Seit 2020 ist das Forum gemeinsam mit sechs Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen aus Deutschland und Tunesien am Aufbau und der Entwicklung des Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) an der Université de Tunis beteiligt. »Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe« (EUTIM) ist ein Forschungskolleg der Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), der Universität Potsdam und des Forum Transregionale Studien, das 2021 seine Arbeit aufgenommen hat.

Programme, Fellows und Projekte

Aus unterschiedlichen disziplinären Perspektiven erforscht **EUROPA IM NAHEN OSTEN – DER NAHE OSTEN IN EUROPA (EUME)** die Verflechtungen und Grenzziehungen zwischen und in Europa und dem Nahen Osten. Einem Denken in Gegensätzen und Dichotomien hält EUME eine offene Debatte um Rezeptions- und Übersetzungsprozesse, geteilte historische Vermächtnisse, sowie die Mobilität von Personen und Ideen entgegen. EUME bietet Wissenschaftler:innen aus dem Nahen Osten und Nordafrika einen Diskussionsraum zur Neubestimmung grundlegender Fragen von Politik, Gesellschaft und Staatsbürgerschaft. In Verbindung zu EUME werden am Forum zwei langfristige Projekte durchgeführt, die durch den Europäischen Forschungsrat (ERC) gefördert werden und die sich mit syrischen Gefängnisnarrativen (**SYRASP**) und Fragen der Restitution bzw. Ent- oder Aneignung von Kulturgütern (**BEYONDREST**) beschäftigen.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe adressiert aktuelle Entwicklungen in der Ukraine und Osteuropa in ihren historischen, kulturellen und sozialen Kontexten. Es vernetzt Forschungsexpertise in Berlin, Brandenburg und darüber hinaus. »Krieg, Migration und Erinnerung« ist das Thema einer **PRISMA-UKRAÏNA-Forscher:innengruppe**, an der seit 2022 Wissenschaftler:innen in der Ukraine und an Orten ihrer Flucht gemeinsam zu Fragen historischer Umbrüche und der Resilienz pluraler Gesellschaften in Krisenzeiten arbeiten. Die Zusammenarbeit und die Publikationen der Forscher:innengruppe werden durch eine partizipatorische, mehrsprachige und regionalwissenschaftlich kompetente Wissenschaftskommunikation unterstützt.

re:constitution – Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe ist ein Programm zu Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Demokratie in Europa, das gemeinsam mit Democracy Reporting International durchgeführt und von der Stiftung Mercator finanziert wird. Es fördert den europaweiten, kollegialen, grenzen- und lagerüberschreitenden Austausch von Rechtspraktiker:innen und -wissenschaftler:innen über das Verfassungsrecht und seine Werte.



Slubice. Photo: Bohdan Tokarsky

Programs, Fellows and Projects

EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE (EUME)

addresses key concepts, premises, and issues that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. The program provides space for open debates on processes of reception and translation, as well as on fragmented and shared historical legacies, and on the mobility of people and ideas between Europe and the Middle East. EUME offers space for researchers from and of the Middle East and North Africa to redefine questions of politics, society, and citizenship in times of upheaval. In association with EUME, two long-term projects that are funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and address Syrian prison narratives (**SYRAS**) and questions of restitution, heritage, (dis-)possession and the politics of knowledge (**BEYONDREST**) are being carried out at the Forum.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe opens up new horizons for researching current developments in Ukraine and (Eastern) Europe and their historical, cultural, and social conditions. It integrates research expertise in Berlin, Brandenburg and beyond. **“War, Migration, Memory”** is the topic of a **research group** of the program, in which researchers from and in Ukraine and in places of their flight have been working together since 2022 on questions of historical upheaval and the resilience of plural societies in times of crisis. The cooperation and publications of the research group are supported by participatory, multilingual and regionally competent science communication.

re:constitution – Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe is a joint program of the Forum and Democracy Reporting International, supported by Stiftung Mercator. re:constitution engages in strengthening the the rule of law and democracy in the European Union by analysis, a fellowship program, and promoting exchange between jurists and law practitioners on constitutional law and its values.

Verbundene Programme

ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship wurde von 2010 bis 2013 als Forschungsprogramm mit einem Fellowship-Programm, Winterakademien und Seminaren am Forum entwickelt. Es wollte zu einer Neubewertung des Kanons textbezogener Wissenschaft beitragen und bisher marginalisierte präkoloniale Philologien und Wissenschaft aus Asien, Afrika, dem Nahen Osten und Europa neu in den Blick nehmen. Von 2014 bis 2023 wurde ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE an der Freien Universität Berlin weitergeführt. Das Programm bleibt dem Netzwerk des Forums in Zukunft über die Zeitschrift *Philological Encounters* verbunden, die seit 2014 im Zentrum der Aktivitäten des Programms steht.

4A Laboratory (4A_Lab) ist das Nachfolgeprogramm des am Forum entwickelten Forschungsprogramms ART HISTORIES AND AESTHIC PRACTICES und CAHIM (Connecting Art Histories in the Museum). 4A_Lab möchte einen Dialog zwischen Kunstgeschichte, Archäologie, Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Ästhetik bzw. ästhetischen Praktiken initiieren. Es erforscht transkulturelle Dynamiken im Bereich materieller Kulturen bzw. musealer und sozialer Praktiken und Repräsentationen. Das Programm ist eine Kooperation des Kunsthistorischen Instituts in Florenz und der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz und in Partnerschaft mit der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin und dem Forum Transregionale Studien verbunden.

Initiativen

Seit 2020 ist das Forum mit fünf weiteren Partnern aus Deutschland und Tunesien an dem Aufbau und der Arbeit des **Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)** in Tunesien beteiligt. Unter dem Leitthema »Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity« widmet sich MECAM der Forschung zu ästhetischen und kulturellen Praktiken, Ungleichheit und Mobilität, Erinnerung und Gerechtigkeit, Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit, Identitäten und Überzeugungen. Das Zentrum ist an der Université de Tunis angesiedelt. Neben dem Forum zählen zu den Partnern des MECAM-Konsortiums in Deutschland die Philipps-Universität Marburg, die Universität Leipzig und das GIGA – German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg; alle sind Mitgliedseinrichtungen des Forums. Als regionale Partner fungieren, neben der Université de Tunis, die Université de Sfax in Tunesien sowie die Netzwerkstandorte Universität Hassan II in Casablanca, Marokko und das Orient-Institut der Max Weber Stiftung in Beirut, Libanon.

Seit April 2021 nimmt das Forschungskolleg **Europäische Zeiten/ European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM)** Narrative von Zeit und Raum, Wahrnehmungen von alt und neu, Ost und West, von Konflikten und Revolutionen sowie von

Connected Programs

ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship was a research program at the Forum from 2010 to 2013 that included a fellowship program, winter academies, and seminars. It aimed to contribute to a reevaluation of the canon of text-related research and to take a new look at precolonial philologies and research from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe that have been marginalized until now. From 2014 to 2023, ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE was continued at Freie Universität Berlin. In the future, it remains connected to the Forum through its periodical *Philological Encounters*, which has been at the center of the program's activities since 2014.

4A Laboratory (4A_Lab) is the follow-up program of the former research program ART HISTORIES AND AESTHETIC PRACTICES that was developed at and remains connected to the Forum. 4A_Lab seeks to initiate a dialogue between art history, archaeology, anthropology/ethnology, and aesthetics/aesthetic practices. It explores transcultural dynamics in aesthetic practices and material cultures, as well as in social practices and their representations in museums and elsewhere. The program is a cooperation between the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, and is done in partnership with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Initiatives

Since 2020, the Forum has been involved with five other partners from Germany and Tunisia in the establishment and work of the **Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)** in Tunisia. Under the guiding theme “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity”, MECAM is dedicated to exploring questions of aesthetic and cultural practices, inequality and mobility, memory and justice, resources and sustainability, and identities and beliefs. The centre is based at the Université de Tunis. In addition to the Forum, the MECAM consortium's partners in Germany include Philipps-Universität Marburg, the University of Leipzig, and the GIGA – German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg; all are member institutions of the Forum. Regional partners include the Université de Tunis, the Université de Sfax, and the Institut Tunisien des Études Stratégiques (ITES) in Tunisia, as well as the network locations Hassan II University in Casablanca, Morocco and the Orient Institute of the Max Weber Foundation in Beirut, Lebanon.

Since April 2021, the research project **Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM)** investigates narratives of time and space, perceptions of old and new, East and West, conflicts and revolutions, and intertwined and competing visions of the past and the future in times of upheaval, based on

verflochtenen und konkurrierenden Vergangenheits- und Zukunftsvisionen in Zeiten des Umbruchs in den Blick. EUTIM umfasst drei Arbeitsschwerpunkte. An der Europa-Universität Viadrina wird die Frage von Zeitlichkeit(en) aus kultur- und geschichtswissenschaftlicher Perspektive untersucht, etwa am Beispiel von Vorstellungen des »Stillstands« während des Kalten Kriegs oder von unterschiedlichen Temporalitäten nach dem Fall des Eisernen Vorhangs und im Kontext des andauernden Krieges in der Ukraine. An der Universität Potsdam befasst sich eine literaturwissenschaftliche Nachwuchsforscher:innengruppe mit Künsten, in denen Erfahrungen von und Ansichten auf Ungleichzeitigkeiten bebildert und vertextet wurden. Das Forum ist für den Bereich transregionale Wissenschaftskommunikation verantwortlich, die Formen des gemeinsamen Arbeitens ermöglicht, Transferprozesse arrangiert, Forschungsstandpunkte und -ergebnisse disseminiert und EUTIM transregional vernetzt.

Formate und Veranstaltungen

Wissenschaftler:innen brauchen Freiräume und soziale Infrastrukturen, die ihnen Zugänge zu Forschungsressourcen und den freien Austausch von Argumenten, Ideen, Expertise und Standpunkten ermöglichen. Das Forum bietet ihnen die Möglichkeit, ihre Forschungsfragen im Rahmen von Forschungsprogrammen, Transregionalen Akademien, Workshops und Seminaren in transregionalen Verbindungen zu diskutieren, weiterzuentwickeln und sich zu vernetzen.

Workshops und Seminare des Forums dienen Wissenschaftler:innen zur Diskussion spezifischer Fragestellungen und der Entwicklung neuer Projektideen. Sie regen innerwissenschaftliche Debatten an und vertiefen sie, erproben Konstellationen, die zwischen die Zuständigkeiten unserer Wissenschaftsordnung fallen und dienen dem Austausch und Transfer von Ansichten, Fragestellungen und Erkenntnisprozessen zwischen unterschiedlichen wissenschaftlichen Milieus und verschiedenen Öffentlichkeiten. Die Veranstaltungsformate sollen zur nachhaltigen Etablierung innovativer und themenbezogener Lehr- und Forschungsansätze beitragen, indem Anregungen zur Weiterentwicklung von Forschungsfragen, Curricula oder Bezüge zu aktuellen gesellschaftspolitischen Fragen aufgegriffen und vermittelt werden. Sie können virtuell, hybrid oder in Präsenz stattfinden. Seit April 2020 erprobt das Forum Writing Workshops/Schreibworkshops als virtuelle Alternative zu konventionellen Workshops. Wissenschaftler:innen nehmen an einem gemeinsamen Diskussions- und Schreibprozess teil, der über den TrafoHub, eine interne und geschützte Plattform des Forums, ermöglicht wird. Die Autor:innen können ihre Texte in einen kollektiven Diskussions- und Peer-Review-Prozess einbringen und sie über die Publikationsformate des Forums Open Access veröffentlichen, zunächst in einer Beitragsserie auf dem

experiences in the societies of Central and Eastern Europe. EUTIM comprises three main areas of work. At the European University Viadrina, the question of temporalities is examined from a cultural and historical perspective, for example, using ideas of “standstill” during the Cold War or of different temporalities after the fall of the Iron Curtain and in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. At the University of Potsdam, a group of young researchers in literary studies is concerned with the arts in which experiences of and views on non-simultaneity have been visualized and put into text. The Forum is responsible for the transregional science communication, which facilitates forms of joint work, arranges transfer processes, disseminates research standpoints and results, and networks EUTIM transregionally.

Formats and Academic Events

Scholars need open spaces and social infrastructures that allow them access to research resources and the free exchange of arguments, ideas, expertise, and viewpoints. The Forum offers them the opportunity to discuss, develop, and network their research questions in transregional connections within the framework of research programs, transregional academies, workshops, and seminars.

Workshops and seminars are designed to stimulate discussions on particular topics and questions and the development of new project ideas. They stimulate and deepen intra-academic debates, test constellations that fall between the competences of our scientific order and serve the exchange and transfer of views, questions and knowledge processes between different academic milieus and different publics. The event formats are intended to contribute to the sustainable establishment of innovative and topic-related academic cooperation, as well as to teaching and research approaches, by addressing and communicating suggestions for the further development of research questions, curricula or references to current socio-political issues. They can take place virtually, in a hybrid manner or in person. Since April 2020, Writing Workshops are a virtual alternative to conventional workshops. Scholars participate in a collaborative discussion and writing process facilitated through the TrafoHub, an internal and protected platform of the Forum. Authors can contribute their texts to a collective discussion and peer review process and publish them open access via the Forum's publication formats, initially in a series of contributions on the TRAFO Blog, and later in revised form as an Essay, Working Paper or bundled as a Dossier.

Transregional Academies open up new networks and create temporary learning communities that enable research topics and questions to be tested in an international setting at an early stage of development. Up to 24 PhD students or postdocs and a steering group of up to six younger and/or established researchers from different regional and disciplinary contexts are

TRAFO-Blog, später in überarbeiteter Form als Essay, Working Paper oder gebündelt als Dossier.

Transregionale Akademien erschließen neue Netzwerke und schaffen Lerngemeinschaften auf Zeit, die es ermöglichen, Forschungsthemen und Fragestellungen in einem frühen Entwicklungsstadium in einem internationalen Rahmen zu testen. Bis zu 24 Promovierende oder Postdocs und eine Lenkungsgruppe (Steering Group) von bis zu sechs jüngeren und/oder etablierten Wissenschaftler:innen aus unterschiedlichen regionalen und disziplinären Kontexten erhalten über einen Zeitraum von etwa zehn bis zwölf Tagen die Gelegenheit zur persönlichen Diskussion ihrer laufenden Forschungsarbeiten und spezifischer Forschungsfragen. Die Akademien folgen einem Peer-to-Peer-Prinzip; das jeweilige Akademieprogramm wird im Austausch mit allen Teilnehmenden über den TrafoHub des Forums entwickelt. Wissenschaftler:innen können hier ihre Erfahrungen austauschen, indem sie laufende Forschungsprojekte und -fragen in einem transregionalen Zusammenhang diskutieren. Im September 2022 fand eine Akademie in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Deutschen Forum für Kunstgeschichte Paris und der Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rom, zum Thema »Plurale Temporalitäten: Theorien und Praktiken der Zeit« in Bogotá, Kolumbien, statt. Die nächsten Transregionalen Akademien zu Lateinamerikanischer Kunst sind für 2024 in Lima, Peru, und 2026 in Santiago de Chile geplant. Auch für MECAM übernimmt das Forum in Zukunft die Konzeption und Organisation von Akademien dieser Art.

Das Forum und seine Programme arrangieren regelmäßig mit verschiedenen Partnern thematische **Konferenzen, Seminare, Filmreihen, öffentliche Debatten, Vorlesungsreihen** oder **einzelne Veranstaltungen**, die sich an die breitere oder an spezifische Öffentlichkeiten richten. In den Veranstaltungen werden aktuelle Forschungsthemen aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven adressiert; in den letzten Jahren etwa die Auswirkungen schrumpfender bürgerlicher und akademischer Freiheiten, Fragen von Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit, Formen des Exils, die Auswirkungen der arabischen Revolutionen, die Entwicklungen in der Ukraine, der Nahostkonflikt, regionale Ansichten auf Modernismen, Populismus, Postkolonialismus, Skandalkulturen, neuere gesellschaftspolitische Entwicklungen in der Türkei, die Geschichtspolitik autoritärer Bewegungen und Regime und emanzipatorische Ansätze zu alternativen oder »popular histories« und Archiven.

Wissenschaftskommunikation

Die Wissenschaftskommunikation des Forums soll den offenen und inklusiven Charakter transregionaler Studien widerspiegeln. Sie ist ermöglichungs-, vermittlungs- und übersetzungsorientiert und entwickelt Infrastrukturen und Formate, die dem Feld transregionaler Studien angemessen sind. Durch eine verstärkte Verknüpfung von Veranstaltungs- und Kommunikationsformaten



Sanaz Sohrabi, film still, *Scenes of Extraction*, image courtesy of the artist and VOX Centre de l'image contemporaine, Montréal; in *Unearthing the Substrata of Images* – Interview with Sanaz Sohrabi, in: TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research, 09.05.2023, <https://trafo.hypotheses.org/47130>

given the opportunity to discuss their ongoing research and specific questions in person over a period of about ten to twelve days. The academies follow a peer-to-peer principle; the respective academy program is developed in exchange with all participants via the Forum's TrafoHub. Participating scholars can share their experiences here by discussing ongoing research projects and issues in a transregional context. In September 2022, an academy in collaboration with the German Center for Art History, Paris, and the Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome, on the theme of "Plural Temporalities: Theories and Practices of Time" was held in Bogotá, Colombia; the next Transregional Academies on Latin American Art are planned for 2024 in Lima, Peru, and 2026 in Santiago de Chile. In the future, the Forum will also take over the conception and organization of academies of this kind for MECAM.

The Forum and its programs regularly arrange with various partners thematic **conferences, seminars, film series, public debates, lecture series** or **individual events** aimed at a wider or a particular public. The events address current research topics from a variety of perspectives; in recent years, for example, the impact of shrinking civil and academic freedom, questions of democracy and the rule of law, forms of exile, the impact of the Arab revolutions, and developments in Ukraine, the Middle East conflict, regional views on modernisms, populism, postcolonialism, scandal cultures, recent sociopolitical developments in Turkey, the politics of history of authoritarian movements and regimes, and emancipatory approaches to alternative or popular histories and archives.

Communication

The science communication of the Forum reflects the open and inclusive character of transregional studies. It is facilitation-, mediation- and translation-oriented and develops infrastructures and formats that are

dient sie dem wissenschaftlichen Austausch und der Kommunikation mit unterschiedlichen Öffentlichkeiten. Die Formate des Forums sind modular strukturiert und sie stehen allen Wissenschaftler:innen der Programme und Initiativen am Forum wie seiner Mitglieds- und Partnereinrichtungen offen.

Das Forum Transregionale Studien unterstützt den kostenfreien öffentlichen Zugang zu wissenschaftlichen Ergebnissen und ist Unterzeichner der »Berliner Erklärung über den offenen Zugang zu Wissen in den Wissenschaften«.

Um die Potenziale der Digitalisierung auszuschöpfen, entwickelt das Forum Infrastrukturen für einen grenzüberschreitenden Austausch, neue Publikationsformate und ermutigt Wissenschaftler:innen dazu, ihre Forschungen Open Access zu publizieren und andere Öffentlichkeiten anzusprechen als ihre jeweils spezifische fachliche oder nationale.

Die Arbeit des Forums wird von mehreren wissenschaftlichen Blogs begleitet. Der zentrale Blog ist der **TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research (TRAFO-Blog)**. Als digitale Plattform für transregionale Forschung, wurde er vom Forum Transregionale Studien und der Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland im Rahmen eines gemeinsamen vom BMBF geförderten Verbundprojekts 2013 eingerichtet und wird nun am Forum in Kooperation mit Partnern weitergeführt. Der TRAFO-Blog arbeitet in einem offenen Rahmen von **Redaktionspartnerschaften**, der dem Charakter des Ansatzes transregionaler Studien entspricht, mit Kolleg:innen unterschiedlicher Standorte, Perspektiven und Expertisen, aus den Netzwerken des Forums. Die Reihen im TRAFO-Blog werden von einzelnen Wissenschaftler:innen oder Redaktionsgruppen kuratiert und sind ein wesentliches Element der nachhaltigen Netzwerkarbeit des Forums. Langfristige Redaktionspartnerschaften bestehen mit der Max Weber Stiftung und transregionalen Projekten oder institutionellen Initiativen wie CrossArea in Leipzig, dem Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) in Tunis und dem Forschungsnetzwerkprojekt »European Times« (EUTIM), für die – wie für die Programme und Projekte des Forums, wie EUME, PRISMA UKRAÏNA, re:constitution oder BEYONDREST – auf dem TRAFO-Blog langfristige Fenster bzw. Serien mit gemeinsamer Redaktionsverantwortung eingerichtet wurden.

Der TRAFO-Blog macht Forschungsfragen und -ergebnisse verfügbar und bietet ein breites Spektrum an Formaten und Informationen, von einzelnen **Issues** (Blog-Essays – aktuelle Beiträge aus der Forschung), **Reviews** (Besprechungen von Büchern, Aufsätzen, Filmen, Ausstellungen, etc), **Conversations** (zwischen zwei oder mehr Wissenschaftler:innen zu einem gemeinsamen Thema), **Comments** (wissenschaftliche Ansichten auf aktuelle Fragen), **Calls for Papers** bis hin zu kuratierten **Serien**. Fachwissenschaftler:innen werden in die redaktionelle Verantwortung einbezogen, um die Qualität der Beiträge zu sichern. Jede Woche werden zwei bis drei neue Beiträge veröffentlicht. Die Zugriffszahl lag im Jahr 2022 bei mehr als 205.000. Das Forum bietet Wissenschaftler:innen an, Sequenzen von Beiträgen zu geeigneten Forschungsthemen auf dem TRAFO-Blog zu veröffentlichen.

Seit Februar 2022 nimmt das **#DossierUkraine** den russischen Krieg in der

appropriate to the field of transregional studies. Through an increased linkage of event and communication formats, it serves scholarly exchange and communication with diverse publics. The formats of the Forum are modularly structured and are open to all scholars of the programs and initiatives at the Forum as well as its member and partner institutions.

The Forum Transregionale Studien supports free public access to research results and is a signatory of the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities”.

In order to utilize the potential of digitization, the Forum develops infrastructures for transnational exchange and new publication formats, and encourages scholars to publish their research openly and to address publics other than their specific disciplinary or national ones.

The work of the Forum is accompanied by several academic blogs. The main blog is **TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research (TRAFO Blog)**. As a digital platform for transregional research, it was set up by the Forum Transregionale Studien and the Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland in 2013 as part of a joint project funded by the BMBF and is now being continued at the Forum in cooperation with partners. The TRAFO Blog works in an open framework of **editorial partnerships**, in line with the approach of transregional studies, with colleagues from different locations, perspectives and expertise, from the networks of the Forum. The series on the TRAFO blog are curated by individual scholars or editorial groups and are an essential element of the Forum’s sustainable networking activities. Long-term editorial partnerships exist with the Max Weber Foundation and transregional projects or institutional initiatives such as CrossArea in Leipzig, the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) in Tunis, and the research project “European Times” (EUTIM), for which long-term windows or series with joint editorial responsibility have been established on the TRAFO blog like as has been also done for the Forum’s programs and projects like EUME, PRISMA UKRAÏNA, re:constitution or BEYONDREST.

The TRAFO Blog makes research questions and results available and offers a wide range of formats and information, from single **Issues** (blog essays; current research contributions), **Reviews** (reviews of books, essays, films, exhibitions, etc), **Conversations** (between two or more scientists on a common topic), **Comments** (scientific views on current issues), **calls for papers to curated series**. Specialized researchers are involved in the editorial responsibility to ensure the quality of the contributions. Two to three new articles are published each week. The access rates in 2022 were more than 205,000. The forum offers scholars to publish sequences of contributions on suitable research topics on the TRAFO Blog.

Since February 2022, the **#DossierUkraine** series has taken the Russian war in Ukraine as a starting point for essays, reports and scientifically based commentaries on politics, culture and society in Ukraine, (Eastern) Europe and other regions of the world. The various sub-series or threads of the

Ukraine als Ausgangspunkt für Essays, Berichte und wissenschaftlich fundierte Kommentare zu Politik, Kultur und Gesellschaft in der Ukraine, in (Ost-) Europa und anderen Regionen der Welt. Die verschiedenen Serien des Dossiers, wie **#artandculture** oder **#CriticalJunctures** werden von eigenen Redaktionsgruppen betreut, laden ein zu Beiträgen, Debatten, Ansichten und Positionen von Wissenschaftler:innen, Kulturschaffenden oder Journalist:innen unterschiedlicher Standorte zu Fragen von Kunst und Kultur, der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften in Zeiten von Krieg und Krise ein, thematisieren Fragen des Gebrauchs und Missbrauchs historischer Narrative, der Zerstörung sovjetischer Lebensumwelten, des Schutzes von Kulturgütern oder Fragen der Nahrungsmittelsicherheit in anderen Regionen.

In der **MECAM-Reihe** werden Beiträge zum übergreifenden Thema des Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM), »Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparities« und zu den fünf interdisziplinären Forschungsfeldern **Ungleichheit & Mobilität, Erinnerung & Gerechtigkeit, Ästhetik & kulturelle Praxis, Ressourcen & Nachhaltigkeit und Identitäten & Überzeugungen** veröffentlicht. Die Themen der Forschungsfelder sind die verschiedenen Threads der MECAM-Reihe; sie dokumentieren, bündeln und vernetzen die inhaltliche Arbeit von MECAM über die Projektlaufzeit.

Die Serie **Envisioning Work: The Visual Cultures of Labor** möchte die visuelle und materielle Kultur der Arbeit, Bilder von Arbeiter:innen, Praktiken am Arbeitsplatz und/oder mit ihnen verbundene wissenschaftliche und technologische Prozesse kritisch hinterfragen, um zur Debatte um die Geschichte und Zukunft von Arbeit, des Verhältnisses von Gender, Race und Klasse beizutragen.

Die Serie **Factory Reloaded** hat Fragen des sozialen und politischen Wandels durch den Blick auf industrielle Arbeit und die Rolle von Fabriken aus historischer, anthropologischer und soziologischer Perspektive untersucht. Sie ist aus einem Schreibworkshop entstanden, der vom Spätsommer 2020 bis 2022 vom Forum betreut und von Görkem Akgöz, Nurcin Ileri und Malak Labib redaktionell geleitet wurde. Als Sammelband werden die Beiträge dieser Serie ins Türkische übersetzt 2024 in der Türkei als Buch erscheinen.

Die Serie **Academic Freedom** ermöglicht den wissenschaftlichen und intellektuellen Austausch zu Fragen der Meinungs- und akademischen Freiheit in Europa und der Welt. Sie ist von ehemaligen Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs zu Berlin initiiert und von einer eigenen Redaktionsgruppe verantwortet.

Histories of Refuge nimmt die Phänomene von Flucht und Migration in und aus Afrika in den Blick. Die Beiträge stammen von den Teilnehmer:innen des Workshops »Rethinking Refuge«, der 2019 von Marcia Schenck (Universität Potsdam) organisiert wurde und am Forum Transregionale Studien stattfand.

In der Serie **The Humanities in the 21st century: Perspectives from the Arab World and Germany** setzen sich Wissenschaftler:innen und Praktiker:innen aus Deutschland und verschiedenen arabischen Ländern mit dem Potenzial und den Herausforderungen der Geisteswissenschaften

dossier, such as **#artandculture** or **#CriticalJunctures** are supervised by their own editorial groups, invite contributions, debates, views and positions of scholars, cultural workers or journalists from different urban locations on questions of art and culture, the humanities and social sciences in times of war and crisis, address questions of the use and abuse of historical narratives, the destruction of Soviet living environments, the protection of cultural assets or questions of food security in other regions.

The **MECAM series** features contributions to the overarching theme of the Merian Centre for Advanced Study in the Maghreb (MECAM), “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity” and to five thematic threads: **Inequality & Mobility, Memory & Justice, Aesthetics & Cultural Practice, Resources & Sustainability**, and **Identities & Beliefs**. The topics of the research fields are the different threads of the MECAM series; they document, assemble and interlace the content-related work of MECAM over the duration of the project.

The series **Envisioning Work: The Visual Cultures of Labor** asks what a critical consideration of the visual and material culture of labor, images of workers, workplace practices, and/or related scientific and technological processes can contribute to the debate around the history and future of labor, the relationship of gender, race, and class.

The **Factory Reloaded** series explored questions of social and political change by looking at industrial labor and the role of factories from historical, anthropological, and sociological perspectives. It emerged from a writing workshop supervised by the Forum from late summer 2020 to 2022 and was edited by Görkem Akgöz, Nurcin Ileri, and Malak Labib. As an anthology, the contributions of this series will be translated to Turkish and published as a book in Turkey in 2024.

The **Academic Freedom** series facilitates scholarly and intellectual exchange on issues of freedom of expression and academic freedom in Europe and the world. It was initiated by former fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and is the responsibility of its own editorial group.

Histories of Refuge focuses on the phenomena of flight and migration in and from Africa. The contributions come from the participants of the “Rethinking Refuge” workshop at the Forum Transregionale Studien, organized by Marcia Schenck in 2019.

In the series **The Humanities in the 21st Century: Perspectives from the Arab World and Germany**, scholars and practitioners from Germany and various Arab countries explore the potential and challenges of the humanities. The contributions stem from the conference “The Place of Humanities in Research, Education and Society: An Arab-German Dialogue”, held in Berlin in November 2019 as part of the activities of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA). All essays were published in English and Arabic as a Dossier of the Forum at the end of 2022.

Blog formats are an integral part of event and program work. They are used for the preparation and follow-up of scientific conferences and workshops.



auseinander. Die Beiträge gehen auf die Konferenz »The Place of Humanities in Research, Education and Society: An Arab-German Dialogue« zurück, die im November 2019 im Rahmen der Aktivitäten der Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) in Berlin stattfand. Alle Essays sind Ende 2022 in englischer und arabischer Sprache als Dossier des Forums erschienen.

Blogformate sind integraler Bestandteil der Veranstaltungs- und Programmarbeit. Sie werden zur Vor- und Nachbereitung wissenschaftlicher Konferenzen und Workshops eingesetzt. Seit 2015 ist das Blog »Transregional Academies« die Plattform für die gebündelte Darstellung der Akademien des Forums.

Mit **Büchern, Dossiers, Essays, Working Papers** und einer wissenschaftlichen **Zeitschrift** bietet das Forum weitere Publikationsformate für die Veröffentlichung von Forschungsergebnissen an. Um die Potentiale der Digitalisierung auszuschöpfen, werden Open-Access-Publikationen besonders unterstützt. Dies geschieht in Kooperation mit der Max Weber Stiftung auf der Open-Access-Plattform *perspectivia.net*.

Die **Essays** des Forum Transregionale Studien sind ein Open-Access-Format, in dem zeitgenössische Fragen von einem persönlichen Standpunkt, einer bestimmten Position und Disziplin ausgehend diskutiert werden. Sie erscheinen auf *perspectivia.net* und in einer kleinen gedruckten Auflage. Die Ausgaben können kostenlos beim Forum bezogen werden.

Letzte Essay-Veröffentlichungen:

Bohdan Tokarsky, »The Un/Executed Renaissance: Ukrainian Soviet Modernism and its Legacies«, (EUTIM & Prisma Ukraïna, 8/2021)

Andrii Portnov, »Polen und Ukraine: Verflochtene Geschichte, geteilte Erinnerung in Europa«, (Prisma Ukraïna, 9/2022)

Vadym Ilin, »War Destruction of Soviet Mass Housing: An End to the Post-soviet in Ukraine?«, (Prisma Ukraïna, 10/2023; in Planung)



Dossiers des Forum Transregionale Studien sind gebündelte Essays, Texte, Audio- oder visuelle Beiträge, die sich mit einem gemeinsamen Thema oder Projekt befassen. 2019 ist ein Dossier aus der Interviewreihe »All Things Transregional?« hervorgegangen, die zunächst als Serie in Einzelbeiträgen auf dem TRAFO-Blog erschienen sind, dann für die gebündelte Veröffentlichung als Dossier noch einmal von den Autor:innen bearbeitet wurden. Die Beiträge diskutieren, was transregionale Forschung ist, wem sie nützt und wo ihre Grenzen liegen. 2020 erschien als Ergebnis eines Workshops aus dem Jahr 2019 ein Dossier mit Beiträgen zum Thema »Social Disappearance. Explorations Around a Travelling Concept from Latin America to Eastern Europe«. Das Dossier »The Humanities in the 21st Century: Perspectives from the Arab World and Germany«, das die überarbeiteten Beiträge der gleichnamigen Trafo-Blogserie in einem Band sammelt, ist Ende 2022 in arabischer und englischer Sprache erschienen. Bis Ende 2023 werden zwei



Since 2015, the “Transregional Academies” blog has been the platform for the pooled presentation of the Forum’s academies.

With **books, Dossiers, Essays, Working Papers** and a **scientific journal**, the Forum offers further publication formats for the publication of research results. In order to exploit the potential of digitization, open access publications are particularly supported. This is done in cooperation with the Max Weber Foundation on the Open Access platform *perspectivia.net*.

The **Essays** of the Forum Transregionale Studien are an open access format in which contemporary issues are discussed from a personal point of view, and a specific position and discipline. They appear on *perspectivia.net* and in a small printed edition. The issues can be obtained free of charge from the Forum.

Recent Essays:

Bohdan Tokarsky, “The Un/Executed Renaissance: Ukrainian Soviet Modernism and its Legacies”, (EUTIM & Prisma Ukraïna, 8/2021)

Andrii Portnov, “Polen und Ukraine: Verflochtene Geschichte, geteilte Erinnerung in Europa”, (Prisma Ukraïna, 9/2022)

Vadym Ilin, “War Destruction of Soviet Mass Housing: An End to the Post-soviet in Ukraine?”, (Prisma Ukraïna, 10/2023; forthcoming)

Dossiers of the Forum Transregionale Studien are bundled essays, texts, audio, or visual contributions dealing with a common theme or project. In 2019, a dossier emerged from the interview series “All Things Transregional?” which first appeared as a series of individual posts on the TRAFO Blog, then was edited again by the authors for bundled publication as a Dossier. Its contributions discuss what transregional research is, who benefits from it, and what its limits are. In 2020, as a result of a workshop held in 2019, a Dossier was published with contributions on the topic “Social Disappearance: Explorations Around a Travelling Concept from Latin America to Eastern Europe”. The dossier “The Humanities in the 21st Century: Perspectives from the Arab World and Germany”, which collects the revised contributions of the Trafo Blog series of the same name in one volume, was published in Arabic and English at the end of 2022.

By the end of 2023, two dossiers of the research group PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory will be published; one on “Images and Objects of Russia’s War against Ukraine”, the other on “War, Migration and Memory”.

The **publication series of the Forum Transregionale Studien** in the series “Fröhliche Wissenschaft” of the publishing house Matthes & Seitz Berlin gathers texts that represent the concerns of the Forum in a special way and in German translation. The series includes essayistic texts on current philosophical and social debates and is published as a paperback. The books appear Open Access six months after publication on *perspectivia.net*. Recently, the essays





Dossiers der Forscher:innengruppe **PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory** erscheinen, eines zum Thema »Images and Objects of Russia's War against Ukraine«, das andere zu »War, Migration and Memory«.

Die **Schriftenreihe des Forum Transregionale Studien** in der Reihe »Fröhliche Wissenschaft« des Verlags Matthes & Seitz Berlin versammelt Texte, die die Anliegen des Forums in besonderer Weise und in deutscher Übersetzung repräsentieren. Die Reihe umfasst essayistische Texte zu aktuellen philosophischen und gesellschaftlichen Debatten und erscheint in einem ansprechenden Taschenbuchformat. Die Bücher erscheinen nach sechs Monaten auf *perspectivia.net* im Open-Access-Format. Zuletzt sind die Essays von Susannah Heschel, »Jüdischer Islam«, und von Yassin Al-Haj Saleh, »Freiheit: Heimat, Gefängnis, Exil und die Welt«, erschienen. Für den Herbst ist ein weiterer Band von Yassin Al-Hajj Saleh mit dem Titel »Hannah Arendt in Syrien« geplant.

Darüber hinaus macht das Forum **Audioformate** verfügbar, die Vorträge, Diskussionen oder Gespräche mit Wissenschaftler:innen dokumentieren. Seit 2013 wurden über 200 Beiträge veröffentlicht.

Wer regelmäßig über Neuigkeiten aus dem Forum informiert werden will, findet das Forum und seine Programme auf **Facebook** und **Twitter/X**. Auf unserer Webseite besteht zudem die Möglichkeit, unseren Newsletter zu abonnieren.

trafo.hypotheses.org

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soundcloud.com/user-555442334

Kontakt: communication@trafo-berlin.de

Leitung, Kooperation und Förderung

Der Vorstand des Forums besteht aus dem auf Lateinamerika spezialisierten Soziologen Sérgio Costa (Freie Universität Berlin), dem Afrika-Historiker Andreas Eckert (Vorsitzender/Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), der Sinologin Barbara Mittler (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg) sowie der Arabistin Friederike Pannewick (Stellvertretende Vorsitzende/Philipps-Universität Marburg). Zur Zeit lässt der Vorsitzende sein Amt ruhen und wird in wissenschaftlichen Angelegenheiten von seiner Stellvertreterin und in sonstigen Angelegenheiten des Forums von dem Geschäftsführer vertreten.

In den grundlegenden Angelegenheiten wird der Vorstand von einem Kuratorium beraten, dem Vertreter:innen des Landes Berlin, des Wissenschaftskollegs zu Berlin, der Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland, der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, der



“Jüdischer Islam” by Susannah Heschel and “Freedom: Home, Prison, Exile, and the World” by Yassin Al-Haj Saleh were published in German. Another volume by Yassin Al-Hajj Saleh entitled “Hannah Arendt in Syria” is planned for the autumn.

In addition, the Forum makes available **audio formats** documenting lectures, discussions, or conversations with scholars. Since 2013, over 200 contributions have been published.

Those who want to be regularly informed about news from the Forum can find the Forum and its programs on **Facebook** and **Twitter/X**. It is also possible to subscribe to our newsletter on our website.

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Direction, Cooperation, and Support

The board of the forum consists of the sociologist Sérgio Costa (Freie Universität Berlin), who specializes in Latin America, the Africa historian Andreas Eckert (chairperson of the board/Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; currently on leave), the sinologist Barbara Mittler (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg), and the Arabist Friederike Pannewick (deputy chairperson/Philipps-Universität Marburg). At present, the chairperson is resting from his office and is represented by his deputy in academic matters and by the Managing Director in other matters of the Forum.

In fundamental matters, the Executive Board is advised by a Board of Trustees, which includes representatives of the State of Berlin, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, the Max Weber Foundation – German Humanities Institutes Abroad, the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Freie Universität Berlin as statutory members, as well as René Aguigah of Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Thomas Düve of the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Pascale Ghazaleh of the American University in Cairo, Birgit Meyer of Universiteit Utrecht, Shalini Randeria of the Central European University Vienna, and Judith Wellen of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation as elected members.

The Forum was founded in October 2009 at the official headquarters of the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz in the form of a registered association. Members of the Forum are universities and non-university research institutions from all over Germany. Georges Khalil, the Managing Director, heads the Forum’s office.

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin sowie der Freien Universität Berlin als satzungsmäßige Mitglieder sowie René Aguigah vom Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Thomas Duve vom Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie, Pascale Ghazaleh von der American University in Cairo, Birgit Meyer von der Universität Utrecht, Shalini Randeria von der Central European University Wien und Judith Wellen von der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung als gewählte Mitglieder angehören.

Das Forum wurde im Oktober 2009 im Amtssitz der Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz in Form eines eingetragenen Vereins gegründet. Mitglieder des Forums sind Universitäten und außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen aus dem gesamten Bundesgebiet. Die Geschäftsstelle wird von Georges Khalil, dem Geschäftsführer des Forums, geleitet.

Im Bereich der Wissenschaftskommunikation arbeitet das Forum mit der Max Weber Stiftung, im Bereich der IT mit dem Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin zusammen. Das Forum Transregionale Studien wird seit seiner Gründung durch das Land Berlin gefördert, seit dem 1. Januar 2021 institutionell durch die Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft, Gesundheit und Pflege.

EUME wird durch eine private Stiftung sowie die meisten seiner Fellowships aus Mitteln der Alexander von Humboldt-, Fritz Thyssen-, Gerda Henkel-, Minerva-, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, der Philipp-Schwartz-Initiative sowie des Schweizer Nationalfonds, des Arab Centers for Research and Policy Studies, des European Research Councils, oder der Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation finanziert. PRISMA UKRAÏNA wird seit dem Jahr 2022 vom Land Berlin gefördert. Die Non-Resident-Fellowships wurden im Jahr 2022/2023 von der Marga und Kurt Möllgaard und der ZEIT-Stiftung Gerd und Ebelin Bucerius getragen. 2024/2025 fördert die Gerda Henkel Stiftung die Forscher:innengruppe durch Fellowships. re:constitution wird durch die Stiftung Mercator finanziert. Die am Forum angesiedelten Fellowships des Afghanistan-Programms der AKADEMIE IM EXIL werden von der VolkswagenStiftung gefördert. MECAM und EUTIM werden vom Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung gefördert.

In den letzten fünf Jahren haben vier Wissenschaftler:innen aus den Forschungsprogrammen des Forums, EUME und ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE, zwei ERC Starting Grants und zwei ERC Consolidator Grants gewonnen, von denen einer an der Freien Universität Berlin und zwei am Forum durchgeführt werden.

Ausführliche Informationen über das Forum und seine Forschungsprogramme finden Sie unter www.forum-transregionale-studien.de.

Mitglieder des Forums

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften; Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin; **Deutsches Archäologisches Institut**, Berlin; **Freie Universität**

In the field of academic communication, the Forum cooperates with the Max Weber Foundation, and in the field of IT with the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Since its foundation, the Forum Transregionale Studien has been funded by the State of Berlin, since 1 January 2021 institutionally by the Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care.

EUME is funded by a private foundation and most of its fellowships by funds from the Alexander von Humboldt, Fritz Thyssen, Gerda Henkel, Minerva, and Rosa Luxemburg Foundations, the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, as well as the Schweizer National Fund, the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, the European Research Council, or the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. PRISMA UKRAÏNA was funded by the State of Berlin in the year 2022. The non-resident fellowships were funded by the Marga and Kurt Möllgaard and the ZEIT Foundation Gerd and Ebelin Bucerius in 2022/2023. 2024/2025 the Gerda Henkel Foundation will support the PRISMA UKRAÏNA research group through fellowships. re:constitution is funded by the Mercator Foundation. The fellowships of the Afghanistan Program of the ACADEMY IN EXILE are based at the Forum and are funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. MECAM and EUTIM are funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

In the last five years, four scholars from the Forum's research programs EUME and ZUKUNFTSPHILOLOGIE have won ERC Starting Grants and ERC Consolidator Grants, one of which are being conducted at Freie Universität Berlin and two at the Forum.

Detailed information on the Forum Transregionale Studien and its research programs can be found at www.forum-transregionale-studien.de.

Members of the Forum

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften; Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin; Freie Universität Berlin; Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. für das Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), das Leibniz-Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS) und das Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL); German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg; Hertie School of Governance, Berlin; Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH für das Haus der Kulturen der Welt; Leibniz-Universität Hannover; Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland, Bonn; Philipps-Universität Marburg; Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin; Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg; Universität Duisburg-Essen; Universität Leipzig; Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin; Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

Berlin; Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. für das **Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)**, das **Leibniz-Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS)** und das **Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL)**; **German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)**, Hamburg; **Hertie School of Governance**, Berlin; **Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**; Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH für das **Haus der Kulturen der Welt**; **Leibniz-Universität Hannover**; **Max Weber Stiftung - Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland**, Bonn; **Philipps-Universität Marburg**; **Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz**, Berlin; **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**; **Universität Duisburg-Essen**; **Universität Leipzig**; **Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin**; **Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung**

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Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, vertreten durch Prof. Dr. phil. Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Rektorin (Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums)

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René Aguigah, Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Prof. Dr. Thomas Duve, Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie, Frankfurt a.M., Direktor

Dr. Pascale Gazaleh, The American University in Cairo, Department of History

Prof. Dr. Birgit Meyer, Universität Utrecht, Institut für Philosophie und Religionswissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Shalini Randeria, Central European University, Rektorin

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The Forum's Board

Sérgio Costa is a Professor of Sociology at the Institute for Latin American Studies and at the Institute of Sociology at Freie Universität Berlin. Since 2017 he has been the spokesperson of the Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (Mecila). Since 2021 he has been a member of the Forum's Board.

Andreas Eckert is Professor of the History of Africa at Humboldt University of Berlin (since 2007) and directed the Käte Hamburger Collegium “Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History (re:work)” from 2009 to 2023. Previously, he was Professor of Modern History, with a focus on the history of Africa, at the University of Hamburg (2002-2007). Most recently he published, *History of Slavery: From the Beginnings to the 21st Century* (2021). As an Einstein Research Fellow he currently is working on a book on the history of work in twentieth-century Africa. He has served on the Forum's Board of Directors since its inception in 2009 and as Chairman of the Board since 2013. He is currently on leave.

Vorstand des Forums

Sérgio Costa ist Professor für Soziologie am Lateinamerika-Institut und am Institut für Soziologie der Freien Universität Berlin. Seit 2017 ist er Sprecher des Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (Mecila) und seit 2021 Mitglied des Vorstands des Forums Transregionale Studien.

Andreas Eckert ist Professor für die Geschichte Afrikas an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (seit 2007) und hat von 2009 bis 2023 das Käte-Hamburger-Kolleg »Arbeit und Lebenslauf in globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive (re:work)« geleitet. Zuvor war er Professor für Neuere Geschichte, Schwerpunkt Geschichte Afrikas an der Universität Hamburg (2002-2007). Zuletzt veröffentlichte er *Geschichte der Sklaverei: Von den Anfängen bis ins 21. Jahrhundert* (2021). Zur Zeit arbeitet er als Einstein Research Fellow an einem Buch zur Geschichte der Arbeit in Afrika im 20. Jahrhundert. Er ist seit der Gründung des Forums im Jahr 2009 im Vorstand und seit 2013 Vorstandsvorsitzender. Zur Zeit lässt er sein Amt ruhen.

Barbara Mittler ist Professorin für Sinologie an der Universität Heidelberg. Sie war Co-Direktorin des Heidelberger Exzellenzclusters »Asia and Europe in a Global Context« (2007-2019) und ist Mitbegründerin des daraus hervorgegangenen Heidelberger Centrums für Asienwissenschaften und Transkulturelle Studien (CATS). Sie leitet gegenwärtig zwei vom BMBF geförderte Projekte, die China-Schul-Akademie, sowie ein Heidelberger Teilprojekt des Verbundkollegs »Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China« zu epochalen Lebenswelten. Barbara Mittler gehört seit 2015 dem Vorstand des Forums an.

Friederike Pannewick ist seit 2007 Professorin für Arabistik am Centrum für Nah- und Mitteloststudien (CNMS) an der Philips-Universität Marburg. Sie war von 2001 bis 2011 Projektleiterin am »Arbeitskreis Moderne und Islam (AKMI)« des Wissenschaftskollegs zu Berlin. Sie ist seit 2006 Mitglied des Kollegiums von Europa im Nahen Osten – Der Nahe Osten in Europa (EUME) und Mitglied des Exekutivrats des Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM). Seit 2012 ist sie Mitglied des Vorstands des Forum Transregionale Studien. Seit 2022 ist sie stellvertretende Vorsitzende des Vorstands.

Geschäftsführer des Forums

Georges Khalil ist seit 2009 Wissenschaftlicher Koordinator/Geschäftsführer des Forum Transregionale Studien. Zuvor war er von 1998 bis 2009 am Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin für die Projekte »Arbeitskreis Moderne und Islam« (AKMI) und dessen Nachfolgeprogramm »Europa im Nahen Osten – Der Nahe Osten in Europa (EUME)« zuständig, das er noch immer koordiniert. Er ist Mitglied des Exekutivrats des Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM).

Barbara Mittler is Professor of Sinology and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University. She was Co-Director of the Heidelberg Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” (2007-2019) and is Co-Founder of the Heidelberg Centre for Asian Studies and Transcultural Studies (CATS), which emerged from it. She currently heads two BMBF-funded projects, the China School Academy and the Heidelberg sub-project of the Joint Centre for Advanced Studies “Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China” focusing on epochal lifeworlds. Barbara Mittler has been a member of the Forum's board since 2015.

Friederike Pannewick has been Professor of Arabic Studies at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) at Philipps University Marburg since 2007. From 2001 to 2011, she led projects within the “Working Group Modernity and Islam (AKMI)” at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She has been a member of the Collegium of Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME) since 2006, and she is a member of the Executive Council of the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM). She has been a member of the Forum's Board since 2012. Since 2022, she has been Deputy Chair of the Forum's board.

Managing Director of the Forum

Georges Khalil has been the Academic Coordinator/Managing Director of the Forum Transregionale Studien since 2009. He was the Coordinator of the Working Group “Modernity and Islam (AKMI)” at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin from 1998 to 2006, and has been coordinating its successor program “Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME)” since 2006. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM).

Programme, Fellows und Projekte am Forum



Europa im Nahen Osten – Der Nahe Osten in Europa (EUME)

Die Leitidee von EUROPA IM NAHEN OSTEN – DER NAHE OSTEN IN EUROPA (EUME) ist die Erforschung der historischen, politischen, religiösen, sozialen und kulturellen Verflechtungen und Grenzziehungen in und zwischen Europa und dem Nahen Osten. Gegenüber einem Denken in Gegensätzen und Dichotomien sollen die vielfältigen Rezeptions- und Übersetzungsprozesse, gemeinsame historische Vermächtnisse sowie die Mobilität von Personen und Ideen, eine geteilte Gegenwart und Zukunft ins Blickfeld treten.

EUME wurde 2006 als gemeinsames Forschungsprogramm der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, der Fritz Thyssen Stiftung und des Wissenschaftskollegs zu Berlin begründet und steht in der Tradition des von 1996 bis 2006 vom Land Berlin und dem BMBF geförderten Arbeitskreises Moderne und Islam (AKMI). Seit September 2011 wird EUME als Programm am Forum Transregionale Studien weitergeführt. EUME integriert Forschungsfelder und -themen, die an Bruchlinien nationaler, religiöser oder kultureller Vorverständnisse ansetzen. Aus unterschiedlichen disziplinären Perspektiven (Anthropologie, Islamwissenschaft, Philologie, Geschichte, Literaturwissenschaft, Politologie) zielt EUME darauf ab, die Bedeutung der Forschung zu außereuropäischen Kulturen und Gesellschaften für die Differenzierung der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften unter den Bedingungen globaler Verflechtungen und Fragmentierungen deutlich zu machen.

— **Mobile Traditionen: Vergleichende Perspektiven auf die nahöstlichen Literaturen** (Friederike Pannewick und Samah Selim) ist ein literaturwissenschaftlich ausgerichtetes Forschungsfeld und untersucht nahöstliche Literaturen im Hinblick auf nationalphilologische Kanonbildungen und literarische Verflechtungen mit den Literaturen anderer Regionen.

— **Städtevergleich: Governance, Beratungsmechanismen, Pluralismus** (Ulrike Freitag und Nora Lafi) möchte aus dem Blickwinkel der Städte am Mittelmeer und angrenzenden Regionen zu den Debatten über Pluralismus, Migration, Staatsbürgerschaft und Zivilgesellschaft beitragen.

— **Tradition und die Kritik der Moderne: Säkularismus, Fundamentalismus und Religion aus nahöstlichen Perspektiven** (Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin) ist darauf ausgerichtet, Schlüsselbegriffe der Moderne im Horizont nahöstlicher Erfahrungen zu durchdenken, um zu inklusiven Vorstellungen von Politik und Gesellschaft beizutragen.

Programs, Fellows and Projects at the Forum



Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe (EUME)

EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE (EUME) is a multi-disciplinary research program at the Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien. EUME seeks to rethink key concepts and premises that link and divide Europe and the Middle East. Within the framework of five research fields in the disciplines of literature, political philosophy, urban history, philology-cum-late antiquity, and Islamic studies, the program attempts to recollect the legacies of Europe in the Middle East and of the Middle East in Europe in an inclusive way that aims to do justice to their entanglements.

The program creates a platform that rests upon the idea of “learning communities” (Wolf Lepenies) and the principle of “research with rather than research on”. It allows for the invitation of post-doctoral researchers, the organization of regular seminars, lectures, workshops and summer academies, that strengthen and modify existing research groups and contexts in Germany, beyond academic circles.

The program draws on the international expertise of scholars in and outside of Germany and is embedded in university and extra-university research institutions in Berlin. EUME was initiated in 2006 by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and builds upon the previous work of the Working Group Modernity and Islam (1996-2006) at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. EUME supports and rests upon interconnected research fields and topics:

- **Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures** (Friederike Pannewick and Samah Selim) reassesses literary entanglements and processes of translation and canonization between Europe and the Middle East.
- **Cities Compared: Governance, Consultative Mechanisms and Plurality** (Ulrike Freitag and Nora Lafi) contributes to the debates on civil society, deliberation, opinion formation, citizenship, migration and mobilization from the experience of cultural and religious differences in cities around the Mediterranean and beyond.
- **Tradition and the Critique of Modernity: Secularism, Fundamentalism and Religion from Middle Eastern Perspectives** (Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin) tries to rethink key concepts of modernity like secularity, tradition, and religion in the context of experiences, interpretations, and critiques from the Middle East in order to contribute to a more inclusive language of culture, politics and community.

— **Politisches Denken, eine Archäologie der Gegenwart, gesellschaftlicher Wandel und die Transformationsprozesse im Nahen Osten** sind weitere Schwerpunkte, die sich in den letzten Jahren herausgebildet haben und von mehreren Kollegiumsmitgliedern und Fellows vertreten werden (u.a. Cilja Harders, Friederike Pannewick, Rachid Ouaisa).

Derzeit werden zwei Forschungsprojekte, die vom European Research Council (ERC) gefördert werden, von EUME Fellows am Forum Transregionale Studien durchgeführt:

— **The Prison Narratives of Assad's Syria: Voices, Texts, Publics (SYRASP)** ist ein Vorhaben, das Anne-Marie McManus im Rahmen eines fünfjährigen ERC Starting-Grants seit April 2020 verfolgt. Das Projekt beschäftigt sich mit der Analyse syrischer Gefängnisnarrative seit den 1970er-Jahren bis heute sowie mit oppositionellen und Überlebensnarrativen, die für die politische Kultur Syriens und seiner Diaspora eine besondere Bedeutung haben.

— **Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST)** ist ein interdisziplinäres Forschungsprojekt, das von Banu Karaca geleitet wird. Es wird im Rahmen eines 5-jährigen ERC Consolidator-Grants gefördert und ist im Juli 2022 am Forum gestartet. Vor dem Hintergrund anhaltender Debatten zur Dekolonialisierung von Museen nimmt BEYONDREST Restitution nicht als End-, sondern als Ausgangspunkt, um zu untersuchen, welche Art von Verlust enteignete Kunstwerke erzeugen und wie dieser Verlust die Wissensproduktion über Kulturerbe geprägt hat.

Die Forschungsfelder und -themen bilden den Rahmen von EUME, in dessen Zentrum ein Postdoc-Programm steht, das jedes Jahr Fellows, insbesondere aus dem Nahen Osten, aber auch aus den USA, Afrika, Südasien und anderen europäischen Ländern, in der Regel für die Dauer eines akademischen Jahres, nach Berlin einlädt, um an ihren Forschungsvorhaben zu arbeiten. In den letzten Jahren kommen Wissenschaftler:innen verstärkt auch für längere Zeiträume als EUME-Fellows an das Forum, unterstützt durch Stipendien der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, der Gerda Henkel Stiftung, der Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, der Calouste Gulbenkian-Stiftung, der Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, des Schweizer Nationalfonds, der Volkswagen-Stiftung, der Minerva Stiftung, des Doha Centers oder anderer Förderer.

Die EUME-Fellows sind entsprechend ihrer disziplinären Ausrichtung assoziiert am Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, der Friedrich Schlegel Graduiertenschule für Literaturwissenschaftliche Studien, der Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, dem Center for Global History, den Instituten für Geschichts-, Islam- und Politikwissenschaft und dem Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik der Freien Universität Berlin oder dem Institut für Slawistik der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Einige von ihnen sind als Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter:innen am Forum angestellt.

— **Politics and Processes of Change, Archaeologies of the Present, and Imaginations of the Future** are research themes that emerged during the last years and are represented by the work of several EUME Fellows and members of the Collegium (e.g. Cilja Harders, Friederike Pannewick, Rachid Ouaissa).

Currently, two research projects funded by the European Research Council (ERC) are being directed by EUME Fellows and conducted at the Forum Transregionale Studien:

— **The Prison Narratives of Assad's Syria: Voices, Texts, Publics (SYRASP)** is a project that Anne-Marie McManus is pursuing in the framework of a five-year ERC Starting Grant since April 2020. The project collects and analyses Syrian prison narratives of the left and the Islamic movement since the 1970s, and thus deals with narratives of resistance and survival that are of particular importance for the political culture of Syria and its diaspora.

— **Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST)** is an interdisciplinary research project headed by Banu Karaca. It is funded within the framework of a five-year ERC Consolidator-Grant and has started in July 2022. On the backdrop of ongoing debates to decolonialize museums, BEYONDREST takes restitution not as an endpoint but as the point of departure to explore what kind of loss dispossessed artworks engender, and how this loss has shaped the knowledge production on heritage.

These research fields and themes contribute to our knowledge of Middle Eastern cultures and societies and their relations to Europe. At the same time, they attempt to re-center the significance of academic disciplines for the study of non-European contexts, in this case the Middle East. Thus, EUME supports historical-critical philology, rigorous engagement with the literatures of the Middle East and their histories, the social history of cities and the study of Middle Eastern political and philosophical thought (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and secular) as central fields of research, not only for area or cultural studies, but also for Europe and the academic disciplines. The research fields constitute the framework for the fellowship program that forms the center of EUME.

Since 1997, more than 350 scholars from and of the Middle East have been EUME Fellows, who, by their scholarly projects, their questions, and their commitment engage in the order of knowledge, society and politics, and shape the academic program of EUME.

EUME explores modernity as a historical space and conceptual frame — not as a particular national or European realm, but as a reflexive modernity, as an uneven, polyphonic terrain in which people, ideas, and discourses moved and were assimilated, contested, displaced, reshaped, or redeployed in a variety of ways, in Europe as well as in the Middle East. The program puts forward three programmatic ideas:

Ein gemeinsames Berliner Seminar bringt die Interdependenzen der Forschungsfelder sowie die politischen und gesellschaftlichen Fragen zur Geltung, die mit den Bemühungen der Wissenschaftler:innen verbunden sind, eine neue Sprache für Kultur, Politik und Gesellschaft zu finden, die verbindet und nicht trennt. In Arbeitsgesprächen, Workshops und Sommerakademien können spezifische Themen vertieft werden.

Seit den Anfängen des Arbeitskreises Moderne und Islam (AKMI) im Jahr 1996 forschten über 350 Postdocs als Fellows des AKMI oder von EUME für mindestens ein Jahr in Berlin. Internationale Workshops trugen zur Erweiterung der wissenschaftlichen Kontakte bei. Komplementär zu den Aktivitäten in Berlin wurden ab 1996 regelmäßig Sommerakademien und Workshops in der Region abgehalten.

So führte das Programm seitdem mit mehr als 2000 Wissenschaftler:innen aus Deutschland, Europa, den USA sowie arabisch und muslimisch geprägten Ländern und Israel wissenschaftliche Debatten über Konzepte von Recht und Ordnung, Grenzziehungen in religiösen Traditionen, zum Zusammenleben von Menschen unterschiedlicher sozialer, ethnischer und kultureller Herkunft in den Städten des Mittelmeerraums, zu Kanonisierungsprozessen in Literatur und Geschichtsschreibung, zu Fragen der Hermeneutik, Grenzziehungen zwischen Christentum, Judentum und Islam, zur Bedeutung von Exil und Rückkehr im palästinensischen und israelischen Diskurs, der Rolle von Kunst und Kultur im politischen Prozess, dem Zusammenhang von Archiv, Macht und Öffentlichkeit oder der Mobilität von Personen und Ideen zusammen. Nahezu alle ehemaligen Fellows und Sommerakademie-Teilnehmer:innen erhielten in der Zwischenzeit Assistenzprofessuren oder Professuren an Universitäten. Die Mehrzahl ist an Einrichtungen im Nahen Osten tätig.

EUME wird von einem Kollegium verantwortet, das derzeit aus Ulrike Freitag (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), Cilja Harders (Sprecherin des Kollegiums; Freie Universität Berlin), Nora Lafi (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), Rachid Ouaisa (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Friederike Pannewick (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva), Samah Selim (Rutgers University) und Stefan Weber (Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin) besteht.

Leitung: Georges Khalil

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Information: www.eume-berlin.de

- support for research that demonstrates the infinitely rich and complex historical legacies between Europe and the Middle East;
- a re-examination of genealogical notions of ‘mythical beginnings’, ‘origins’, and ‘purity’ in relation to culture and society; and
- an attempt to contribute to the rethinking of key concepts of a common modernity in light of today’s perspective on cultural, social, and political entanglements; entanglements that supersede rigid identity discourses, national, cultural, or regional canons, and epistemologies established in the world of the nineteenth century.

EUME is directed by a Collegium that currently consists of: Ulrike Freitag (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), Cilja Harders (spokesperson of the Collegium; Freie Universität Berlin), Nora Lafi (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), Rashid Ouaisa (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Friederike Pannewick (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva), Samah Selim (Rutgers University), and Stefan Weber (Museum für Islamische Kunst, Berlin).

Direction: Georges Khalil

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ERC Projects at EUME

Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST), 2022-2027

On the backdrop of ongoing debates to decolonialize museums, “Beyond Restitution” asks if the return of looted art can be regarded as a closure of historical wounds. The project probes the focus on restitution that inadvertently casts dispossessed art in terms of contested property. Instead, it explores what kind of loss dispossessed art engenders, and how this loss has shaped the knowledge production on heritage. It focuses on the interlocation between Western Europe, the Near and Middle East, and North Africa, mapping relationships between people and “things” that have largely been left out of current debates. The project starts in the mid-19th century, which witnessed the rise of the museum in its modern form as well as violence unleashed by imperial and colonial projects and dispossession. Innumerable objects made their way into international collections, categorized mostly as “Islamic art,” or as the “universal heritage of humankind” that nonetheless symbolically and proprietarily belongs to the “West.” Taking restitution not as an endpoint but as the point of departure for its examination, Beyond Restitution tackles dispossession not as a loss to be mended but a means to transform knowledge through inquiries into absence. The interdisciplinary research group is employing a wide methodologically matrix, including ethnographic interviews, visual analysis of exhibitions, archival research, and examinations of the laws governing cultural assets to capture the proprietary stakes in the interplay of epistemic remembering and forgetting. The research also extends to contemporary artistic approaches to dispossessed heritage as alternate paths of knowledge making in a field that has to contend with impasses that arise when centering on what is absent rather than what is present, on what is lost, rather than found. “Beyond Restitution” argues that the dispossession of art is not merely a problematic of colonialism or empire, that is of the past, but an ongoing process that is constitutive for the governance of heritage in its national and transnational formations. Indeed, it is a precondition for the ways in which art and other “cultural assets” circulate. This five-year project is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement No. 101045661), hosted by the Forum Transregionale Studien (Forum), and related to EUME.

Principal Investigator: Banu Karaca

Research Fellow: Çiçek İlengiz

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Information: <https://www.eume-berlin.de/projekte/beyond-restitution-heritage-dispossession-and-the-politics-of-knowledge-beyondrest>

Banu Karaca



(Principal Investigator) works at the intersection of political anthropology and critical theory, art, aesthetics, and cultural policy, museum and feminist memory studies. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Center, The City University of New York. She has published on freedom of expression in the arts, the visualization of gendered memories of war and political violence, visual literacy, and restitution. She is the author of *The National Frame: Art and State Violence in Turkey and Germany* (Fordham University Press, 2021), and co-editor of *Women Mobilizing Memory* (Columbia University Press, 2019). In 2011, she co-founded *Siyah Bant*, a research platform that documents censorship in the arts in Turkey. She has been Visiting Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies at Sabanci University and Faculty Fellow at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Social Difference. Her work has been supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Foundation for Arts Initiatives (FFAI), the ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Stiftung Mercator, and the Volkswagen Foundation, among others. She has been a Fellow of ART HISTORIES AND AESTHETIC PRACTICES in 2015/16 and a Fellow of EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE (EUME) in 2016/17 and 2019-2022, both research programs at the Forum Transregionale Studien. Banu Karaca has been awarded the Consolidator Grant by the European Research Council for above-mentioned project "Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST)."

Çiçek İlengiz



(Research Fellow) works at the intersection of memory studies, politics of emotions and critical heritage studies. In 2019, she completed her PhD at the Research Center for History of Emotions, hosted by the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. Before joining the research project BEYONDREST, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Empires of Memory Research Group, hosted by the Max Planck Research Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen. Her recent publications have engaged with the conceptual discussions on inheritance, temporality and mourning in the fields of memory and heritage. She is currently revising her book manuscript for publication, tentatively titled "The Healing-Injury: Revolutionary Mourning in Post Genocidal Turkey". Combining ethnographic research with oral histories and archival documentation the book offers a critical assessment of the logics of rational politics, the framework of which has been drawn by military, racial, and secular regimes of power.

The Turkish government's 2013 demand for restitution of several artifacts has fueled heated debates about the structures of colonial and imperial relations and the limits of decolonial critique. Raising the question of 'what

belongs to whom and under which conditions', these debates have opened a new ground to reinforce civilizational narratives onto the politics of dispossession. Inheriting Anatolia investigates the ways in which the debates on restitution are transforming the heritage field in Turkey. The research project has been designed to illustrate how a region inheriting imperial history (that has usually been left out of restitution debates) can change our perspectives on dispossession and ownership in the field of heritage.

The project asks: 'how do we inherit what belongs to everyone' and aims to answer this question through ethnographic, archival and legal research. It examines the intertwined nature of histories of state violence and their effects in the constitution of the legal notions of ownership and inheritance in the field of heritage. To grasp the role of dispossession in the (re)production of Anatolian artifacts as 'universal' or 'world heritage,' it traces the ways in which the artifacts are cataloged, classified, and represented in the archives of selected museum collections in Turkey as well as in Western Europe. Mobilizing ethnographic research in multiple sites in Anatolia, the project analyzes the modalities of inheritance that are cultivated by actors in the heritage field. Conceptually it (re)connects the notions of heritage and inheritance that are severed by global heritage regimes, which redraw the boundaries between what is considered public and private.

The Prison Narratives of Assad's Syria: Voices, Texts, Publics (SYRASP), 2020-2025

Bridging the disciplines of literary studies and cultural anthropology, SYRASP researches contemporary narratives, images, social media, songs, and other cultural practices related to incarceration and forced disappearance in Syria under the Assad regime (1970-present). SYRASP builds on the extensive literary canon of Syrian prison narratives and their associated scholarship to reflect, in evolving collaborations with Syrian cultural producers, artists, and researchers, on the cultural, political, and ethical valences of creating, documenting, and archiving prison narratives today. With over 130,000 disappeared since the beginning of the revolution in 2011, Syrian cultural producers in exile engage prison and forced disappearance to make demands for accountability and against normalization with the Assad regime; to invoke memories of individual and collective survival under duress; and to form new communities in the present. Together, these practices gesture to more just futures for Syrians. They also form innovative new bonds of solidarity across national identities, connecting Syrian memories and contemporary politics into the diverse cultural spaces across the globe where Syrians live and act.

SYRASP's core methods incorporate dialogue with stakeholders in the Syrian cultural field and reflexivity on the position of academic research produced on Syrian literature and culture in English. Key publications from the grant will therefore include traditional academic genres (e.g., single-author

articles and monographs) as well as interviews, dialogues, and reflections on the ethics of literary studies. This project is a five-year investigation funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant Agreement No. 851393), hosted by the Forum Transregionale Studien (Forum), and related to EUME.

Principal Investigator: Anne-Marie McManus

Research Fellow: Eylaf Bader Eddin

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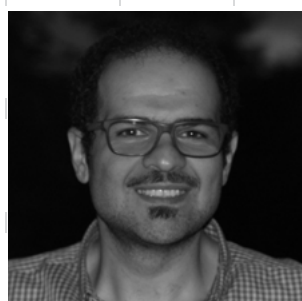
Information: <https://www.eume-berlin.de/projekte/the-prison-narratives-of-assads-syria-voices-texts-publics-syrasp>

Anne-Marie McManus



(Principal Investigator) is a comparative literary scholar of Arabic, English, and French literatures in the 20th and 21st century. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Yale University. She has published essays on poetics, comparative and theoretical methods, and contemporary Arabic literatures and cultures in venues such as *Critical Inquiry* (2021), *The Cambridge History of World Literature, Books & Ideas*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of World Literature*, and *Expressions Maghrébines*. Her first book charts the emergence of a transregional Arabic literature across the Maghreb and Mashreq after decolonization, notably under the influence of Arab nationalism and the Algerian War of Independence. Her work has been supported by the Mellon Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, NYU Abu Dhabi, and the European Research Council (ERC). In 2016/17 she was a EUME Fellow. She oversees the ERC-funded project SYRASP at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin.

Eylaf Bader Eddin



(Research Fellow) studied English, Arabic and Comparative Literature in Damascus, Paris, Aix-en-Provence, and Marburg. From 2004 to 2009, he studied English language and literature at the University of Damascus. He received his MA in 2014 from the University of Vincennes in Saint-Denis (Paris 8) for his thesis entitled “(Un)-Translating Slogans of the Syrian Revolution”. From 2015 to 2020, he studied in the Cotutelle doctoral program of the University of Aix-Marseille and Philipps-Universität Marburg. His doctoral dissertation is entitled “Translating the Language of the Syrian Revolution 2011-2012”, forthcoming as an open access book with De Gruyter. His first book, entitled *When They Cried “Forever”: The Language of the Syrian Revolution*, received the Sadiq Jalal al-Azm Memorial Award for Culture Research by Ettijahat – Independent Culture. In 2021, he was a post-doctoral researcher in the DFG-funded research group “Figures of Thought | Turning Points” at

Musical Remains
and Songs in
Syrian Prisons and
Exile

Philipps-Universität Marburg. Currently, he is a postdoctoral research fellow of the research project SYRASP and a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien as well as a researcher in the Department of Arabic Studies at Philipps-Universität Marburg and a non-resident fellow of Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies.

This project seeks to closely study singing and music both in and out of Syrian prisons and in exile, and to understand how music is used to cope with imprisonment and as an act of resilience and resistance in prison and outside of it. Moreover, the research traces the course of singing and music (in prisons, out of prisons, and outside of Syria – in exile) with the displacement of hundreds of former Syrian political prisoners to Europe from the 1980s to the present, from the Hama Massacre in 1982 to the Syrian Protests in 2011. It analyzes the transfer of cultural practices happening among different places and people (Said 1983, Greenblatt et al. 2010, Cohen & Serkici 2011). As such, this research aims at (1) structuring and constituting new frames and schemes for a musical genre of “prison songs” in Syria that has not yet been described in the cultural field, (2) studying the cultural practices of singing and music, their (re)-performances in and out of prison, their consumption and production, (3) dealing with music and singing as “lieux de mémoire” as memorial objects that bridge a traumatic past with a hard present, and newness and futurity represented by re-making and re-performing a new exile through music, and (4) re-constructing, reviving, and remaking prison songs, their lyrics and musical instruments through extensive fieldwork among survivors by building a digital musical archive. Music of the diaspora and from prison illustrates new schemes and instruments for survivors that can contribute to (de)construct the imaginary and imagination of homeland and/or exile, connecting an already finished musical act performed in the past in prison with a new re-performed one in the present in exile.

EUME Fellows 2023/2024

Sanabel Abdelrahman



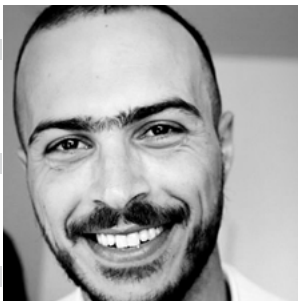
holds a PhD in Arabic Studies, focusing on magical realism in Palestinian literature, from Philipps-Universität Marburg. She completed her BA and MA at the University of Toronto's Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. She is a bilingual writer and publishes essays critiquing art and literature on platforms including *Fus7a*, *al-Akhbar*, *7iber*, *Jadaliyya*, and *NO NIIN*. In the academic year 2023/24, she is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

This project approaches magical realism as a literary mode used in settler-colonial and post-colonial contexts to resist the destruction of the

Beyond Magical Realism: Situating Palestinian Liberation within Indigenous Futurisms

colonized people's spaces. Sanabel Abdelrahman's research investigates how Palestinian magical realism, with its strands of surrealism, Gothicism, science fiction, and fantasy, resists the ongoing Nakba. She is interested in figures and tropes such as ghosts, mythical creatures, dreams, metamorphosis, resurrection, animism, and the manipulation of time. During her EUME Fellowship, she will work on a book manuscript based on her dissertation, "Oh Whale, Do Not Swallow Our Moon!": How Manifestations of Magical Realism Reflect and Challenge Distorted Palestinian Spaces in Literature". She will expand her research by including additional frameworks, such as (magical) Marxism, indigenous futurisms, and climate fiction. This perhaps strengthens the central premise of magical realism's revolutionary potential and its possible utilization towards imagining and materializing liberated futures against settler-colonialism and after it. While building on the premise of magical realism as a postcolonial investigative tool in literature, Sanabel wants to address questions such as: Do Palestinian, indigenous, and black ghosts play the same roles? How does climate fiction parallel Palestinian 'eco-surrealism'? Can magical realism inspire a renewed Marxist reading of settler-colonialism? How can liberated futures emerge from magical-realistic contexts?

Hashem Abushama



is a Departmental Lecturer in Human Geography and Career Development Fellow at the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment, where he is also completing his DPhil in Human Geography. He holds an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies from Oxford University and a BA from Earlham College in the United States. He has previously worked as a researcher at the London School of Economics (LSE) and at the Institute for Palestine Studies in Ramallah and Washington, D.C. His writings have appeared in *Jadaliyya*, *Palestine Square*, *Refuge Journal*, the *Jerusalem Quarterly* and the *Oxford Journal of Refugee Studies*. In the summers of 2023-25, he is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Articulations: Settler Colonialism, Dispossession and Arts

Hashem Abushama is generally interested in questions pertaining to modernity, dispossession and arts. His most recent research explores the relationship between cultural production, urban expansion/renewal, settler colonialism, and late capitalism in the post-Oslo historical conjuncture in historic Palestine. Using in-depth interviews with Palestinian artists, archival materials, and audio-visual materials, the project traces the journeys of Palestinian artists as they navigate the complex terrains shaping the urban fabrics of two cities: Haifa in the north of historic Palestine (today's Israel) and Ramallah in central West Bank. The project contributes to urban studies and cultural studies. In a second project Abushama examines the relationship between the Dada-Zurich arts movement and colonial circuits of stolen artworks in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Burcu Alkan



From Pseudo-Medicine to Freudo-Marxism: The Impact of Psychoanalysis on the Twentieth Century Turkish Novel

received her PhD at the University of Manchester (2009). Her thesis was published as *Promethean Encounters: Representation of the Intellectual in the Modern Turkish Novel of the 1970s* (2018). After having worked at various universities, she took up a post as senior research fellow at Justus Liebig University on a fellowship supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2017-2020). She specialises in comparative literature with a focus on the modern Turkish novel. She is the co-editor of a two-volume reference work: *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Turkish Novelists Since 1960* (2013 & 2016). She also co-edited a volume titled *Turkish Literature as World Literature* (2021), which locates Turkish literature in the world literary scene as a source of influence and challenges the conventions in world and Turkish literary studies. Alkan is currently working within the field of medical humanities with an interest in the relationship between literature and psychiatry, sciences of the mind, and mental health. In the academic year 2021/22, she was EUME Fellow and continues to be affiliated with EUME in the academic years 2022-24.

This project examines the impact of psychoanalysis as an epistemological field on the modern Turkish novelistic imagination and investigates the transcultural manifestation of psychoanalytical theory in the Turkish literary intellectual sphere. It seeks to go beyond the “psychology of literature” or “literary psychology” approaches towards a new interdisciplinary understanding of literature and psychiatry from the vantage point of the fields of medical humanities and transcultural psychiatry. The study begins with the introduction of psychoanalytical discourse into the medical field in Turkey and explores the ways in which it evolves, corresponding to the global developments, as an ideational theme in the Turkish novel. The project thus investigates how psychoanalytical theory became a significant contact zone to discuss broader issues beyond psych-fields. Several works are chosen as case studies in order to discuss “the transcultural impact of psychoanalysis on the modern Turkish novel from pseudo-medicine to Freudo-Marxism,” such as those of Peyami Safa (1800-1961), Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar (1901-1961), Attilâ İlhan (1925-2005), and Leyla Erbil (1931-2013).

Toygun Altıntaş



works on the social and political history of minoritization, supremacism and inequality in the late Ottoman Empire. He received his MA (2010) in Middle Eastern Studies and PhD (2018) in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago. Entitled “Crisis and (Dis)Order: Armenian Revolutionaries and the Hamidian Regime in the Ottoman Empire (1887-1896),” his dissertation explores the spread of Armenian revolutionary committees and the contemporaneous minoritization of Armenians by the Ottoman state. It also

Integration and Minoritization: Governing Hierarchies in the Late Ottoman Empire

investigates the processes by which boundaries of subjecthood and nationality for Armenians were constructed and constricted during the reign of sultan Abdülhamid II (r. 1876-1909). Altıntaş worked as an MA Preceptor at the University of Chicago (2017-2018). He taught courses on Middle Eastern history and Ottoman language and paleography at Bilgi and Boğaziçi Universities (2018-2020). He was a EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation between 2020 and 2023, affiliated with the Center for Global History at Freie Universität Berlin. In the academic year 2023/24, Toygun remains an affiliated EUME Fellow.

The project examines the making of ethno-confessional hierarchies in late Ottoman state and society with a particular focus on Armenians in the empire. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the Ottoman Empire extended equality before the law to its non-Muslim subjects under a new imperial and international regime. The last quarter of the nineteenth century marked important changes in Ottoman policymaking. Sultan Abdülhamid introduced a set of new policies in order to assert the primacy of his Sunni Muslim subjects and to curb Armenian efforts towards self-governance and administrative integration. The project focuses on this period (1856-1908) in order to trace the shifts and contradictions in the Ottoman regime of ethnicity. The reformation and abolition of ethnic, confessional and racial hierarchies were at the center of imperial and international politics during this period. The global connections in the Ottoman case are doubly important, because Ottoman modernization was intrinsically tied with international diplomacy from the middle of the nineteenth century. Therefore, it also seeks to situate the Ottoman example within a global context with attention to the contemporaneous expansions and contractions of citizenship and subjecthood in the Russian Empire and the United States.

Ceyhun Arslan



is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Koç University, Istanbul. His book, *The Ottoman Canon and the Construction of Arabic and Turkish Literatures*, is forthcoming from Edinburgh University Press, and it will appear in the Edinburgh Studies on the Ottoman Empire. His articles and book chapters have appeared or are forthcoming in journals and edited volumes such as *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, *Journal of Arabic Literature*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Middle Eastern Literatures*, and *The Routledge Companion to Arabic Poetry*. In the academic year 2023/24 he is a EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and is hosted by the Forum Transregionale Studien and Saarland University.

During his research stay in Berlin and Saarbrücken, Ceyhun Arslan will work on his second book project, tentatively entitled “A Literary History of the Mediterranean from its East and South”, which examines literary works from/on various vantage points of the Mediterranean, such as Istanbul and

A Literary History of the Mediterranean from its East and South

Marseilles, to reassess the Mediterranean's history. Ceyhun's book argues that authors such as 'Abd al-Qādir al-Jazā'irī and Abdülhak Hamid Tarhan appropriated modern understandings of the Mediterranean in order to generate their cultural and political vision. He uses the methodology of philology and of close reading to examine Mediterranean legacies described in writings on islands, regions, and port cities of the Mediterranean. His project studies literary texts for complementing and disrupting the current historiography on the Mediterranean. It undermines the tendency to examine a few events, such as the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople/Istanbul, as sole turning points in the region's history. His book also moves beyond earlier attempts to study the Mediterranean through the prism of a single theme, such as colonialism, or object of analysis, such as port cities or islands. It studies places that were examined separately in different fields such as Maghreb studies and Ottoman studies in conjunction with each other for generating a more multilayered understanding of the Mediterranean.

Gülhan Balsoy



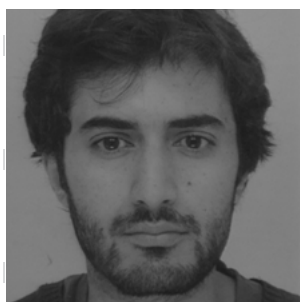
Late Ottoman Politics of Family, Gender, and the Making of Familial Citizenship

is a professor of history at Istanbul Bilgi University. She received her PhD from the Department of History at Binghamton University in 2009. Her dissertation was published as *The Politics of Reproduction in Ottoman Society, 1838–1900* (Routledge, 2013). The Turkish translation of this book, *Kahraman Doktor İhtiyar Acuzeye Karşı: Geç Osmanlı Doğum Politikaları Doğum* (Can Yayınları, 2015) has won the 2016 Yunus Nadi Social Sciences and Research Award. She participated in the “(Over)medicalization of Childbirth as a Public Problem” project funded by Agence Nationale de la Recherche. Her works have been published in journals, including the *International Review of Social History*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, and the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. Her research interests focus on the history of women, gender and sexuality, social history, and the history of medicine in the late Ottoman context. She is working on a book in which she uncovers the links between gender and poverty in late nineteenth-century Ottoman Istanbul. She is also co-directing a project on the history of death and mortality in early nineteenth-century Istanbul. Gülhan was a EUME Fellow in 2010/11, and returns as an affiliated EUME Fellow in 2023/24.

This research aims to provide an account that explores the politics of family through a gendered perspective and with the purpose of shedding light on the question of the process of the making of citizenship in the late Ottoman context. Throughout the nineteenth century, the nature of the Ottoman state and tools of governmentality underwent major transformations giving way to a redefinition of state-subject relationships. In this process, the family was redesigned as the model of the modern state through legal, administrative, and medical technologies and discourses. However, what makes the Ottoman case interesting is the very crisis families faced in this period. At the very same time, the family was being idealized as one of the most important social institutions;

political turmoil, economic disintegration, and environmental disasters triggered a massive family crisis. This research will examine the two-way processes where the legal, administrative, and medical policies refashioned the family and constructed an ideology of familial citizenship and where the actual family crisis shaped this ideology in return. Pulling the threads of these intertwined processes, this research will discuss late Ottoman politics of family and the making of the familial citizen.

Önder Çelik



Things Without Owners: Legal Fictions, Buried Treasures, and the Memory of the Armenian Genocide

received his PhD in Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University with a dissertation entitled “Life Underground: Hunting for Armenian Treasure in the Post-Genocide Landscape”. He holds an MA in Legal Theory from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales and a Diploma in Law from École normale supérieure, Paris. He was a visiting graduate scholar in the Department of Anthropology at New York University in 2018-2019. His work explores the material and temporal dimensions constituted by the practices of dispossessed young Kurdish men searching for valuable objects believed to be buried by the victims of the Armenian genocide. In the academic years 2020-2022, Önder was a EUME Fellow of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and continued his research stay in 2022/23, funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. In the academic year 2023/24 he is an affiliated EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Today, the Turkish state denies the historical truth of the massacres of 1915 and 1916, in which Ottoman forces killed over one million Armenians. Where the Turkish state based its denial on the putative lack of archival evidence, scholars responded to this official denial by trying to document both the factual basis and the genocidal character of the killings through archival research and personal testimonies. This project explores how this dispute over the authenticity of written sources plays out in an economic and cultural practice that is at once a direct result of the genocide, and a continuing source of contention for the current inhabitants of Turkish Kurdistan. Specifically, through ethnographic and archival research, it examines both the legal regulation of hunting for Armenian treasures – principally gold – and the practices of Kurdish treasure hunters under legal scrutiny. Treasure hunters seek to profit from the material wealth that was left behind by a population whose status as victims is vigorously denied by the same Turkish state that must issue permits for treasure excavations. Treasure hunts conducted without an official permit are considered illegal and prosecuted by up to two years of prison sentence. By tracing treasure hunters’ applications for excavation permits from a local state museum, as well as court files of unauthorized excavations, Önder Çelik’s research offers an ethnographic perspective on the ways in which trauma, memory, and history are articulated through the idioms of permissibility, prohibition, and desire that surround the legal governance of treasure hunting.

Elise Daniaud Oudeh



is a researcher and PhD candidate in Politics at LUISS University, Italy. She graduated in Slavic studies from Bordeaux University, France, and Political science from Saint Joseph University, Lebanon. She specialises in Russian history of ideas, Arab political thought, and the political discourse of Syria and Russia. She is a contributor to the Tahrir Institute for Middle East policy. Through her professional experience, she worked closely with Russian and Syrian civil societies and is part of a citizen network supporting Syrian activists. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic. In the academic year 2023/24, Elise is an affiliated EUME Fellow.

Representations of the Syrian Conflict in Official Syrian and Russian Discourses: A Bilingual Study of the Role of Mediatization in Contemporary Warfare

The purpose of this research is to explore the way that the daily reality of the Syrian revolution and its repression is described and then disseminated by the Syrian regime and its Russian ally in media outlets since 2011. By understanding the mechanisms at stake, the project aims to understand the role that strategic official narratives and counter-narratives and their mediatization are playing in “winning the communication war”. To do so, it will deliver a bilingual content analysis of the speeches of Bashar al-Assad, Vladimir Putin and minister of foreign affairs Sergey Lavrov to highlight the most recurring frames. Those frames will then be tracked in space and time through selected Syrian and Russian media outlets, bloggers and public figures to understand how narratives travel, evolve or disappear.

Gennaro Gervasio



Subaltern Activism and the ‘Arab Uprisings’ in Egypt and Iraq

is a graduate of the University of Naples ‘L’Orientale’ and is currently Associate Professor in History and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa in Roma Tre’s Department of Humanities. Previously, he has been the Director of the Centre for Middle East and North African Studies at Sydney’s Macquarie University (2009-11) and has been teaching and researching in Cairo from 2011 until 2016. His research interests include Marxism in the Arab world, the political role of Arab intellectuals, and civic activism and social movements in the Arab World (especially Egypt and Iraq). He is the author of *al-Haraka al-Markisiyya fi Misr 1967-1981* (The Marxist Movement in Egypt 1967-81; Cairo 2010), and more recently has co-edited a special issue on *Gramsci and the Uprisings in North Africa* (2021). In the academic years 2022-24, he is an Affiliated EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Inspired by Gramsci’s seminal work on the subaltern – taken back to its class dimension – this project is looking at the emergence of ‘subaltern subjects’ as the protagonists of the ‘Arab Uprisings’, with a main focus on Egypt and a secondary comparative focus on Iraq from 2011 onwards. The main argument is that, as ‘street politics’ played a fundamental role in the protest movements both before and after 2011, the role played by old and new form of

social and political activism needs further and deeper investigation. Based on past extensive fieldwork, my research on Egypt is considering both those sites and actors of resistance with an established societal recognition – such as workers, women, students and civic activists – as well as those without a tradition of political activism, like the football ‘ultras’ and the self-organized resistance in the ‘social non-movements’ in urban areas and rural alike. Gramsci’s writings can help illuminate the different trajectories of subaltern activism especially in understanding whether, how and why these groups became distant from the subaltern actors they claimed to represent, and which strategies (if any) they followed to resist the post-July 2013 Counter-Revolution. Besides Egypt, this project intends to investigate a much more recent and under-researched case, namely independent activism in Iraq before and after the 2019 ‘October Uprising’. In particular, Gennaro Gervasio’s research aims at shedding light on newly established groups, created by the uprising itself, which are trying to challenge the political and social order as a whole.

Lara Harb



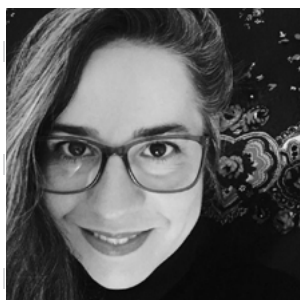
is Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and specializes in Classical Arabic Literature and literary theory. She earned a PhD in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies from New York University (2013) and a BA in Comparative Literature from Brown University (2004). Prior to joining the faculty at Princeton in 2015, Lara was assistant professor at Dartmouth College. She is the author of *Arabic Poetics: Aesthetic Experience in Classical Arabic Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). Lara is currently working on a book-length project on mimesis in classical Arabic literature and a translation of *al-Jurjani's Asrar al-balagha* (The Secrets of Eloquence). In the academic year 2023/24, she is a CNMS-EUME Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and hosted by the Philipps-Universität Marburg and the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Mimesis in Classical Arabic Literature

Mimesis is one of the oldest and most fundamental concepts that has shaped Western aesthetics. The relationship between a work of art and reality lies at the core of Western attempts to make sense of representational forms of expression going back to the Ancient Greeks. Significantly, the concept entered the sphere of Arabic thought in the 9th-10th centuries when Aristotle’s *Poetics* was translated into Arabic. However, the Arabic understanding of Aristotle’s key ideas in the *Poetics*, including mimesis, remains obscure. *Mimesis in Classical Arabic Literature* promises to be the first comprehensive study of literary representation in medieval Arabic literature. It seeks to reconstruct premodern Arabic conceptions of the relationship between a literary work and reality, on the one hand, and the psychology and ethics of how one experiences and is affected by such representations, on the other. The central argument of the book contends that mimesis in the Arabic context was understood as “comparison” instead of the standard Western understanding of it as

“imitation.” As a result, the aesthetic goal of literary expression in classical Arabic literature was not verisimilitude but similarity. This requires a different strategy of reading and literary appreciation, exposing an alternative understanding of literature and the literary arts.

Nurcin İleri



Electrical Istanbul: Technology, the Environment, and Everyday Life

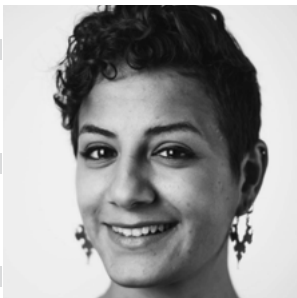
received her PhD from the Department of History at Binghamton University in 2015. Her dissertation, “A Nocturnal History of fin de siècle Istanbul”, casts light on the social and material geographies of night that went beyond the dichotomies of the ‘city of glittering leisure and consumption,’ or the ‘city of indigence and vice.’ Her dissertation research has led to several publications in peer-reviewed journals including *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*, *Etudes balkaniques*, and *New Perspectives on Turkey*. She taught courses on the history of the late Ottoman Empire and contemporary Turkey at Boğaziçi and Işık Universities (2012-2018). She worked as the assistant coordinator of the Boğaziçi University Archives and Documentation Center, where she conducted a project entitled “Histories of Science, Culture and Education in Istanbul Through Personal Archives” and was involved in curating and writing material for on-site and online exhibitions (2015-2018). She spent one year as a post-doctoral scholar in the Department of History at the Université Grenoble Alpes (2018-2019) and six months as a visiting researcher at the Center of Metropolitan Studies of Technische Universität Berlin (2019-2020). Between 2020-2023, she was a EUME Fellow associated with the IGK Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History (re:work) of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. With the financial support of the Gerda Henkel Foundation, she continues to be a visiting researcher affiliated with EUME at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin and the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam.

Nurcin İleri is currently engaged in a scholarly endeavor encompassing a forthcoming book, tentatively titled “Electrical Istanbul: Technology, the Environment, and Everyday Life”. This research project delves into the social and environmental histories of electricity during the late Ottoman and early Republican periods in Istanbul (1876-1939). The investigation focuses on elucidating the influence of various environmental factors, such as the geographic positioning of power plants, the availability of natural resources like water and coal for energy production, and the urban landscape and architectural considerations for expanding the electric grid. Within this context, İleri scrutinizes the intricate dynamics between the generation, distribution, and consumption of electrical energy, and the ensuing interactions and dialogues among key stakeholders including state authorities, city administration, multinational investors, experts, workers, and consumers. By tracing these encounters and dialogues, the researcher poses inquiries concerning how networks comprising artifacts, knowledge, labor, and political

ideologies associated with electrical infrastructure contributed to the establishment of new hierarchies and inequalities across institutions, the natural and built environment of the city, and everyday life. Her goal is to reveal how the supply and use of electrical energy in Istanbul in the transition period from empire to nation state stands at the intersection of transnational political and economic networks and tells another history of global capitalism both in the Middle Eastern and European contexts.

In a second part of the project, Nurçin İleri explores the history of natural history museums, which consisted of the natural objects of botany, zoology, and geology that spanned geological eras, political entities, nations, and cultures in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. She intends to re-establish the lost connections—the origins, past uses, and actors—of the natural history museums, which do not physically exist today and of which scientific collections and archival sources have been scattered across different scientific institutions and world cities. It is her aim to gain insight into the construction, reproduction, and dissemination of scientific knowledge, observing how it unfolded through the interactions among transregional human and non-human agents during the transitional period from empire to nation-state.

Mariz Kelada



Behind the Seen: The Extramoral Political Economies of Visual Media Production in Egypt

completed her PhD in Anthropology at Brown University. Her dissertation “Behind the Seen: The Extramoral Political Economies of Visual Media Production in Egypt”, is based on multimodal ethnographic research in Cairo between 2019-2021, and has been supported by two Open Society Civil Society Scholar Awards, among others. Kelada holds an MA in Modern Culture and Media (2023), the Cogut Institute Certificate in Collaborative Humanities (2022) from Brown University, an MA in Sociology and Anthropology from The American University in Cairo (2014), and a BA in English Literature from Cairo University (2011). Her interdisciplinary research is invested in the labor and political economies of cultural production and the creative sectors in Egypt and the MENA region, political theory, modernity and urbanity, media regionalism, and multimodal ethnographic methods. Her work has been published in the *International Journal of Sociology*, *MERIP*, and *Film and Media Studies Journal* *SYNOPTIQUE*, among others. Since 2010, Kelada worked in Egypt’s alternative cultural sector in various roles, from project management and research to film production, and co-managed the Independent Film School of Cairo. In 2019, she co-founded Qaaf.Laam.Collective, a research and advocacy group that works on improving work environments and labor conditions of Egypt’s cultural workers. In the academic year 2023/24, Mariz Kelada is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

In Egypt, the media industry is a site of power contestation among individuals, institutions, and neoliberal state authorities, which leads to the emergence of new political subjectivities as well as novel forms of solidarity.

Based on her dissertation, Kelada examines not only how media workers are exploited but probes into the subversive tactics and strategies the workers forge to maintain their livelihoods in two simultaneous sites: the filming locations and their labor union. First, she traces how the labor requirements of media production extract surplus value through the feminization and multiplication of labor, thus articulating a distinct gendered political subjectivity. Second, as a space of precarity, informality, and securitization, the urbanity of Cairo makes visible how production crews and urban inhabitants engage in strategies of vitalist pragmatism, i.e., tactics of “love and appeasement”, which Kelada suggests, turns neoliberal subjugation into a calculative rationality. Third, examining the emergence of the technical workers’ union within Egypt’s dangerous political landscape, she proposes that its legal history complicates what constitutes ‘the political’ and materializes the conceptual split between art and labor. Fourth, accounting for the Covid-19 pandemic, Kelada analyzes how her interlocutors experienced times of crisis in the backstages of Egypt’s media industry: ‘on location’ and ‘in the union’; she argues that both embody the limits of formal politics and consequently expand the definitions of “political action and solidarity” into what Kelada terms “transient solidarity”. These inner processes and infrastructures of Egypt’s visual media nuance our understanding of the industry and its representations and instantiate an understanding and a praxis of politics that goes beyond, yet still accounts for, the exploitation, governance, and resistance paradigms. Through this project, Kelada argues that workers of visual media in Egypt embody and enact extramoral politics. “Extramoral”—neither moral nor immoral—denotes the potential utilization of the contradictions and ambivalences of conduct that the global neoliberal economy imposes on political subjects through labor.

Mouez Khalfaoui



is Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence and Islamic Thought at the University of Tübingen in Germany. He graduated from the University of Tunis and received a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Erfurt. He is a member of several publishing, advising, social and political boards in Europe and around the globe. His main research fields are Islamic Law and Ethics, Minority Law, Islamic Education, Law and Society and Arabic Literature. He spent research stays and fellowships at the University of Cambridge, Paris, Lucknow, Tunis, London and Princeton. He published on Islam in South Asia, Islamic Law in Muslim premodern societies and on contemporary Islamic religious thought in Europe. In the academic year 2023/24, he is an affiliated EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Mouez Khalfaoui’s research project focuses on the spread of the Hanafi madhab in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Spain (al Andalus) in the premodern era as well as questions of intertextuality between North African Hanafi legal scholars and scholars from other regions for instance Egypt and al

The Lost Branch of the Hanafi School of Law: The Failed Transplantation of Hanafi Madhab in North Africa in the Premodern Era

Iraq. Furthermore it addresses the impact of the local social and political reality on that discourse and vice-versa.

Research on Islamic Sunni schools of law (madhab; pl. madhahib) mainly focuses on questions of their emergence in Iraq from the 8th-9th centuries onwards, their relationship to other schools of law that emerged from other places, and their successful spread to other parts of the Muslim world. The Maghreb region is considered to be the stronghold of Maliki-madhab. However, the history of the Hanafi school in premodern North Africa (Maghreb and Spain) has hardly been researched. The establishment of the Maliki school in the region was preceded (i. e. accompanied) by strong and harsh disputes with scholars of the Hanafi school of thought, that has been widespread in the Maghreb region before. A deep examination of the literature from that era reveals considerable aspects of the discourse between different schools of Islamic theology and law. Intertextuality appears in the writings of scholars of different schools, in documents such as the manuscripts held by the library of the main mosque of Kairouan, Tunisia, that offer access to the thought and debates of one of the very first elaborated intellectual Muslim communities. Legal works attributed to North African Hanafi scholars from the era under consideration such as Asad Ibn al Furāt (828) encompass interactions (intertextuality) with the own and other legal schools, in Tunisia and Iraq for example, but also show traces of an ongoing debate with opposing theological conceptions such as the Mu‘tazila.

Mina Khanlarzadeh



The Role of Women Intellectuals in the Political Thought of Iran's 1979 Revolution

is a historian of the modern Middle East. Before joining EUME, she was a postdoctoral scholar in the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Chicago, where she co-authored an upcoming book on the history of science and technology, titled *Revolutionary Engineers: Learning and Politics at AMUT (1966-1979)*”, under contract with MIT University Press. She holds a PhD from Columbia University’s Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, & African Studies with a thesis in global political thought titled, “Alienation, Translation, and Their Postcolonial Critics”. Her research interests are in postcolonial political thought, gender and sexuality, cultural studies, critical theory, and translation and literary studies. Her academic work has been published in *Religions*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, and *Popular Music and Society*. Her poetry and creative non-fiction have been published in *Arts of The Working Class*, *STILL DANCING*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Jadaliyya*. In the academic year 2023/24, Mina Khanlarzadeh is EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

This research project analyzes Iranian women intellectuals’ articulations of their social discontent and the manners in which they critiqued their social predicament in the two decades leading up to the 1979 Revolution. It aims to move beyond the conventional archive, expanding our understanding

of which texts and voices deserve to be considered as political thought and as legitimate sources of investigation when writing intellectual histories. To explore the political thought of women thinkers, the project expands the archive of political thought to include memoirs, pamphlets, their photographs, and literature written by female authors as well as oral histories. The project explores the way these thinkers theorized their ideal future and conceptualized the roles that women could play in the transformation of society. Throughout, it investigates the notions of justice, including gender-based justice, that were expressed in women's political thought and literary practices in the last several decades before the 1979 Revolution.

Zahiye Kundos



The Loss of the Muftī: Reimagining the Afterlife of Muḥammad ‘Abduh’s Islamic Modernism in Arabic Literature

is a literary scholar, specializing in modern Islam, Arabic literature and the critique of modernity. She is completing her first book titled *In the Name of God we Will be Modern (Once Again): The Re-Religious Turn of Jamāl al-Dīn al-Afghānī and Muḥammad ‘Abduh and the Critique of European Modernity*. In her current project, “The Afterlife of Muḥammad ‘Abduh in Arabic Literature”, which focuses on the Egyptian canon, Kundos demonstrates the influence of modern religious reforms on the development of Arabic literature. She is a member of the editorial advisory board at Political Theology Beyond, a public scholarship project from the journal *Political Theology*. In the academic year 2020/21, she was a EUME Fellow and continues to be affiliated with EUME through the academic years 2021-2024, with the support of the Minerva Foundation, 2023/24 as a research associate at the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow.

What starting point can we find for a discussion of being Muslim as a moral way of life in these times when the Arabic discourse is bruised and stuttering? To begin to answer this therapeutic question, this project suggests that, instead of studying religious knowledge, (‘Ulūm Al-Dīn) and literature (Adab), separately—as their ostensible mutual estrangement in modernity has led us to do—we turn our attention to the range of experiences that become available when we consider the dynamic and symbiotic historical interrelations between them. This project is an endeavor in this direction. It attends to allocate the polemics incited in the first decades of 20th-century Egypt between religious and secular writers from the point of view of the latter as registered in their literal productions, particularly that by Taha Hussein (d. 1973) surrounding Muḥammad ‘Abduh’s death (d. 1905). Alongside voicing the tensions and uncovering the drama created in the aftermath of ‘Abduh’s absence, the project aims to show the ways Hussein and his fellow intellectuals, looked up and back to ‘Abduh with awe and sobriety and sought to extricate textures of belonging with him and his agenda of reform.

Alia Mossallam



Tracing Emancipation under Rubbles of War: Popular Histories of North African Laborers from the Fronts of World War I to Revolution

is a cultural historian, educator and writer interested in songs that tell stories and stories that tell of popular struggles behind the better-known events that shape world history. For her PhD she researched a popular history of Nasserist Egypt through the stories and experiences of the popular resistance in Port Said (1956) and Suez (1967-1974) and the construction of the Aswan High Dam through the experiences of its builders and the Nubian communities displaced by it. As a EUME Fellow 2017-21 of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation she worked on her book on the visual and musical archiving practices of the builders of the Aswan High Dam and the Nubian communities displaced by it. Her new project at EUME (2021-24), “Tracing Emancipation Under Rubbles of War”, retrieves the physical and political journeys of Egyptian and North African workers on the various fronts of World War I through the songs and memoirs that recount their struggles. Some of her research-based articles, essays and short-stories can be found in *The Journal of Water History*, *The History Workshop Journal*, the *LSE Middle East Paper Series*, *Ma'azif*, *Bidayat*, *Mada Masr*, *Jadaliyya* and *60 Pages*. An experimentative pedagogue, she founded the site-specific public history project “Ihky ya Tarikh”, as well as having taught at the American University in Cairo, the Freie Universität in Berlin, and continuing to teach at the Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts.

This project retrieves and reveals the journeys of North African Laborers in imperial armies across the geographies of World War I, tracing the growing political consciousness reflected through their songs and stories and culminating in revolts whose legacies, despite invisibility, persist until this very day. *Tracing Emancipation under Rubbles of War* is a critical inquiry into a global history of transregional solidarity and resistance amongst migrant workers in a war-torn world. More than a million low ranking soldiers and workers from colonized regions were sent to the battle-fields of World War I by the Entente powers and the British military respectively. The project explores their experiences on the fronts of the World War through their own voices, in oral and archival songs and memoirs, from longings, to solidarities to political resistance. Mossallam follows the trails of dispersed archives left by these laborers from the times they were taken through their journeys across Europe, and the miraculous ways they made it back home, whether physically or through their ideas of changing the world order that sent them to war. These years of war (particularly 1916-1918) were also years of significant revolts in many countries, including Egypt, Algeria, the Upper Volta, Mozambique and all the way to Germany or Russia. The retrieved experiences will thus help us understand the growing political consciousness and transregional exchange of ideas and strategies for resistance and revolt. The stories of these laborers and those of their journeys connected the world at a moment of multiplying geographic divisions, and Mossallam argues that an anti-colonial geography of the world based on relations of solidarity and ideas of emancipation rather than

national boundaries and imperial realities can be revealed. The project's research outcomes are to be produced in writings as well as interactive formats such as public history workshops.

Nil Mutluer



In-between
Diversity and
Polarization: The
Politics of Gender,
Ethnicity and
Religion in post
1980 Turkey

is a social scientist, and occasional journalist, TV programmer and consultant for art projects. She obtained her PhD in Comparative Gender Studies at Central European University. Nil Mutluer works and acts in the intersectional space of civil society, among academia, media and arts. She was a guest scholar in the Diversity and Social Conflict Department at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin where she was an Einstein Foundation Senior Scholar between 2019-2021, Philipp Schwartz Research Fellow of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation between 2016-2018, and an interim professor of Public Law and Gender Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2018. She has worked as a lecturer at different universities in Istanbul. In the academic years 2022-24, Nil Mutluer is an affiliated EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

The socio-political space of Turkey is marked by a profound diversity in terms of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion and ideology, yet today Turkish politics is marked by a profound, bi-polar polarization between two vaguely defined political camps. While the pro-government camp is defined by an alliance between Islamic-conservative and Turkish-nationalist elements, the opposition camp is much more fragmented and encompasses the whole spectrum of the diverse identities found in Turkey's socio-political space, including secularists, Islamic-conservatives, Turkish and Kurdish nationalists, socialists, social democrats, feminists and LGBTIQ+ movements. My research seeks to understand, from an intersectional and historical perspective, how this multipolar diversity evolved into a bipolar polarization, by delving into the ways in which alliances formed and broken between these identities in the post-1980 Turkey.

Rim Naguib



received her PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University (2016) and her MA from Sciences Po Aix-en-Provence (2006). Her PhD dissertation is titled "Intelligentsia Class Formation and Ideologies in Peripheral Societies: Comparing Egypt and Iran, 1922-1952". She was a postdoctoral fellow with the Arab Council for the Social Sciences. Based in Cairo, she taught in several alternative education initiatives, seeking to popularize the critical social sciences. Her research interests address three different, but not unrelated, fields: the colonial practice of ideological-ethnic deportation of internationalist foreigners and 'local subjects of foreign extraction' in the policing of communism in interwar Egypt; the post-colonial securitization of Egyptian

Policing Internationalism and Setting the Nation's Boundary: Deportation, Nationality and Foreigners' Residence in Egypt, 1919-1967

nationality legislation and practice and of the management of foreigners' residence; and the political and cultural history of Egyptian patriarchal nationalism. She is also writing and illustrating a graphic biography of Joseph Rosenthal (1872-1965), and has co-translated several graphic novels into Arabic. In the academic year 2019/20, Rim Naguib was a EUME Fellow and continued her EUME fellowship in 2020-22 through a stipend by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. Since 2022 she is a EUME Research Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

The project first examines the heavy recourse to deportation by the British authorities in interwar Egypt to counter "the dangers of Bolshevism". The deportations targeted Russian Jewish refugees, European émigrés, stateless residents, and former Ottoman subjects designated by British colonial officials as "local subjects of foreign extraction". The removal of suspected leftist internationalists was based, both, on ideology and ethnicity, and regardless of legal status. It set the ground for the post-colonial securitization of Egyptian nationality and of the management of foreigners' residence, and for the security-oriented construction of 'the foreign'. The project then investigates the latter processes by analyzing the legislation and re-legislation of Egyptian nationality, within the context of state discourses and enactments of sovereignty, and by surveying the post-war waves of political deportation and up to 1967, and the individual resistance to such removals at the Higher Administrative Court. The project therefore traces the continuum between colonialism and post-colonial nationalism.

Zainab Qadiri



The Genocide of the Hazara

studied literature at Herat University before she became an author, theater artist and editor-in-chief of the literary and artistic magazine *Shirin*. She was also actively involved with the Simorgh Film Association of Culture and Art and the Yaran-e-Yar Cultural Association, both based in Herat. Zainab directed theater plays dealing with gender topics and discrimination against the Hazaras in Afghanistan. Through her theater work in a female theater collective in Afghanistan, she cooperated with the Ernst Busch University of Performing Arts, among others. Working at the intersection of academic research and the performing arts, Zainab will focus on a project on the Hazara ethnic minority while being a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien in the academic years 2022-24, affiliated with Ernst Busch University, Berlin.

In her project, Qadiri addresses the ongoing genocide against Hazaras in Afghanistan. She wants to document and write about the memories and the experiences of institutional and informal discrimination, ethnic oppression and cleansing, and recurring waves of violence and mass murder that are intentionally inflicted on the Hazara by the ruling and terrorist groups of the country. After every incident of targeted mass killing – for example in May 2021, after the deadly suicide attack on the Saied al-Shuhada School in Western

Kabul (one of the predominantly Hazara resident areas in the city) – a campaign to “stop the Hazara genocide” has escalated and received strong support and opposition from social media users. It is reported in international media outlets such as the *BBC*, *VOA*, *The Wall Street Journal* or *The New York Times*. The campaigns have come to a halt after a few weeks, the attention faded away, and after countless talks and controversies, the question of whether the deliberate and intentional killing of Hazaras in Afghanistan and even in the Hazara resident areas of Pakistan could be called genocide, remains unanswered. On the other hand, sophisticated research exists which proves that what is being done and has been done in Afghanistan against the Hazaras falls under the legal norm of genocide. Through a research-based approach of a theater and a novel project, Qadiri would like to address the question of genocide in Afghanistan, not with the intention to provoke further ethnic tension but to draw attention to the necessity of acknowledgement and action to end this crime against humanity. Through her affiliation with the Ernst Busch University of Performing Arts, she hopes to develop a theater project. In a book-length collection of stories, Qadiri wants to give voice to the memories, experiences and voices of the victims of an undeniable, unrecognized and forgotten genocide.

Fatemeh Shams



Portraits of Exile in Persian Literary Tradition

is Associate Professor of Modern Persian Literature at University of Pennsylvania. Her area of expertise includes literary production under authoritarian states, the social history of modern Persian literature, ideology and literary production. She is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning poet with three poetry collections. Her third collection, *When They Broke Down the Door*, won the Latifeh Yarshater annual book award in 2017. Her first monograph, *A Revolution in Rhyme: Poetic Co-Option Under the Islamic Republic* has been published by Oxford University Press. In the academic years 2021-2024, she is a EUME-CNMS Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Portraits of Exile in Persian Literary Tradition is a book that Fatemeh Shams had been thinking about for the better part of a decade. In her first book, *A Revolution in Rhyme: Official Poets of the Islamic Republic* (Oxford University Press, 2020), she treats the relationship between literature, ideology, and nation-building in Iran with particular focus on the past forty years. Her focus was on the state-sponsored poets and their role in the production of ‘state-sponsored literature.’ The poets who were ‘included’ in the circle of power and were considered as an ‘insider’ (khodi) were the subject matter this work. Her second book project builds up on her first book by focusing on the alternate crowd, those writers who have not been part of the state ideological apparatus for various reasons. Those who have experienced an existence in void through a forceful banishment from their homeland exile and ways in which this

experience has been echoed in their creative work. Shams will trace and analyze representations of exilic life in works of major Iranian exiled poets of the 1980s and '90s. The notions of 'symbolic geography' and 'liminality' in the works of these Iranian writers will be therefore among the key concepts that she aims at exploring.

Lana Sirri



Muslim Women on the Front Lines of Social and Political Change: A Case Study of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

completed her PhD studies at the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2016. She was then appointed Assistant Professor in Gender and Religion at Maastricht University. In 2022, she was awarded the Dutch National Grant (NWO) to conduct four-year postdoctoral research at the University of Amsterdam. Her research critically examines Muslim feminist discourses, focusing on the conceptualisation of religion, gender and sexuality. Her book *Islamic Feminism: Discourses on Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Islam* was published in 2020 by Routledge. As knowledge valorisation and societal outreach are indispensable to her academic journey, Lana published a non-fiction book titled *Einführung in islamische Feminismen* (2017 & 2020). This book makes different perspectives of Islamic feminism accessible to lay readers. In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Lana is embarking on a creative endeavor to adapt her book into a graphic novel designed as an empowerment tool for Muslim youth in Germany. Lana is an associated expert of the Centre for Intersectional Justice (CIJ) and a member of the FG DeKolonial. In the academic years 2022-24 she is an affiliated EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

This research aims to generate a nuanced theorisation of Muslim women's agency. It focuses on the Gulf Cooperation Council countries—a neglected region in the Anglo-Saxon social sciences, and engages with previously ignored scholarship written in Arabic. This aim will be achieved using three main strategies: a) highlighting women's diverse lived experiences in the region, b) mapping their scholarship and grassroots social movements, and c) examining their role as subjects and agents of social change. The research consists of four objectives 1) analysis of the social categories 'gender,' 'agency' and 'religion,' and their intersection in the work of female academics, 2) characterisation of 'bottom-up' feminist mobilisation, 3) investigation of women's grassroots social movements and their involvement in digital activism, and 4) examination of the intersection of academia, grassroots activism and social media. Methodologically, the research employs textual analysis, critical discourse analysis, and (digital and virtual) ethnography, involving qualitative interviews with female scholars and social (digital) activists as well as participant observation in physical and virtual settings. This research will advance social scientific understandings of agency, and in particular the fields of gender studies and feminist thought. Moreover, the amplification of women's

diverse experiences and marginalised Arabic scholarship promotes the decolonisation of knowledge production on women, gender and Islam.

Lana's personal website: <https://lanasirri.com/>

İnan Özdemir Taştan



From Emotions to Political Demands: Women's Movement, Mourning, and Struggle Against Gendered Necropolitics in Turkey

received her PhD in 2013 from Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences, writing her thesis on the rhetoric of radical left movements in Turkey in the 1970s. She worked as a research assistant at Ankara University Communication faculty between 2002 and 2017, where she offered courses on public relations, political communication, and research methods. In 2020-21 she was Barbro Klein Fellow at Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study. Her research interests include political communication, social movements, and media studies. She has taken part in several research projects focusing on political campaigns and media. Her recent publications have focused mainly on the electoral speeches of political leaders and their perception of democracy, the increasing religionization of politics in Turkey, political debates on Syrian immigration, radical media, and resistance under AKP governments. She has published several papers and book chapters. Moreover, she is the co-author of the books *Seçimlik Demokrasi* (2018) (Voting Democracy) and *Vaatten Duaya, Anayasadan Kur'an'a: Siyasette Dinselleşme* (2019) (From Promise to Prayer, Constitution to Koran: Religionization of Politics). She sits on the editorial board of *Kültür ve İletişim/culture&communication* and served as the editor from 2018 to 2020. In the academic years 2021-23, İnan Özdemir Taştan was a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien, affiliated with the Center for Comparative Research on Democracy at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. In the academic year 2023/24, she remains affiliated with EUME.

The main objective of this project is to explore the role of emotions in the rise of the women's movement in Turkey. More specifically, it analyzes how feminist organizations mobilize emotions through mourning and justice-seeking as a political strategy to combat femicide and violence against women. For a long-time, Feminists have stated that all violence against women is structured and political. What I offer in this project is a novel analysis of the feminist movement in Turkey under the context of an epidemic of violence against women through the concepts of "masculinist restoration" and "necropolitics." From this lens, I argue that women's struggle against femicide has also become a war against the governments' necropolitics, with the political mobilization of mourning and justice-seeking as focal points in this war.

Oraib Toukan



Decruelling Images: The Micro Visual Field of Violence

is an artist and scholar. She holds a PhD in Fine Arts from Oxford University, Ruskin School of Art. Until 2015, she was head of the Arts Division and Media Studies program at Bard College at Al Quds University, Palestine and was visiting faculty at the International Academy of Fine Arts in Ramallah. Between 2015 and 2017, she taught at the Ruskin School of Art's University of Oxford Graduate Teaching program. In Autumn 2018, she was Mercator fellow at the Cultures of Critique program at Leuphana University, Lüneburg. Toukan is author of *Sundry Modernism: Materials for a Study of Palestinian Modernism* (Sternberg Press, 2017), and the essay-film *When Things Occur* (2016). Recent exhibitions include the Asia Pacific Triennial, the Mori Art Museum, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Qalandia International, The Centre for Contemporary Art Glasgow, and the 11th Istanbul Biennale. Toukan's current research addresses "cruel images" and the question of how to treat them as both object and subject through artistic practice. Her writings have appeared in a number of publications, collected works, and biennale readers. Since 2011, she has been analyzing and remaking works from a found collection of film reels that once belonged to now-dissolved Soviet cultural centers in Jordan in 1990-1991. In the academic year 2019/20, she was a EUME Fellow and stayed at EUME during the academic years 2020-2022, supported by a fellowship of the Swiss National Science Foundation. In the academic years 2022-24, she continues to be affiliated with EUME.

Cruel images epitomize degradation of sorts. In one way, images that represent politically degraded subjects that in turn get materially degraded via passage and mediation, and degrade the subject further by virtue of being seen, scrutinized, or passed over. Toukan's postdoctorate departs from practice-based research on cruel images to explore propositions for decruelling images. Her methodology lies in handling and re-editing found archival materials in post-production, whereby knowledge is produced through an extreme closeness to the materiality of an image via the dialectics of montage. The objective is to publish an anthology of writings that propels various theoretical notions around "decruelling images" by using the essay-as-form and the artist book-as-method. To this end, she will ethnographically explore archival representations emanating from colonized contexts to reclaim the relevance of the Palestinian experience in particular, as a historic case long working with images of violence—one that could help locate current concerns with the proliferation of cruel images. Her research questions whether abstraction via extreme proximity to the materiality of violence, at the level of the pixel grain can transcend representations of violence all together, into a field of knowing, via seeing; when images feel like they can be touched, and in turn become touching. She asks, can a navigational turn toward images of suffering become the new un-cruelling, at the very least lead to some moments of consciousness and in turn in the 'shifting of the frame' (Butler 2010), in the next round of violence?

Filiz Tütüncü Çağlar



The Unknown History of Ottoman Archaeology: An Entangled Legacy

is an Archaeologist and Art Historian specializing in the history of archaeology, with experience in Byzantine and Islamic archaeology. She received her PhD in Art History and Visual Studies from the University of Victoria (Canada) in 2017. Her doctoral dissertation entitled “From Raqqa with Love: The Raqqa Excavations by the Ottoman Imperial Museum (1905-1906 and 1908)” examines Ottoman archaeological investigations in Syria within a broader historical and disciplinary context while garnering a critical outlook to the existing historiography. Her current research interests focus on the history of collecting and archaeology in the late Ottoman Empire as well as heritage politics and management. She was an ART HISTORIES Fellow in 2018/19 and a EUME Fellow of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung in 2020-22, affiliated with the Museum for Islamic Art in Berlin and the Institute of Art History at Freie Universität Berlin. She is also affiliated with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin where she leads tours for enthusiasts of the ancient and Islamic Middle East. In the academic year 2023/24, she continues to be affiliated with EUME.

This project aims to produce a transnational history of archaeology in the Ottoman Empire around the turn of the twentieth century focusing on the social and scholarly interaction between Ottoman and European archaeologists. Drawing from archival sources such as official correspondence, letters, museum catalogues, field reports, photographs as well as archaeological material retrieved in Ottoman excavations, the project seeks to explore social networks, mechanisms of collaboration, and the specific role of Ottoman archaeologists in the formation of modern archaeology. In doing so, it aims to highlight the diversity of teams and individuals involved in archaeological practice in the late Ottoman Empire, who routinely collaborated in field research, artifact analysis, and publishing. Such transnational interaction in the archaeological realm opened up many opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and the transfer of expertise between European and Ottoman teams. The project exhibits the international nature of early archaeological research to allow for a reconsideration of the binary oppositions of East-West, local-foreigner, and Ottoman-European that have hitherto characterized mainstream historiographies. Emphasizing the prominence of local actors in the development of early archaeological practice, this project proposes an alternative narrative to those of the national(istic) and colonial histories.



Loay Wattad

is a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and the School of Cultural Studies at Tel Aviv University, focusing on the sociology of Palestinian children's literature in Palestine. His dissertation, “Minor Literature for Minor Readers”, offers a comparative analysis of Palestinian children's literature. He has

The Politics of Stories: Realism and Fantasy in Palestinian Children's Literature

conducted extensive research in this field and built a unique database covering the past century. Loayy also completed his MA in the cultural studies department at Tel-Aviv University, focusing on analyzing Palestinian adaptations of the classic tale *Little Red Riding Hood* as political narratives for subversive resistance. In addition to his academic pursuits, Loayy is a translator and an active member of the Maktoob translators' circle, dedicated to translating various literary works from Arabic to Hebrew. Furthermore, Loayy is the editor-in-chief of the *Hkaya* journal, which specifically concentrates on Arabic children's and young adult literature. In the academic year 2023/24, he is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

The project is dedicated to researching the dynamic field of Palestinian children's literature within the intricate political and social landscape of settler colonial fragmentation in Palestine. Wattad's work explores two distinct literary areas that emerged in response to the shifting territorial boundaries of 1948 and 1967. By closely examining children's literature since the Second Intifada, he aims to uncover the gap between these fields and explore the strategies utilized by authors and illustrators to depict the experiences of readers authentically. A key aspect of his research revolves around using fantasy elements in Palestinian children's literature as a powerful tool for navigating the realities of political occupation. Through the lens of controlled fantasy, young protagonists are empowered to overcome the challenges they face. In contrast, literature produced within the 1948 borders takes on a distinct realism characteristic driven by educational didactics. This realism serves both authors' and publishers' financial aspirations, often targeting the Israeli education system with educational and non-political narratives. Wattad's research delves into the mechanisms authors, illustrators, and publishers employ within this complex context. He explores the delicate balance they navigate between artistic expression and the pursuit of financial stability, often compelled by the constraints of the settler colonial environment. By critically examining self-censorship and resistance, he sheds light on the transformative power of Palestinian children's literature.

Himmat Zoubi (Zu'bi)



is a Palestinian researcher and feminist activist. She received her PhD in Sociology from Ben-Gurion University and holds two Master's degrees, one in Criminology and another in Gender Studies. Her work focuses on cities in colonial context and she published several book chapters and articles on gender, cities and settler colonialism, memory and oral history, indigenous knowledge and resistance. She has received several awards and grants for her research, among them the Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) fellowship, and the Scholarship for Outstanding Postdoctoral Arab Fellows from the Council for Higher Education (2020-2021). Alongside her current project, "Re-urbanizing

Re-urbanizing Palestine: “Cultural Spaces” and Palestinian Urbanity

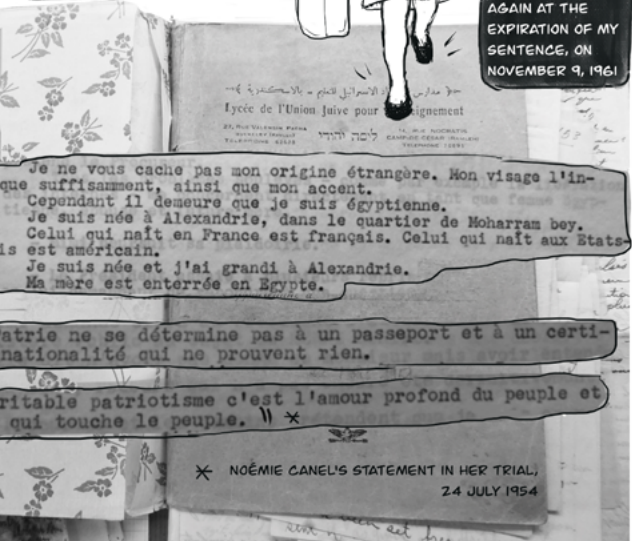
Palestine, Cultural Spaces and Palestinian Urbanity”, Zoubi is working on her book project “De-Urbanizing Palestine: Transforming Hayfa with Haifa (1948-1953)” about replacing Hayfa (the term Hayfa is used to distinguish between pre-1948 Hayfa and post-occupation Haifa) with Haifa during a transition period between the colonial British Mandate and the Israeli State. It analyzes the making of the Israeli “mixed cities” in the state building era, and the consequent changes to the city’s urban and social sphere. The book explores the everyday resistance of the remaining urban Palestinians the mutabaqqun (نوقبتملا) to scrutinize the changes that took place in Hayfa at large. Zoubi was a EUME Fellow during the academic years 2018-21. In 2021/22 she was a postdoctoral fellow of the International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (IRGAC) at Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, associated with The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the Freie Universität, Berlin and EUME. In the academic years 2022-24, she remains a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Seventy years after Israel’s sweeping attempts to de-urbanize Palestinian social life, Palestinians have forged alternative cultural and intellectual initiatives to revive their disrupted urbanity. The year 2019 witnessed some of these cultural and intellectual initiatives materializing in the streets of Haifa, with a massive mobilization of Palestinian feminists and LGBTQ activists. By taking to the streets, Palestinian grassroots activists along with feminist and queer civil society organizations, were speaking out against patriarchal, colonial, and capitalist oppression. This project scrutinizes the relationships between neoliberalism, globalization, settler colonial local urban policies and new strategies of resistance in the realm of culture and urban activism. It explores transformations in spatial social power relations in Haifa since the 1990’s, a period often described as one of new beginnings in Arab thought, social, and artistic practices. This project examines the interaction between macro and micro politics, the continuous struggle over urban space, and the way Palestinians live and re-claim their city today. It investigates strategies and civic practices to challenge existing political and spatial power relations, as well as internal social constraints to re-gain urban spaces, and to practice (an imagined) a de-colonized and inclusive urban space inside Israel.

Artwork on the right: Noémie Canel (1927-2012) was a communist activist and member of the Democratic Movement for National Liberation (HADETO), the most influential organization in second-wave Egyptian communism and the most engaged in the anti-colonial struggle in Egypt. Noémie (nom de guerre Laila), was born in Alexandria, Egypt, to an Ashkenazi Jewish family from Palestine. She spent a total of eleven years in prison and was deported twice from Egypt, yet she remains—along other so-called “foreign” women—unknown and completely neglected in the historiography of the movement. Her prolific writings and correspondences during her two imprisonments and in the short period between her first deportation and her second arrest are the material Rim Naguib is using to reconstruct Noémie’s story of dedicated activism, lengthy incarceration and resistance to exclusion from membership in the post-colonial Egyptian nation. This comic page is a seed for an in-progress graphic interpretation of the story of Laila. ©Rim Naguib



SEVEN MONTHS AFTER MY RETURN, I WAS ARRESTED AGAIN. AND CONDEMNED TO EIGHT YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT WITH HARD LABOR. I NEVER REGRETTED MY RETURN.. ONLY I WAS DEPORTED AGAIN AT THE EXPIRATION OF MY SENTENCE, ON NOVEMBER 9, 1961



Prisma Ukraïna – Research Network Eastern Europe

Der interdisziplinäre Forschungsverbund **PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe** wird von Wissenschaftler:innen an Universitäten und wissenschaftlichen Institutionen in Berlin und Brandenburg getragen und führt die Arbeit der 2015 von Prof. Dr. Andrii Portnov (Lehrstuhl für Entangled History of Ukraine, European University Viadrina) gegründeten Berlin-Brandenburg Ukraine Initiative (BBUI) fort. PRISMA UKRAÏNA ist Programm und Perspektive. Die Ukraine steht als Forschungsgegenstand im Fokus des Interesses und fungiert gleichzeitig als »Prisma«, um transregionale Perspektiven zu eröffnen.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA wird von dem Historiker Andrii Portnov geleitet und stellt Freiräume zum Austausch und zur Vernetzung zur Verfügung, bindet Wissenschaftler:innen, Journalist:innen und Aktivist:innen aus der Ukraine und Osteuropa in die gemeinsame Arbeit ein, durch Fellowships, Workshops, Transregionale Akademien, Podiumsdiskussionen, Vorträge oder, seit 2022, durch ein virtuelles europäisches Seminar, das sich an ein Fachpublikum und die interessierte Öffentlichkeit richtet.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory ist das Thema einer Forscher:innengruppe, die ihre Arbeit im Sommer 2022 aufgenommen hat. Sie untersucht die transformativen Auswirkungen von Krieg, Vertreibung und Flucht auf Geschichte, Erinnerung, Bindungen, Zugehörigkeiten und Fragen des Zusammenhalts pluraler Gesellschaften, in und außerhalb der Ukraine.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory befasst sich am Beispiel der Ukraine mit Fragen einer sich verändernden europäischen Erinnerung und Geschichte in Europa, mit der Resilienz pluraler Gesellschaften, den Auswirkungen von kriegsbedingter Flucht und Vertreibung, von Wissenschaft, Objekten und Bildern in Zeiten der Krise. Als Forschungsfeld eröffnet es einen differenzierteren Blick aus und auf Europa, eröffnet neue Möglichkeiten des Vergleichs auch mit Entwicklungen in anderen Regionen der Welt. Das Thema der Forscher:innengruppe wurde von Viktoria Sereda konzipiert, die die Gruppe bis Ende August 2023 als Senior Fellow des Forum Transregionale Studien 2022/2023 zusammengeführt hat und dem Projekt als Mitglied der Forscher:innengruppe und Senior Advisor auch in ihrer neuen Funktion als Koordinatorin und Leiterin der wissenschaftlichen Aktivitäten des Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study verbunden bleiben wird.

Die Gruppe besteht derzeit aus 10 ukrainischen Wissenschaftler:innen in der Ukraine und an Orten ihrer Flucht in Deutschland. Sie haben sich in virtuellen und hybriden Treffen Formen der gemeinsamen Arbeit erschlossen, dokumentieren den Wandel von Erinnerung durch Interviews und Materialsammlungen, arbeiten an ihren eigenen Forschungsprojekten, stellen sie in Seminaren zur Diskussion und diskutieren mit Wissenschaftler:innen aus anderen Regionen gemeinsame Fragen. Im Projektverlauf hat sich eine Arbeitsgruppe gebildet, die seit September 2023

Prisma Ukraïna – Research Network Eastern Europe

The interdisciplinary research program **PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe** is supported by scholars at universities and scientific institutions in Berlin and Brandenburg and continues the work of the Berlin-Brandenburg Ukraine Initiative (BBUI) founded in 2015 by Prof. Dr. Andrii Portnov (Chair of Entangled History of Ukraine, European University Viadrina). PRISMA UKRAÏNA is both research program and perspective. Ukraine is the focus of interest as a research object and at the same time functions as a “prism” to open up transregional perspectives.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA is directed by Andrii Portnov and provides scope for academic exchange and regional and international scholarly networks. It connects scientists, journalists, and activists from Ukraine and Eastern Europe for exchange, debate and research on themes of common interest through fellowships, workshops, panel discussions, lectures or, since 2022, through a virtual European seminar, aimed at experts and the interested general public.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory is the theme of a group of researchers who began their work in summer 2022. It investigates the transformative effects of war, displacement and flight on history, memory, connections, belonging and questions of cohesion in plural societies, in and outside Ukraine.

Using the example of Ukraine, PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory tackles questions of changing European memory and history, the resilience of plural societies, the effects of war-related flight and displacement, of science, objects and images in times of crisis. As a field of research, it opens up a more differentiated view from and on Europe, opens up new possibilities of comparison also with developments in other regions of the world. The topic of the researching group was conceived by Viktoria Sereda, who brought the group together until the end of August 2023 as a Senior Fellow of the Forum Transregional Studies 2022/2023 and will remain connected to the project as a member of the research group and as a Senior Advisor also in her new function as coordinator and head of the scientific activities of the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study.

The group currently consists of 10 Ukrainian academics in Ukraine and at places of their flight in Germany. They have developed forms of joint work in virtual and hybrid meetings, document the transformation of memory through interviews and collections of material, work on their own research projects, put them up for discussion in seminars and discuss common questions with scholars from other regions. In the course of the project, a working group was formed, which has been coordinated since September 2023 by the sociologist Lidia Kuzemska, who was appointed to the Forum as a Fellow.

The research group is accompanied by a new model of research-related, participatory, multilingual and regionally competent communication with

von der Soziologin Lidia Kuzemska koordiniert wird, die als Fellow an das Forum berufen wurde.

Die Forscher:innengruppe wird durch ein neues Modell einer wissenschaftsnahen, partizipatorischen, mehrsprachigen und regionalwissenschaftlich kompetenten Wissenschaftskommunikation mit dem komplementären Projekt **PRISMA UKRAÏNA: Wissenschaftskommunikation und Netzwerke** begleitet, das dezentrale Formen wissenschaftlicher Zusammenarbeit und mehrsprachiges Arbeiten bzw. Übersetzungen ermöglicht.

»Ukraine« bedeutet wörtlich »Grenzgebiet«. Ein Blick in ihre Vergangenheit zeigt die enge Verwobenheit regionaler Geschichte(n) wie beispielsweise russländischer, polnischer, osmanischer, österreich-ungarischer, sowjetischer und europäischer. Die Geschichte der Ukraine – und auch des Ostens Europas – zeugt von der Berührung, Interaktion, gegenseitigen Durchdringung, von Konflikt und Koexistenz verschiedener Kulturen und Religionen wie des westlichen und östlichen Christentums, des Islams und Judentums. Die soziale und kulturelle Diversität der Ukraine, und natürlich auch die anderer Länder und Gesellschaften, gilt es ernst zu nehmen. All dies sind Ausgangspunkte für aktuelle gesellschaftliche und wissenschaftliche Suchprozesse, die durch die Fragen nach »nationaler Identität« und Souveränität in Zeiten von Kriegen, Krisen, tiefgreifenden Transformationen und regionalen Neuordnungen in Gang gesetzt werden. Die Betrachtung der Ukraine eröffnet ein ganzes Spektrum an Fragen nach soziokultureller Hybridität und Pluralität, von Politik, Gesellschaften im Wandel, alten und neuen Grenzziehungen, den Bedingungen friedlicher Koexistenz, und den Bedingungen und Auswirkungen wirtschaftlicher und politischer Neuordnung. Gleichzeitig eröffnet die Ukraine den Blick auf angrenzende Länder und Regionen und stellt traditionelle Konzeptionen von Raum und Zeit im Osten Europas in Frage. PRISMA UKRAÏNA will zu einem besseren Verständnis der andauernden Transformationsprozesse in Europa und seinen Nachbarregionen beitragen.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe wurde mit Mitteln des Landes Berlin aufgebaut. Die Projekte »War, Migration, Memory« sowie »Wissenschaftskommunikation und Netzwerke« werden durch die Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft, Gesundheit und Pflege des Landes Berlin gefördert. Die ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius sowie die Marga und Kurt Möllgaard-Stiftung finanzieren Sur-Place- bzw. Non-Resident-Fellowships für vom Krieg betroffene Wissenschaftler:innen in der Ukraine.

Als Forschungsverbund fördert PRISMA UKRAÏNA die stärkere Vernetzung von Osteuropa-Forscher:innen in und außerhalb Berlins, über disziplinäre, institutionelle und nationale Grenzen hinweg. Es werden Vortragsreihen, Podiumsdiskussionen und Workshops mit internationaler Beteiligung durchgeführt, die sich an ein Fachpublikum und an die interessierte Öffentlichkeit richten.

the complementary project **PRISMA UKRAÏNA: Communication and Networks**, which enables decentralised forms of research cooperation and multilingual work or translations.

Literally “Ukraine” means “border region”. A look at its past impressively demonstrates the strong entanglements of regional history – or rather histories, be they Russian, Polish, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, Soviet and European. The history of Ukraine as well as that of Eastern Europe bears witness to the close contact, interaction, mutual permeation and coexistence of different cultures and religions, such as Western and Eastern Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The degree of social and cultural diversity of Ukraine – and of other countries and societies too, of course – has to be taken seriously. All of these are starting points for current social and academic search processes that are set in motion by the questions of “national identity” and sovereignty in times of wars, crises, profound transformations and regional realignments. Looking at Ukraine opens up a whole spectrum of questions about socio-cultural hybridity and plurality, politics, societies in transition, old and new border demarcations, the conditions of peaceful coexistence, and the conditions and effects of economic and political reordering. At the same time, Ukraine opens up a view of neighbouring countries and regions and questions traditional conceptions of space and time in Eastern Europe. PRISMA UKRAÏNA aims to contribute to a better understanding of the ongoing transformation processes in Europe and its neighbouring regions.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA – Research Network Eastern Europe has been realized with funding from the Land Berlin. The projects “War, Migration, Memory” and “Science Communication and Networks” are funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health, and Long-Term Care. The ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius and the Marga and Kurt Möllgaard Foundation provide funding for sur-place or non-resident fellowships for scientists in Ukraine affected by the war.

As a research network, PRISMA UKRAÏNA fosters stronger networking among Eastern Europe researchers in Berlin and Brandenburg, transcending disciplinary and institutional boundaries. It provides scope for exchange and networking. Lecture series, podium discussions, and workshops with international participants are carried out; these are intended for both the academics and the general public.

In addition, PRISMA UKRAÏNA organises transregional academies that serve to network young researchers and develop innovative research questions. Academies were so far held in: Berlin (“Beyond History and Identity: New Perspectives on Aesthetics, Politics, and Society in Eastern Europe”, 2-12 December 2015), at the New Europe College in Bucharest (“Revisiting the Nation: Transcultural Contact Zones in Eastern Europe”, 26 February-6 March 2018) and at the “Tkuma” Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies in Dnipro (“After Violence: The (Im-)Possibility of Understanding and Remembering”, 10-17 June 2019). The academy, “Shadows of Empires: Imperial Legacies and

Darüber hinaus organisiert PRISMA UKRAÏNA Transregionale Akademien, die der Vernetzung von Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen und Entwicklung innovativer Forschungsfragen dienen. Transregionale Prisma-Ukraïna-Akademien fanden bislang statt in Berlin (»Beyond History and Identity: New Perspectives on Aesthetics, Politics, and Society in Eastern Europe«, 2.-12. Dezember 2015), am New Europe College in Bukarest (»Revisiting the Nation: Transcultural Contact Zones in Eastern Europe«, 26. Februar-6. März 2018) und am Ukrainischen Institut für Holocaust-Studien »Tkuma« in Dnipro (»After Violence: the (Im-)Possibility of Understanding and Remembering«, 10.-17. Juni 2019). Zum Thema »Shadows of Empires: Imperial Legacies and Mythologies in East Central Europe« fand eine weitere Akademie vom 14.-21. September 2021 am Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) in Sofia, Bulgarien statt. Die Akademien wurden zumeist in Kooperation mit Partnern wie dem CAS, dem Center für Governance und Kultur in Europa der Universität St. Gallen und dem Deutschen Historischen Institut in Warschau initiiert und organisiert.

Der Verbund PRISMA UKRAÏNA wird von Wissenschaftler:innen an Universitäten und wissenschaftlichen Institutionen in Berlin und Brandenburg getragen. Das Kollegium besteht derzeit aus Jan C. Behrends (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (O.)), Katharina Biegger (Potsdam), Katharina Bluhm (Freie Universität Berlin), Susanne Frank (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Gabriele Freitag (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, Berlin), Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin), Theocharis Grigoriadis (Freie Universität Berlin), Alfrun Kliems (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Magdalena Marszałek (Universität Potsdam), Getrud Pickhan (Freie Universität Berlin), Andrii Portnov (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (O.)), Miloš Rezník (Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau), Gwendolyn Sasse (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien, Berlin), Matthias Schwartz (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin), Silvia von Steinsdorff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Annette Werberger (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (O.)), Georg Witte (Freie Universität Berlin) und Alexander Wöll (Universität Potsdam).

Leitung Prisma Ukraïna: Andrii Portnov

Prisma Ukraïna: War, Migration, Memory:

Koordination: Lidia Kuzemska

Senior Adviser: Viktoria Sereda

Wissenschaftskommunikation: Sophie Schmäing

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Information: www.prisma-ukraina.de

Mythologies in East Central Europe,” took place from 14–21 September 2021 at the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) in Sofia, Bulgaria. The academies were mostly initiated and organised in cooperation with partners such as CAS, the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe at the University of St. Gallen and the German Historical Institute in Warsaw.

PRISMA UKRAÏNA is constituted by scholars at universities and research institutions in Berlin and Brandenburg. Current members of the Collegium are Jan C. Behrends (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (O.)), Katharina Biegger (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Katharina Bluhm (Freie Universität Berlin), Sebastian Conrad (Freie Universität Berlin), Susanne Frank (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Gabriele Freitag (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde, Berlin), Sophie Lambroschini (Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin), Theodor Grigoriadis (Freie Universität Berlin), Alfrun Kliems (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Magdalena Marszałek (Universität Potsdam), Getrud Pickhan (Freie Universität Berlin), Andrii Portnov (Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (O.)), Miloš Rezník (Deutsches Historisches Institut Warschau), Gwendolyn Sasse (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien, Berlin), Matthias Schwartz (Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin), Silvia von Steinsdorff (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Annette Werberger (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (O.)), Georg Witte (Freie Universität Berlin), and Alexander Wöll (Universität Potsdam).

Director Prisma Ukraïna: Andrii Portnov

Prisma Ukraïna: War, Migration, Memory:

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PRISMA UKRAÏNA Research Group 2024/2025

Olha Haidamachuk



The Tonality of the Archives of the Displaced Ukrainians' Memory

received her PhD in Philosophy from the V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University in 2021. Her dissertation is titled “Intonation in a Philosophical Text: The Philosophical-Culturological Dimension”. Her background is in philology. From 2006 to 2023, she worked at the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”. Since 2019, she has been a member of the Kharkiv Historical and Philological Society. Her research interests include the philosophy of culture, philosophical anthropology, Ukrainian studies, Ukrainian and European culture, the philosophy of language, the history of philosophy, ethics, and aesthetics. Olha Haidamachuk has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

In the forthcoming project phase Olha Haidamachuk aims to expand their study on Ukrainians' memory archives, focusing on the hierarchy of available, suppressed or repressed memories. The investigation explores the safety in identifying as “born in the USSR” and expressing pride in Ukrainian heritage. The project delves into potential risks of detonation, metaphorically termed “false intonation”, within these archives. The plan involves analyzing in-depth interviews collected by the War, Migration, Memory research group at the Forum Transregionale Studien over the past year. This aims to corroborate earlier findings and gather fresh interviews with Ukrainians in Berlin to uncover dissonances in tonalities related to Ukraine and its conflicts. In terms of content, the project addresses the impact of resonances from historical events on perceptions of the past, present, and future within memory archives. For comparison, the study will analyze the responses of other forced migrants, expanding the understanding of dissonances and strategies for deconstructing memories.

Mykola Homanyuk



was born in Kakhovka, Ukraine, in 1974. He graduated from Kherson State Pedagogical Institute in 1996 and defended his PhD thesis in sociology at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University in 2008. Currently, he is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Ecology at Kherson State University, where he teaches human geography. He is also a chairperson of the NGO Kherson Entity of the Sociological Association of Ukraine and runs the independent theater company Kherson Theatre Lab. In 2003/2004, he was a fellow of the Lane Kirkland's Fellowship in M. Curie-Skłodowska University (Poland). In 2018, he won the ADAMI Media Prize for Cultural Diversity in Eastern Europe. In 2022, Homanyuk received the Virtual Visitorship Grant from Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs (USA). His current research is dedicated to ethnic minorities (Roma and Meskhetian Turks), the

Hybrid Memory: Syncretic Memorials in Ukraine after 2022

transformation of war memorials, symbolic space, and modern toponymic practices. He has been a non-resident Fellow and member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

The commemorative dimension of the Russian war in Ukraine assumes distinct phases. Prior to the full-scale invasion, monuments, newly named streets, and plaques in various settlements memorialized the fallen from the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in Eastern Ukraine. This initial commemorative wave interwove with existing Second World War memorials, particularly prominent in the eastern and southern regions. Hybrid memorials emerged as a product of the conflict's complex nature. Names of ATO casualties were sometimes interwoven with lists of Second World War victims. Subsequent to the invasion, a fresh surge of memorials surfaced, predominantly in smaller locales. Under the ongoing research project, cataloging and categorization efforts have commenced. Two principal categories materialized: official monuments sanctioned by local authorities and those crafted by memory activists or individual initiatives. Classification also hinges on the memorial's installation site: some stand in new locations, while others grace hybrid memorials that encapsulate various historical events. This research project endeavors to unearth how memories of Russian's war in Ukraine entwine with recollections of other conflicts, primarily the Second World War, while simultaneously scrutinizing regional divergences in commemorative practices. The fieldwork methodology encompasses visual documentation, "archaeological" examination of commemorative practices, Dialogues with memory activists, Interviews with locals to glean insights into memorial significance, Media analysis regarding the new monuments. This project amalgamates perspectives from memory studies, anthropology, and art history to comprehensively analyze the intricate web of commemorations.

Lidia Kuzemska



is a sociologist with an interdisciplinary interest in forced migration, internal displacement, borders, and citizenship. In 2022, she received her PhD from Lancaster University (UK). Her dissertation was entitled "'Don't Be Afraid of Our Citizens': Internally Displaced People Encounter Bordering and Othering in Ukraine", and it focused on the counter-hegemonic citizenship practices of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2014-2016. Lidia also holds an MA in Economy and Society from Lancaster University (UK), an MA in European Studies from the College of Europe (Belgium and Poland), and an MA in Sociology from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine). Lidia is a co-managing editor of the *Refugee Review* journal (part of the Emerging Scholars and Practitioners on Migration Issues network). She is also a research affiliate at the Internal Displacement Research Programme (SOAS University of London) and a peer-reviewer for the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub (UN

War-Displaced Ukrainians in Russia: Current Reception, Future Options

Network on Migration). She has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

Over the last year, Lidia Kuzemska has been documenting the situation of Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion, who ended up on the territory of the Russian Federation for a variety of reasons. While a portion of these displaced individuals used Russian territory as a transit route to other countries, the majority were compelled to establish temporary residences. Notably, a significant portion of these displaced individuals hails from the war-ravaged regions of Eastern and Southern Ukraine. Unlike the extensively documented situation in the EU, the war displacement of Ukrainians in Russia is a 'blind spot' for researchers due to methodological and ethical challenges. On the one hand, it is not safe for the displaced Ukrainians in Russia to give even anonymised online interviews. On the other hand, the topic is highly sensitive politically in Russia and Ukraine, and it can be traumatising for the displaced who experienced filtration procedures and/or deportation. Nonetheless, it is important to gather existing evidence through unobtrusive methods, look for cooperation with other researchers, and keep this topic in focus. The research aim has been three-fold. Firstly, Lidia Kuzemska documents the orchestrated planning and design of the Russian official policy regarding displaced and deported Ukrainians, taking into account the diverse nature of the displaced population and the regional disparities across Russia. Secondly, her analysis delves into the rapid decision by the Russian government to funnel all displaced individuals, including minors, into a trajectory leading to citizenship. This approach actively dissuaded exploration of alternative regularization avenues for the displaced. Given the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, the expeditious facilitation of Russian citizenship acquisition by Ukrainian nationals categorized as 'adversaries' necessitates thorough examination and elucidation. Thirdly, drawing from available evidence, she explores prospective avenues for the displaced Ukrainians within Russia over the medium and long term. In light of increasing geographical and symbolic separation, coupled with limited interaction between the Ukrainian state and its citizens on Russian soil, she investigates plausible routes for repatriation and reintegration.

Olha Labur



is a historian from Kyiv who researches women's experiences in the 20th century. She works as an associate professor in the Department of History of Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Since 2017, she teaches the post-graduate course "The Gender History of Ukraine". She is a member of the Ukrainian Association of Women's History Researchers and of the Gender Center at Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. In the spring of 2022, she received a scholarship from the Free University in Berlin. Previously, Olha was

Women's Initiatives in the Sphere of Oncology in Wartime

on the organizing committee and a participant of the fifth and sixth International Scientific and Practical Conferences, “Women in Science and in Education: The Past, the Present, the Future” (2010 and 2011). She also taught the online course “The History of Ukraine, 1917”. Of the ten lectures, one of the topics was “Interesting Women” during the revolutionary year 1917. In 2016, as a part of the screening of the film *The Right to a Woman* (1930), directed by Oleksiy Kapler, Olha gave the lecture “The Right to a Woman – The Right to a Burqa” in cooperation with Maryna Voronina. Olha Labur has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

Olha Labur's research into the militarization of oncology during the war has illuminated a profound transformation within the oncology system, spanning both medical and societal dimensions. This metamorphosis has been notably influenced by diverse patient communities and organizations. Among them, Athena, Women Against Cancer, Family of Inspiration, Tabletochki, and the #WorthLiving Foundation stand out. These entities have not only established fresh social networks within Ukraine but have also forged connections with EU-based cancer organizations. Her assertion posits that these groups have actively assumed roles as agents of change, countering the marginalization of individuals with diagnoses and amplifying cancer awareness. This becomes especially crucial in light of medical professionals' predictions of heightened cancer incidence rates in the post-war era.

To explore the multifaceted roles of these women-led organizations, she will draw upon a spectrum of disciplines including the history of social activism, women's engagement, public discourse, medical anthropology, and emotional dynamics. Building upon her prior research in women's history, she aims to interweave personal narratives with the life stories of fellow women and volunteers. The research will hinge upon a rich source foundation comprised of interviews with organization representatives, encompassing electronic publications, social media content, and recorded presentations of diverse events and initiatives.

Beyond the collection of testimonies and life narratives, her objectives encompass the identification of common thematic frameworks, poignant experiential facets, unexpected fluctuations, and underlying meanings. To achieve this, she will undertake an in-depth analysis of communication rhetoric present within social networks. This entails dissecting core messages, prevailing ideas, and the ensuing responses within the cancer community. Consequently, her study focal point rests upon public endeavors, behavioral nuances, experiential intricacies, and life practices, both amidst and subsequent to the wartime context.



Discursive Power of Digital Culture in Times of Crisis: Russo-Ukrainian War and its Symbolic Representations

Alina Mozolevska

is a professor in the Faculty of Philology at Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (Mykolaiv, Ukraine). In 2015, she received her PhD in linguistics with a major in romance languages from Taras Shevchenko National University (Kyiv, Ukraine). Her research interests include media studies, discourse analysis, and border studies, and she has published on borders and identity in literary and political discourses. Her most recent article, “Construction of Borders and Walls in Contemporary Ukrainian Literature (Analysis of Oleksandr Irvanets’ and Taras Antypovych Novels)”, was published in 2021 in *Altre Modernita*. Alina Mozolevska was a visiting professor at the UniGR-Center for Border Studies at Saarland University (Germany). She is a ZOiS Ukraine-based fellow and has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

Russia’s War of aggression is not only a brutal attempt to conquer a new territory by invading a sovereign state, it is also an information war. The war has become content that flows across every platform at once (Chayka 2022). This first “TikTok war” or this “First Social Media War” has many innovative forms of informing and narrating the wartime experiences which reshapes our understanding of Ukrainians and Ukraine as a nation. While the academia focuses rightly on the war and its multiple consequences for Ukraine and the world, it is also necessary to study the responses of the popular culture as an important conduit of the way the local and global community makes sense of the recent events in Ukraine.

This project seeks to understand the role of digital culture in the construction of the information war strategies and is focused on the visual productions triggered by Russo-Ukrainian war since 2014. It seeks to analyze the semiotic, ideological and intertextual potential of visual productions such as cartoons, memes, posters and other digital art to reveal its discursive power in Ukrainian and Russian society as well as personal, social, and cultural impact of this cultural practice in times of war. The relevance of the project consists of the possibility to use the findings of the study to deepen the knowledge on how ideology is propagated through digital popular culture, how public opinion is formed and re-shaped by visual cultural practices, and to implement different educational projects to increase public awareness of the discursive powers of visuals as well as critical thinking of internet users.



Taisiia Ratushna

is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Zaporizhzhia National University. In 2010, she received her PhD in Sociology from the Classical Private University (Zaporizhzhia). Since then, she has been working in the Department of Sociology at the Zaporizhzhia National University and

Digital Bridges: Exploring Changing Relationships with Family and Homeland in the Context of Ukrainian Forced Migration

conducts research on communication processes in urban space and in virtual environments. In 2020, she received an MA in Psychology. In the academic year 2022/23, Taisiia was a scholarship holder at the University of Tübingen. She also cooperates with NGOs and advises them on conducting sociological research. Her current research interests are digitalization and the impact of the internet and social media on modern society. Specifically, Taisiia investigates how certain groups use social media content and deal with different types of information in virtual space. Since the internet is self-regulating, and almost uncontrollable, useful and important information coexists with disinformation and manipulative materials that can spread quickly and have a detrimental effect on public opinion. In modern society, people consume large amounts of information. Thus, a problem arises: from this flow of information, useful and not misleading elements must be selected. Taisiia Ratushna has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

The project delves into the impact of digitalization on connections between Ukrainian forced migrants in Germany and their families and homeland. Taisiia Ratushna's focus lies in understanding how these migrants sustain communication with their families back in Ukraine. She analyzes the communication platforms they utilize and the methods by which they access news from their homeland. Her study dissects their preferred news sources, evaluating the trust placed in these outlets and the overall reliability of the information they offer. This investigation extends to examining how these news sources intersect with familial communication, influencing the migrants' perception of their homeland and shaping their inclination towards or resistance to returning. Furthermore, she examines how social networks not only establish informational links with the host society but also nurture connections with the migrants' country of origin. A notable majority of Ukrainian forced migrants consists of women with children, often separated from their husbands who remain in Ukraine. Social media serves as a bridge, providing a sense of connection and updates on current events from their native land. By studying media consumption patterns, Ratushna's research achieves a threefold objective. It reveals the mechanisms upholding family bonds, offering insights into the evolution of family dynamics. Secondly, it explores the extent to which migrants access information about their homeland and its influence on decisions regarding continued residence or repatriation. Finally, by scrutinizing communication practices and media engagement, the research provides a comprehensive understanding of migrants' experiences, informing broader discussions on migration and transnational interaction. Ultimately, this work equips policymakers with essential knowledge to design effective social programs that cater to the needs of Ukrainian forced migrants.

Viktoria Sereda

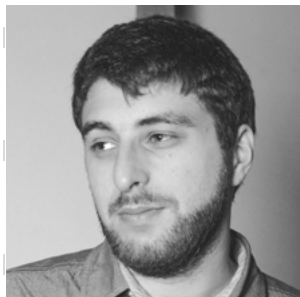


War, Migration, Memory

is a sociologist, head coordinator of the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS) and academic senior advisor to the project “PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory”. She has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022. Prior to this, she was a fellow at the Imre Kertesz Kolleg at the University of Jena. Since 2020, she has also been a senior research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and a professor in the department of Sociology at the Ukrainian Catholic University. In the spring semester of 2021, she was a visiting lecturer at the University of Basel. Sereda has either led or participated in over 30 sociological research projects on Ukrainian society and its regional dimensions. From 2011 to 2017, she was the head of the sociological team for the project “Region, Nation and Beyond: An Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Reconceptualization of Ukraine”, organized by the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. In 2016/17 and 2019/20 she was the MAPA Research Fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, where she developed a digital atlas of social changes in Ukraine after the Euromaidan. Her latest publications include *Displacement in War-Torn Ukraine* (2023, Cambridge University Press).

Within a broader project frame, Viktoria Sereda explores the dynamic entanglement of migration and memory from socio-anthropological perspectives. The studies on the transformation of memory politics and mnemonic practices in the region usually focus on institutional dimensions or nation-wide trends, politics of memory, or narratives produced by the political elites, memory laws, etc. Mnemonic processes linked to the (re)articulation of the sense of belonging, triggered by the armed conflict and under the influx of IDPs or refugees, received much less attention. She proposes to approach these processes by exploring the complicated relationship of memory with belonging and the everyday experiences of both displaced people and their receiving communities. Her point of departure is that a sense of belonging, challenged by war and displacement, is fundamentally a temporal and spatial experience. It is anchored in people's everyday interactions with the built environment and social groups. The temporal location of their belonging includes an understanding of how time is experienced (for example, it focuses on the ruptures of the natural flow of biographical time, such as “before and after the beginning of the war”), as well as how memory (of the event or family narratives) and attitudes toward the past are utilized in creating sense of belonging.

Denys Shatalov



The Entanglement and Interaction of Imagination, Commemoration and Memory of World War II and the Ongoing War in Ukraine. Case of Kryvyi Rih

obtained his PhD in History in 2016 from Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, Ukraine, with a thesis on Ukrainian Cossacks in public discourse from the second half of the 18th to the first half of the 19th century. From 2015 until 2021, Denys was a Research Fellow at the “Tkuma” Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Jewish Memory and Holocaust in Ukraine Museum; now he is an independent scholar. He has been a PRISMA UKRAÏNA Visiting Fellow in 2019/20. Along with his engagement in memory and memory politics studies, he also conducts research on the history of the ‘Cossack Myth’. His recent publications include “The City of the One-Eyed Cossack Rih: The Cossack Myth at the Local Level – The Case of Kryvyi Rih” (2021) and “On German Orders: The Volhynian Massacre in Soviet Partisans’ Memoirs” (2019). Denys Shatalov has been a non-resident Fellow and member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

Since the start of the War, Migration, Memory project, Denys Shatalov has been engaged in the research group, preparing multiple publications that delve into various dimensions. These writings specifically center on themes such as the invocation of World War II history within the discourse surrounding the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war, as presented by officials of varying hierarchies within Ukraine. He also examines the convergence of World War II, the Anti-Terrorist Operation in Donbas (2014-2022), and the current ongoing war within the geographic confines of Kryvyi Rih. Additionally, he scrutinizes the manner in which Soviet WWII monuments dispersed across urban landscapes shape anticipations concerning the monumental commemoration of the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war.

Continuing this project's trajectory, he outlines his intention to shift focus toward other pertinent research inquiries. Specifically, his upcoming endeavors include an analysis of WWII commemorations as living practices, aiming to understand their influence on societal outlooks regarding the ongoing war's commemoration within Kryvyi Rih. Concurrently, he investigates the interplay between political circumstances and official memory politics, considering their role in shaping the evolution of WWII commemorations in Kryvyi Rih throughout the period of independence. Furthermore, his research places emphasis on the tensions existing between city officials and activists as they engage in a discourse regarding the configuration of a commemorative framework for the War in Donbas, marking the initial phase of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict (2014-2022) within the city.

Yuliia Soroka



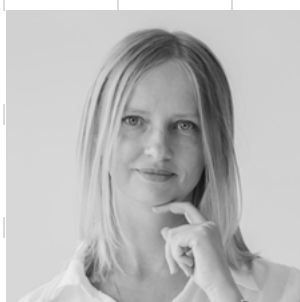
People under Occupation during the War in Ukraine: Media Representations, Everyday Life, and the Perspective of Postwar Conflict Transformation

is a sociologist of culture. She holds a PhD in Sociology, and is Professor of Sociology at the N.V. Karazin Kharkiv National University (Ukraine) and a senior researcher in the Human Geography Unit of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). Her research considers symbolic spaces of Ukrainian society in different empirical fields. Previously, she looked at new independent media from the middle of 1990s, post-Soviet sociocultural transformations, social attitudes toward material wealth, the past, and the recognition of heroes, popular culture and films, and changes in urban symbolic space (i.e., toponyms), among other things. Currently, she focuses on culture and power relations. She asks, how does culture 'work' in the reproduction of power relationships in society? She has already empirically applied and justified the concept of 'cultural mechanisms of power' in prior research, including that on discourses on Muslims in Ukrainian media, social theater, hate speech, dialog, collective identities in pro-Euromaidan discourses, hostility towards internally displaced persons (IDPs), and standing greeting rituals. Located in Fribourg, Switzerland, Yuliia Soroka has been a member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

In her ongoing project, Yuliia Soroka investigates how individuals under occupation are portrayed in media during times of war. As a sociologist of culture, she delves into the symbolic dimension of Ukrainian society, particularly through media representations. Her exploration unfolds in two aspects: firstly, as a means of preserving Ukrainian society amidst wartime material devastation and shifts in values; and secondly, as a realm for shaping new images of Ukrainian society marked by war-induced disparities. Her forthcoming study focuses on the discourse of individuals in occupied territories, leveraging her previous research experience with social groups in Ukrainian society that face limitations in self-expression. Her theoretical foundation for examining discourse in occupied regions adopts a critical perspective and encompasses various post-structuralist concepts, including Michel Foucault's power and discourse, Pierre Bourdieu's symbolic space and symbolic power, and Roland Barthes' notion of naturalization as a function of myth. An important objective is to expand this theoretical base into the realm of postcolonial criticism, particularly concerning media representation of those under occupation. Her research methodology merges D. Loseke's formula story (data analysis) with Laclau and Mouffe's discourse analysis (data collection). The data collection strategy involves compiling media messages about people under occupation, those within occupied territories, and individuals liberated from such areas during and after military operations. These sources encompass Ukrainian, international, and Russian media outlets, along with official speeches by Ukrainian state and government representatives, international organizations, and Russian authorities.

In the subsequent phase, the amassed data undergoes multifaceted analysis to explore perceptions within vulnerable and marginalized groups. The research then delves into the broader conceptualization of "people under occupation" across a range of social science domains. This inquiry extends to disciplines such as interpretative sociology, critical theory (including post-Marxist, feminist, and post-structuralist perspectives), sociology of culture, cultural power dynamics, political science, civic identities, and the realm of liminal geography.

Natalia Zaitseva-Chipak



The Migration Strategies of Ukrainians

is a sociologist and a professor in the Department of Sociology at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Prior to this position, she was a professor in the Department of Sociology at the Lviv Ivan Franko National University. In 2002, she graduated from the Lviv Ivan Franko National University, and in 2007, she completed her PhD at the Classic Private University. Since 2007, she has also worked as an analyst at the Socioinform Ukrainian Center for Public Opinion Research. She has either participated in or managed more than 20 sociological studies of Ukrainian society. Her scientific interests focus on problems of modern Ukrainian society and individual social groups, such as youths or internally displaced persons (IDPs). Natalia Zaitseva-Chipak has been a non-resident Fellow and member of the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group since 2022.

Russia's war against Ukraine has triggered a surge of forced displacement in Ukraine. A significant portion, approximately 5 million individuals from both frontline and rear areas, has chosen to migrate to EU territory, while around 8 million have become internally displaced persons. In this context, understanding the factors shaping the intentions of these displaced Ukrainians and uncovering their adaptation strategies in new locales, whether within Ukraine or Europe, becomes pivotal for formulating policies that benefit both the displaced and host communities. Through her involvement in the War, Migration, Memory research group, Natalia Zaitseva-Chipak has scrutinized the migration patterns of Ukrainians forcibly displaced to Germany. Her ongoing research encompassed motivations driving migration from Ukraine to Germany and plans for potential repatriation. Partial insights into migration plans and adaptation nuances of internally displaced individuals within Ukraine were also collected. Her forthcoming study involves augmenting this dataset with plans and strategies of returnees from Europe to Ukraine, as well as those who remain in their communities. The subsequent phase aims to undertake a comparative analysis across these four distinct groups.

The researcher's objectives encompass three primary aspects. Firstly, she seeks to delve into the migration strategies of various Ukrainian groups: forcibly displaced individuals, those returning from Europe to settle

permanently in Ukraine, and the populace residing in regions with minimal impact from intense combat during the war. Secondly, she aims to discern adaptation algorithms and plans utilized by forcibly displaced persons and refugees in their new locales. Lastly, she intends to undertake a comparative assessment of migration strategies between forcibly displaced persons to Europe, returnees from Europe opting for permanent residence, other forcibly displaced individuals, and the population that has maintained their original residence since the onset of the conflict.

re:constitution – Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe

Rechtsstaatlichkeit garantiert die Achtung von Grundwerten wie Freiheit, Gleichheit und Demokratie in der Europäischen Union. Angesichts der anhaltenden mehrdimensionalen Krisen in Europa ist es unerlässlich, diese zu bewahren und zu stärken.

Was kann ein Forschungs- und Vernetzungsprogramm für Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Demokratie in Europa an der Schnittstelle von Wissenschaft und Praxis in diesem Zusammenhang leisten?

Als gemeinsames Programm des Forum Transregionale Studien mit Democracy Reporting International verbindet re:constitution wissenschaftliche Forschung auf vielfältige Weise mit schnell zugänglicher Analyse aus der Praxis. Auf dieser Plattform können somit wertvolle, lösungsorientierte Beiträge zur Bewahrung rechtsstaatlicher Strukturen und demokratischer Prozesse in Europa entstehen.

Ab 2023 wird re:constitution in einer direkt an die erste Förderphase anschließenden zweiten Projektphase fortgeführt und von der Stiftung Mercator unterstützt. Der Austausch zwischen Wissenschaftler:innen und Praktiker:innen im europäischen Raum steht weiterhin im Zentrum der Programmaktivitäten, denn der grenz- und disziplinübergreifende Austausch ist angesichts multilateraler Herausforderungen in und um Europa wichtiger denn je. Eines der Kernelemente des Programms – die Förderung der europaweiten Mobilität der Fellows – wird gezielt gefördert und um eine Teilzeitoption erweitert. Damit werden die Fellowships besonders für Praktiker:innen interessanter, die nur für begrenzte Zeit von beruflichen Verpflichtungen zurücktreten können. Während ihrer Mobilitätsphase arbeiten alle Fellows mit ausgewählten Partner- und Gasteinrichtungen zusammen, um an Themen und Projekten von gemeinsamem Interesse zu arbeiten.

In dieser zweiten re:constitution Projektphase umfasst das Programm drei Module:

1. re:constitution Fellowships,
2. re:constitution Alumninetzwerk,
3. re:constitution Analyse & Outreach (liegt in der Verantwortung von DRI).

Die re:constitution Fellowships werden jährlich an 15 Nachwuchswissenschaftler*innen und -praktiker*innen vergeben, die während eines akademischen Jahres an einem eigenen Projekt mit klarem Bezug zu Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Demokratie in Europa arbeiten. Fünf der 15 Fellowships sind als Teilzeit-Fellowships angelegt und bieten insbesondere Nachwuchskräften aus der Praxis, die beispielsweise in Think Tanks, Nichtregierungsorganisationen, Behörden oder freiberuflich als Journalist:innen arbeiten, bessere Möglichkeiten der zeitlichen Vereinbarkeit von Fellow-Mobilität mit anderen Aufgaben. Die re:constitution Fellows verbringen drei- oder sechsmonatige

re:constitution – Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe

The rule of law guarantees respect for fundamental values such as freedom, equality and democracy in the European Union. In light of the ongoing multidimensional crises in Europe, it is essential to preserve and strengthen them.

What can a research and network programme about the rule of law and democracy in Europe at the interface of science and practice accomplish in this context?

As a joint programme of the Forum Transregionale Studien and Democracy Reporting International, re:constitution combines academic research with practical and quickly accessible analysis in a variety of ways. The platform re:constitution provides for its stakeholders can give rise to valuable, solution-oriented contributions towards preserving rule-of-law structures and democratic processes in Europe.

Starting in 2023, re:constitution continues into a second project phase that directly follows the first project phase (2019-2022). This continuation is made possible by new funding from Stiftung Mercator. The exchange between academics and practitioners across Europe remains at the centre of the programme's activities, as cross-border and cross-disciplinary exchange is more important than ever in view of multilateral challenges in and around Europe. One of the core elements of the programme is the promotion of pan-European mobility for the Fellows, which will be further enhanced to include a part-time option. This will make the Fellowships particularly interesting for practitioners who are only able to step back from professional commitments for limited periods of time. All Fellows work with selected partners and host institutions on topics and projects of common interest during their mobility periods.

In its second project phase, re:constitution comprises three modules:

1. re:constitution Fellowships,
2. re:constitution Alumni Network,
3. re:constitution Analysis & Outreach (managed by DRI).

The re:constitution programme annually awards 15 Fellowships to early-career academics and practitioners for an academic year to work on their own projects related to the rule of law and democracy in Europe. Five out of the 15 Fellowships are designed as part-time Fellowships and enable practitioners from think tanks, non-governmental organisations, public authorities or freelance journalists to better combine mobility phases with other tasks. Thus, the re:constitution Fellows spend three or six months at research institutions and in practical work contexts within the European Union.

Throughout the academic year, the Fellows attend two personal and one virtual, multi-day Fellows' meetings, each dedicated to a research question or overarching issue, thus enabling virtual as well as face-to-face topical debates

Aufenthalte an Forschungseinrichtungen und in praktischen Arbeitskontexten innerhalb der Europäischen Union.

Im Verlauf des akademischen Jahres nehmen sie an zwei persönlichen und einem virtuellen Fellowtreffen teil, die jeweils mehrtägig sind und sich bestimmten Fragestellungen widmen. Diese Treffen bieten Möglichkeiten für thematische Debatten mit Partnereinrichtungen und eingeladenen Expert:innen vor Ort. Darüber hinaus sind diese sog. Fellows' Exchange Meetings interaktiv gestaltet und umfassen u.a. Exkursionen, Diskussionen und Workshops von und mit Expert:innen aus Wissenschaft und Praxis. Die Fellow Talks ergänzen die persönlichen Treffen auf virtueller Ebene: Als regelmäßige fellowgeleitete Projektgespräche sind sie der Vorstellung und Diskussion der persönlichen Forschungsvorhaben der Fellows gewidmet.

Die zweite Programmlinie von re:constitution, die am Forum Transregionale Studien koordiniert wird, umfasst den Aufbau und die Steuerung des re:constitution Alumninetzwerkes. Dem Vorhaben liegt das gemeinsame Interesse der Fellows zugrunde, sich in ihrer Forschung den aktuellen Herausforderung für Demokratie und Rechtsstaatlichkeit zu stellen und gemeinsam Lösungen zu entwickeln – auch nach dem Ende ihrer re:constitution Fellowships. Die Netzwerkstruktur bietet einen idealen Rahmen für langfristiges Engagement über geographische und disziplinäre Grenzen hinweg. Eine Gruppe von Alumni verschiedener re:constitution Jahrgänge entwickelt in einem co-kreativen Prozess bis Herbst 2023 eine gemeinsame Netzwerkstrategie. Diese zielt darauf ab, eine nachhaltige re:constitution Alumniarbeit für die stetig wachsende Gruppe der Alumni zu gestalten.

Die Programmlinie re:constitution Analyse & Outreach wird von Democracy Reporting International verantwortet. Aktuelle Analysen der Rechtsstaatlichkeit in Europa in digitalen Publikationsformaten (u.a. Reporte, Infografiken, Analysen) befördern die öffentliche Debatte und dienen Journalist:innen und politischen Entscheidungsträgern als mögliche erste Informationsquelle. Neben regelmäßigem Austausch mit den Medien umfassen die Projektaktivitäten virtuelle Outreach-Veranstaltungen und thematische Konsultationen.

Das Programm wird mit dem Beginn der zweiten Projektphase in seiner inhaltlichen Ausrichtung und strategischen Weiterentwicklung von einem neu einberufenen Beratungsgremium (dem re:constitution Advisory Board) aus Vertreter:innen aus Wissenschaft und Praxis, u.a. aus dem erweiterten re:constitution Netzwerk, unter dem Vorsitz von Prof. Angelika Nußberger (Direktorin der Akademie für europäischen Menschenrechtsschutz), beraten. Die neuen Mitglieder des Advisory Boards unterstützen bei der Fellowauswahl und vertreten das Programm in der Öffentlichkeit.

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with partner institutions and invited experts. In addition, these so-called Fellows' Exchange Meetings are designed in an interactive way and include excursions, discussions and workshops by and with experts from academia and practice. The Fellow Talks complement the personal meetings on a virtual level: as regular, Fellow-led project talks, they are dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the Fellows' personal research projects.

The second re:constitution programme module overseen by Forum Transregionale Studien fosters the establishment and management of the emerging re:constitution alumni network. The network will be based on the shared interest of the Fellows and alumni to address current challenges to democracy and the rule of law in their research and other projects and to develop solutions together - even after the end of their re:constitution Fellowships. The network structure provides an ideal framework for long-term engagement across geographical and disciplinary boundaries. By autumn 2023 and in a co-creative process, a group of alumni from several re:constitution Fellow cohorts will develop a joint network strategy for sustainable re:constitution alumni work for the steadily growing group of alumni.

Democracy Reporting International is responsible for the third re:constitution module, Analysis & Outreach. Current analyses of the rule of law in Europe in digital publication formats (including reports, infographics, analyses) promote a fact-based public debate and serve as an accessible source of information for journalists and political decision-makers. In addition to regular exchanges with the media, project activities include virtual outreach events and thematic consultations.

With the start of the second project phase, the programme will be advised on its content and strategic development by a newly convened Advisory Board of representatives from academia and practice, including stakeholders from the extended re:constitution network and chaired by Prof. Angelika Nußberger, Director of the Academy for European Human Rights Protection. The new members of the Advisory Board support the selection of Fellows and represent the programme in public.

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re:constitution Fellows 2023/2024

Ruji Auethavornpipat



Fighting Rule of
Law Backsliding:
Civil Society
Activism and
Protection of the
Fundamental
Rights of Migrants
in Europe

is a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany. His research examines the contestation of global migrant protection norms at sites of implementation. Currently, he is researching the constitution of authority in migration governance. Previously, he was a Research Fellow in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University.

Pushbacks of migrants have deep implications for the rule of law in Europe. It often occurs in militarized border zones with limited public coverage. The lack of transparency means authorities can operate with a large degree of impunity. This poses a serious challenge to the rule of law as well as the fundamental rights of migrants. Although pushbacks and the rule of law are closely interrelated, scholars have yet to seriously interrogate their intertwinement. Even less attention has been paid to understanding the role that civil society activism plays in advocating pushbacks as a rule of law problem. To address these knowledge gaps, this study builds on legal scholarship on the rule of law and integrates insights from International Relations to unpack the strategies of civil society actors to protect migrants by propounding pushbacks as a violation of the rule of law. In doing so, this project uses the lens of civil society activism to make a new understanding of how pushbacks are challenging the rule of law in Europe. Furthermore, by examining advocacy campaigns, the findings will inform public policy debates on the support which activists need to safeguard the rule of law and fundamental rights from annihilation.

Grażyna Baranowska



is affiliated with two academic institutions: the Hertie School in Berlin and the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. At the Hertie School, she leads a project funded by the EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, which seeks to identify and interpret international legal obligations regarding 'missing migrants'. As an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences she also collaborates in the project MEMOCRACY, which scrutinizes the intersection of memory laws and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. In the past, she was among others a Post-Doctoral researcher at EU-funded project on Memory Laws in European and Comparative Perspective, worked as policy advisor at the German Institute for Human Rights, and was involved in the process of drafting the General Comment on enforced disappearances and migration for the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances. In 2022, she was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as an independent expert of the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances.

Is Poland's Rule of Law Crisis Affecting Its Border Practices at the Polish-Belarus Border?

Since 2021, deliberate actions by Belarusian state authorities have led to a vast increase of people irregularly crossing the border from Belarus into the EU. The three directly involved EU states – Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania – respond with actions that aggravated the humanitarian crisis. The responses mirrored practices at other EU borders, including pushbacks, building walls, and attempts to criminalize humanitarian aid. At the same time, the Belarus-EU border crisis shows distinct elements. In particular, one of the EU countries involved in the responses, Poland, faces a major rule of law crisis.

The aim of the project is to assess the role of Poland's rule of law backsliding in the humanitarian crisis at the Belarus-EU border. The project will hypothesize that the rule of law backsliding has influenced Polish authorities' response to the humanitarian crisis, even if at first glance, it may appear that the outcome is similar to those at other EU borders. To assess that, the project will compare Poland's responses with actions by other states at the EU border, evaluating how unique the situation on the EU-Belarus border is compared to other EU borders.

Bohdan Bernatskyi



is a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute and Senior Lecturer at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. His professional and academic interests include sanctions, foreign policy, freedom of association and the prohibition of political parties. He has served as a member of several working groups in the Ukrainian Parliament and Government, including on political parties' reform, transitional governance initiatives and the development of sanctions infrastructure. Bohdan is a founder of the digital sanctions platform Sanctions Finder, the aim of which is to elevate the idea of good governance and advance the open data standards in the foreign policy sphere. He will join the re:constitution Fellowship to elaborate practical recommendations on sanctions design for pertinent decision-makers, based on how the data is provided for and to the public.

Boosting Enforcement through Sanctions Design

Sanctions are becoming an increasingly challenging area of international relations. Sanctions programs against Russia and Belarus are among the most extensive autonomous sanctions regimes ever enforced. The EU, US and their allies face significant obstacles in their proper and meaningful implementation. The project proposes to look beyond sanctions policy-making and to investigate sanction design instead. It seeks to understand how the data about designated persons or companies are structured inside sanctions lists, how G7 countries package sectoral sanctions, why UN lists are incorporated on the domestic level inconsistently and what differences countries have in their sanctions databases. The project seeks to delve into practical solutions and recommendations on sanctions design from a data perspective.

Olga Ceran



Academic Freedom amid the Rule of Law Crises: Article 13 CFR and the Scope of EU Intervention

is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Leiden University in the Netherlands. She is a team member of the NWO Vidi project “The EU Fundamental Right to ‘Freedom of the Arts and Sciences’: Exploring the Limits on the Commercialisation of Academia” led by Dr Vasiliki Kosta. Her current research focuses on comparative constitutional law as a building block for establishing the content of Art. 13 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (‘freedom of the arts and sciences’). Olga holds a PhD in Law and an LLM in Comparative, European and International Laws from the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) as well as a Master’s degree in law from the University of Wrocław (Poland). Before joining Leiden University, she worked for the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 2018-2020, she was a Managing Editor of the European Journal of Legal Studies and she remains a member of its Editorial Board. Olga’s broader research interests include comparative law, EU fundamental rights, and methodological approaches to EU law and Europeanisation. She is particularly interested in effects produced by EU law and policy in areas remaining (primarily) outside of EU competence, such as higher education or family law.

Article 13 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights reads: ‘The arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint. Academic freedom shall be respected’. The provision has not been extensively analyzed in the literature, perhaps because academic freedom was long taken for granted. However, research indicates that the overall state of academic freedom in the EU is declining, with systemic issues accompanying the broader rule of law crises. Against this background, academic freedom questions are increasingly raised as a matter of EU law, with commentators suggesting that protection of the rule of law and academic freedom should be complementary. Yet, despite the increasing interest of EU policy-makers, there is no uniform understanding of academic freedom as a fundamental right nor a clear vision how the EU could protect it. Therefore, the project analyzes the possibility to utilize the existing rule of law instruments for safeguarding of academic freedom and explores potential “ways forward” to ensure its protection within the flagship EU instruments in the area of research and higher education. In that, the project aims at investigating different avenues for a complementary protection of academic freedom on the EU level.

Claire Debucquois



is a postdoctoral fellow with the Belgian fund for scientific research (FRS-FNRS). She studied law, philosophy, and economics, specializing in development economics, and comparative and international law. Her dissertation, completed at Columbia Law School, analyzes contemporary land transactions in Brazil, situating them within the country’s legal history and political economy of land ownership.

Green for Whom? Analyzing the European Green Deal and Sustainable Finance through a Wide-Angle Lens

Green finance pledges abound. They are politically considered a cornerstone of a low-carbon future. Yet for every announcement of net-zero commitment, there is a press report revealing how ostensibly green funds sustain the fossil fuel industry or damage biodiversity and livelihoods across the globe. Claire's project, then, studies how climate regulation (especially the European Green Deal) directs financial resources towards sustainable activities, according to which criteria, and with which distributive effects. This requires clarifying how legal regimes shape green finance and energy value chains, and co-constitute value through regulatory structures. The project draws on cases of green bonds fueling mineral extraction and land use conversion in Latin America. It examines the relevant legal provisions and institutional arrangements, with particular attention to the epistemic and normative power at play in the design and implementation of climate policy, both within and beyond EU borders. By de-centering the European perspective, the project illuminates the promise and pitfalls of EU green finance regulation. The research seeks to help advance both the scholarly and the public conversations on the topic, with the aim of fostering a more just ecological transition.

James Devaney



Using EU Sanctions on Russia to Compensate Ukraine: Norm Collision and the Protection of the International Rule of Law in Europe

is Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. He has studied law at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy (PhD 2015, LLM 2012), the University of Glasgow (LLM (distinction) 2010) and the University of Strathclyde (LL.B (Hons) 2009). He has previously been a visiting scholar at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge, the University of Sydney, and been a fellow of the Berlin-Potsdam Research Group (KFG) "International Law - Rise or Decline?" He also teaches in a visiting capacity at the Universities of Sydney, Australia and Kobe, Japan. His research interests relate primarily to international courts and tribunals and legal reasoning, although he has published on a range of areas of international law. His monograph, 'Fact-Finding Before the International Court of Justice', which focusses on the use of evidence before international courts and tribunals including the adjudicative bodies of the WTO and inter-State arbitration, was published by Cambridge University Press, and nominated for the Peter Birks Book Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship. He is also a Member of the Bar of the State of New York.

In February 2023 the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union announced the setting up of a Working Group to examine the possibility of using frozen Russian assets to compensate Ukraine. Swedish Prime Minister Kristersson stated at the time, "Russia must pay for the reconstruction of Ukraine. At the same time, this poses difficult questions. This must be done in accordance with EU and international law, and there is currently no direct model for this." The current research project asks: can such a model be developed, and crucially, can it be implemented without jeopardising

the international rule of law in Europe? The implementation of EU sanctions runs up against legal protections afforded by the law of state immunity, the human right to property, or the protection of foreign investments. In certain situations, it may well be that the law does not provide a clear answer as to which norms should apply - leading to decisions based on moral and political rather than legal justifications. This highlights the pressing need for the humanity-focussed framework developed in this project, which provides a principled legal justification for choosing certain norms while at the same time safeguarding the international rule of law.

Daniela Dobre



is a PhD candidate at the University of Granada (Department of Constitutional Law). Her educational background focuses on European Union Law and constitutional theory. She is a Trainee at the European Central Bank (ECB) at the Institutional Law Division (2023); a former research fellow within the Catania Young Investigator Training Program (YITP, 2022); former research fellow at the Spanish Constitutional Court (2018-2019) and visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (2020). Her main field of research is the economic constitutionalism, focusing on the institutions and the legitimacy of the European economic governance. In particular, the European Central Bank (and its potentially integrative function within EMU), the Eurogroup and the European Bank of Investments.

The Eurogroup in the Shadow of the (European) Rule of Law

The Eurogroup and the EMU have long been object of inquiry in EU scholarship. However, relevant contributions have hardly addressed in depth the role of the Eurogroup and its legal semi-invisibility and relative “lawlessness” within the structural transformation of European economic governance. Based on institutionalist approaches typical of Italian and Spanish public law scholarship, the project aims to fill this gap, with the goal of strengthening its rule of law credentials, as set out in Art. 2 TEU, and, more generally, the legitimacy of EU’s economic governance. It will proceed in three phases. First, it will analyse the role of the Eurogroup within the still suboptimal EU common currency area, with a specific focus on the structural transformations triggered by the 2008 crisis. Second, it will advance an analytical approach different from those dominating current scholarly discourses, namely an institutionalist/material approach highlighting the capacity of sociopolitical institutions—however established—to produce norms that effectively organise social relationships. Third, it will reconstruct existing law and the most recent case law of the ECJ in the light of such approach, showing how it can productively be used to bring the Eurogroup out from its relative legal invisibility and strengthen its accountability.

Marius Ghincea



Geopolitical Competition and the Rule of Law in the Western Balkans

is a PhD Researcher at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, pursuing a Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences. Simultaneously, he is a Research Fellow at the Hertie School, Centre of International Security, in Berlin. His research agenda focuses on the causes of foreign and security policy consensus in liberal democracies and has expertise on issues related to the EU's foreign and security policy, global political ordering, Black Sea security, and transatlantic relations. He also provides policy-oriented consultancy to various private and public actors. Prior to joining the European University Institute in 2019, he worked for various think tanks specialized in foreign and security policy, political risk and provided freelance assistance to interested actors. He worked in Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, and the United States.

The Western Balkans region has become a battleground for global powers vying for influence. With ongoing geopolitical tensions and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, this competition is likely to continue. The impact of this competition on the region's adherence to the rule of law is concerning, with scholars observing signs of backsliding, "stabilitocracies," and weakened EU conditionality. The involvement of other geopolitical actors has led the EU to adopt a more instrumental approach, deemphasizing the rule of law as a diplomatic objective. Local elites have also leveraged this competition to sidetrack European democratization efforts. To counter these threats, the EU must develop a new set of policies that protect and promote the rule of law in the Western Balkans while competing with autocratic powers. Rather than adopting a pragmatic and norm-free strategy, the EU should reinforce its "normative power" approach and prioritize democratic institutions and values. This will allow the EU to maintain its political distinctiveness and provide a normative soft power advantage over competitors.

Tivadar Hüttl



is an attorney-at-law, practicing in Hungary. As the director of litigation of Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, he has extensive experience in human rights litigation. He is providing legal representation in high profile constitutional law cases before national courts and the Hungarian Constitutional Court. He also represents clients before international judicial bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights, European Court of Justice and the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The *Mandli and others vs. Hungary*, *Szurovecz vs. Hungary* cases was selected as the best judgement of 2018 and 2019 by Strasbourg Observers. Besides the Juris Doctor degree – obtained in Hungary – he holds an LLM degree from the University of Cambridge. His research explores how data protection laws are misused to silence the press.

GDPR Weaponized: How Data Protection Undermines the Freedom of Press

Potential tensions between freedom of expression and privacy are not a novelty. However, the new EU data protection regime that came into force in May 2018 already generated fundamentally new kind of collisions between these rights. Recent decisions by data protection authorities and national courts from multiple member states undermine the freedom of press and put extreme burden on the daily work of journalists and the press. The divergence in the application and interpretation of “press exceptions” from the GDPR creates fragmented protection data protection and makes the legal environment erratic for media companies. The proposed research would start with a theoretical analysis on the interaction between the GDPR and the internationally accepted legal standards on privileges of the media based on which the relevant case-law would be dissected. Finally, as a synthesis, arguments on how to balance between the colliding fundamental rights would be formulated.

Karolina Kocemba



is a socio-legal scholar. Her fields of expertise are legal mobilization, women's rights, constitutionalism, and legal education. She is a Max Weber Fellow (post-doc) at the European University Institute and a researcher at the Centre for Legal Education and Social Theory, University of Wrocław. There, she defended her PhD thesis, 'Interactions in spaces of legal education,' devoted to the spatial influence on interactions in places of legal education. At the same university, she graduated with two master's degrees in law and administration. Karolina is also a graduate of The International Master in Sociology of Law of the International Institute of Sociology of Law, Oñati (Spain). In her re:constitution Fellowship project, Karolina investigates the role of non-state actors in legal mobilization in the area of women's rights.

The Role of Non- State Actors in (Anti-)Women's Rights Legal Mobilization

The project aims to examine legal mobilization in the area of women's rights in the time of populism. In recent years, women's rights have been intensely challenged before the regional Constitutional Courts, especially in Central and Eastern European countries. Such development results from the years of legal mobilization conducted by non-state actors – right-wing NGOs or churches. In reaction to these actions, the engagement of women's rights defenders has also increased. That is why the main project focus is the role of non-state actors in shaping women's rights in Central and Eastern Europe. On the one hand, right-wing organizations are effective on domestic grounds, as they led to the actual limitation of women's rights, such as abortion and freedom from violence. On the other, liberal human rights advocates use the international judiciary and conduct cases before the European Court of Human Rights. Their actions require empirical examination, especially legal mobilization conditions and patterns. That is why the project explores non-state actors' engagement in cases on women's rights – their legal strategies, arguments, network, type of cases, connections with the populists, attitudes toward human rights, and legal influence.

Katarzyna Krzyżanowska



The Legalist Mind — A View from the Semi-Periphery on the European Union

is a PhD candidate at the European University Institute, Department of Law, where she conducts a research on the judicial understanding of constitutional identity in times of the rule of law crisis in the Polish context. She employs empirical methods (semi-structured interviews with the constitutional agents) to discern the ways in which these actors (political and legal) conceive of the relations between the national constitutional law and EU law. For her studies, she visited the Centre of Law and Society at Cardiff University (2022), the Institute for European Studies at ULB (2023), and iCourts, the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre of Excellence for International Courts (2023). Katarzyna is also an editor of the Review of Democracy, an online platform issued by the CEU Democracy Institute, where she is a Head of the Review of Books section and a contributor to the History of Ideas section.

How the European Union is imagined by lawyers of the semi-peripheries? This research explores the ways in which Polish legal scholars contributed to the conceptual discussions of the European Union. Responding to the current surge in the academic literature that critically assesses the legacy of EU legal theoreticians, this study attempts to provide a critical investigation into the Polish imaginary of the EU. It focuses on the discourse analysis of the academic publications, commentaries, and public interventions made by the main Polish legal scholars in the area of EU law and announced from the early 2000s up until the ongoing prolonged rule of law crisis. It tentatively argues that these debates were overly legalistic — partly because of the Copenhagen criteria to be met before Poland joined the EU, partly because of the checklist approach towards the rule of law crisis. Moreover, this research will trace back the intellectual inspirations of the main Polish scholars. This broad view on the legal publications from the EU semi-periphery will offer missing insights into understanding EU integration. It will examine the intellectual pluralism of the EU legal thought by positioning the Polish imaginary of the EU vis-à-vis the literature on EU integration.

Wolfgang Minatti



is a PhD Researcher at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and is affiliated with the Cluster of Excellence SCRIPTS in Berlin, Germany, and the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. His research focuses on the legitimization of governance in international politics with a particular focus on violent non-state actors in civil wars. Furthermore, he works on fieldwork methodology and the ethics of conducting qualitative research. Wolfgang conducted extensive fieldwork in Colombia where he worked with rebel ex-combatants and rural peasants. In his re:constitution fellowship project, Wolfgang investigates the (de-)legitimation of European security governance in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

From Stability to Uncertainty: “Zeitenwende” and the Delegitimation of European Security Governance

Inter-state war is back to Europe. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has shaken many governance norms in Europe with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz calling the moment a “Zeitenwende”. But even recently, many analysts argued that a Russian aggression was unlikely due to the strong security norms established in Europe over the previous decades. What does this mean for European security governance and how can we explain the processes transforming it? To explain this transformation, the project theorises the recent contestations of European security governance as shaped by (de-)legitimation processes: States advance various justificatory discourses to claim as righteous different expectations of the continent's security governance. By supporting or contesting these justificatory discourses, they (de-)legitimise the norms European security governance is built on and make new security policies justifiable. Drawing on discourse network analysis, the (de-)legitimation of territorial sovereignty and the *ius ad bellum* among actors such as the European Union, the US, Russia and Germany is examined. The project provides tools to analyse how conflict dynamics within Europe in the last decade are interwoven with the (de-)legitimation of international rule of law on the European continent and considers pathways for sustainable solutions to create stable security structures.

Marietta van der Tol



“Legitimate Aims”: Security, Identity, and Religion in Europe

specialises in the comparative study of politics, law, and religion. She is college lecturer in politics at Lincoln College and postdoctoral research fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. Her research focuses on the position of ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities in European constitutional systems, with particular reference to historical, religious, and legal legacies of toleration. Her book *Constitutional Intolerance: The Fashions of the Other in European Constitutional Systems* will appear with Cambridge University Press in 2024. Marietta convenes several networks that critically engage populism, nationalism, and democracy, as well as political theology, bridging conversations between academics, politicians, journalists, and religious organisations. Relevant outputs include “Secularisation as the fragmentation of the sacred and of sacred space”, published in *Religion, State, Society* in 2022, as well as her doctoral thesis, “Politics of religious diversity: toleration, religious freedom and visibility of religion in public space” (Cambridge), which explored expressions of tolerance and intolerance in contemporary constitutional law and politics in France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Legacies of toleration persist in constitutional arrangements that affect preferred and non-preferred religious institutions in many European states. The rise of right-wing populism has proliferated legislation aimed at ethno-religious and religious minorities, and they increasingly conflate constitutional norms and societal sentiments. This project studies references to

“legitimate aims” in relation to the freedom of religion and belief in a range of European jurisdictions, including France, Hungary, and Latvia. It will reflect on the intersection of security and identity in legislative proposals and Parliamentary history, and consider the social and political effects of such arguments on the place of non-preferred religious institutions in public life

Sixtine Van Outryve



is a PhD researcher in legal and political theory at the UCLouvain in Belgium. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the theory and practice of communalist direct democracy, more specifically on social movements struggling for self-government in France and North America. She has also graduated from two bachelor degrees in Law and in Philosophy at UCLouvain, from a Master in International and European Law at KULeuven in Belgium, and from a Master of Laws at Yale Law School.

Contemporary democracies are in crisis and representative democracy as the sole mode of exercising power is increasingly questioned. Around the globe, democratic innovations offer various participatory propositions to involve citizens in political deliberation and decision-making. But the critique of representation extends beyond the institutional political system. To be perceived as legitimate, other political and social vehicles therefore need to be screened under the lens of the critique of representation. Among these, unions constitute a crucial counter-power in our democracies, one that must also be democratic. Combining normative theory and empirical research, this research seeks to explore how unions, as a vehicle for workers to collectively express their voice, benefit from democratic innovations, with the aim of both increasing their legitimacy and strengthening democratic life at large.

Can the Workers Speak Both Collectively and Democratically? Rethinking Union Democracy

Karolina Zbytniewska



Karolina is Chief Editor at EURACTIV Poland, a major Polish expert media focusing on European and global affairs. She is a political scientist specialized in democracy and populism, lecturing at Warsaw University, alumna of Fulbright, Marie Curie Research Fellowship, and Bertelsmann Leaders for Europe programme. Currently Karolina is a re:constitution Fellow. She is also a regular public speaker and political commentator at Polish and international media.

Karolina will advance her research on her original concept of “populist skirmishers”, understood as ruthless frontrunners of mainstream populist parties who push forward their populist radical right agenda. She names them “populist skirmishers” by transplanting the military term into the realm of political science. Historically, skirmishers were light infantry securing and advancing the army by probing enemy’s lines, usually by opening the military

Populist Skirmishers: How Rule of Law Has Become the Enemy of Democracy in the European Union?

action as a part of the vanguard, but also fighting side- and rear-guard battles, reaching out more broadly than the general line of their army. Political skirmishers employ the same tactics, only the battlefield changes from a physical into a political one. The research will focus on how populist skirmishers are the frontrunners of derailing the project of European integration under the guise of fighting for national sovereignty and “real” democracy. Karolina believes it is important to juxtapose this notion with the historical trajectory of how and why the concept of rule of law has become the backbone of European integration and how the polycentric European polity has become the bulwark of postwar peace.

Initiativen

EUROPEAN
TIMES

Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM)

Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM) ist ein gemeinsam mit der Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) und der Universität Potsdam getragenes Forschungskolleg. EUTIM nimmt Narrative von Zeit und Raum an den Rändern Europas in den Blick. Ausgehend von den historischen Erfahrungen und Denkweisen in den Gesellschaften Mittel- und Osteuropas analysiert EUTIM ungleichzeitige Konzepte von »alt vs. neu« und »Ost vs. West« auf gesamteuropäischer Ebene, insbesondere in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts und der Gegenwart. Das Forschungskolleg nimmt Ungleichzeitigkeitseffekte systematisch und methodisch in den Blick und untersucht, wie produktiv oder destruktiv Zeitlichkeitsregime in Institutionen, Künsten, Wissenschaft und Gesellschaften genutzt werden. Der Krieg in der Ukraine führt Europa an seine Grenzen, zeigt die Zerstörungskraft, die Narrative von Zeit und Raum und die mit ihnen verbundenen Grenzziehungen und Grenzüberschreitungen entfalten können. Die Regionalstudien werden in der Krise zu Anlaufstellen für Kolleg:innen in Not und verfügen über Zugänge, die ein besseres Verständnis der Geschehnisse bieten können.

Mit einer Nachwuchsforschergruppe und einem strukturierten Promotionsprogramm bietet EUTIM einen Rahmen für die Entstehung hochwertiger Dissertationen und innovative Postdoc-Projekte. Die Forschungen sind Ausgangspunkt für eine tiefgreifende Analyse europäischer Gesellschaften und eine Reflexion europäischer oder universeller Normen. Neben den Principal Investigators Annette Werberger, Andrii Portnov und Alexander Wöll arbeiten in dem Projekt zwei Postdocs und sechs Doktorand:innen. Darüber hinaus werden Fellowships für Forschungsaufenthalte vergeben.

Das kultur- und geschichtswissenschaftliche Teilprojekt ist an der Europa-Universität Viadrina angesiedelt. Die Projekte hinterfragen u.a. Vorstellungen des Stillstands im Kalten Krieg, Erwartungen von Prozessen einer »Verwestlichung« von Zeitlichkeit und einer vergleichenden Wissenschaftsgeschichte im 20. Jahrhundert (Andrii Portnov) oder von Kosmopolitismus und Internationalismus (Annette Werberger).

An der Universität Potsdam befasst sich eine literaturwissenschaftliche Nachwuchsforschergruppe um Alexander Wöll im Rahmen des Fokusthemas »Kleine Literaturen und Nachbarschaft« damit, wie Ungleichzeitigkeiten vertextet und literarisch verarbeitet wurden.

Initiatives

Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM)

Europäische Zeiten/European Times – A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe (EUTIM) is a joint initiative of the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the University of Potsdam. It focuses on narratives of time and space at the edges of Europe. Based on historical experiences and ways of thinking in the societies of Central and Eastern Europe, EUTIM analyzes uneven concepts of “old vs. new” on a pan-European level, with a focus on the second half of the 20th century and the present. The research initiative takes a systematic and methodological look at such non-simultaneous temporality effects and investigates how productive or destructive temporality regimes are used in institutions, arts, science and societies. Russia's war in Ukraine demonstrate the destructive power that narratives of time and space can gain with respect to borders and claims to power. The war pushes Europe to its limits and sheds light on the relevance of Area Studies which, in times of crisis, can provide resources to colleagues at risk and disseminate knowledge for a better understanding of the current incidents.

With a junior research group and a structured doctoral program, EUTIM provides a framework for the emergence of high-quality dissertations and innovative postdoctoral projects. The research is the starting point for an in-depth analysis of European societies and a reflection on European or universal norms. In addition to the Principal Investigators Annette Werberger, Andrii Portnov and Alexander Wöll, the project employs two postdocs and six PhD students. In addition, fellowships are awarded for research stays.

The cultural and historical sub-project of EUTIM is located at the European University Viadrina. It questions notions of standstill during the Cold War, since research itself was affected by processes of the hastily expected “Westernization” of temporality and a comparative history of science in the 20th century (Andrii Portnov) and investigates the notions and interrelations between internationalism and cosmopolitanism (Annette Werberger).

At the University of Potsdam, a group of literary scholars on “Small Literatures and Neighborhood” led by Alexander Wöll is investigating arts in which inequalities were attentively illustrated and put into text.

The Forum Transregionale Studien is responsible for the area of academic communication, which facilitates forms of joint work, arranges transfer processes, disseminates research standpoints and results, and networks EUTIM transregionally. Communication is supervised by an editorial

Das Forum Transregionale Studien ist für den Bereich Wissenschaftskommunikation verantwortlich, die Formen des gemeinsamen Arbeitens ermöglicht, Transferprozesse arrangiert, Forschungsstandpunkte und -ergebnisse disseminiert und EUTIM transregional vernetzt. Die Wissenschaftskommunikation wird von einer Redaktionsgruppe betreut, der Judith Sieber, Claudia Dathe sowie Dr. Erik Martin und Dr. Bohdan Tokarski, die beiden Postdocs des Projekts, angehören. Im Rahmen des #DossierUkraine erscheinen auf dem TRAFO-Blog regelmäßig #EUTIM Beiträge mit Bezug zur Arbeit des Forschungskollegs. Seit Beginn des Krieges in der Ukraine sind die am Kolleg beteiligten Wissenschaftler:innen verstärkt in Wissenstransfer und -kommunikation engagiert.

Die Leitung und Gesamtkoordination von EUTIM liegt bei Annette Werberger, Professur für Osteuropäische Literaturen, Europa-Universität Frankfurt (Oder). Der Steering Group gehören außerdem Andrii Portnov, Professur für Entangled History of Ukraine, Europa-Universität Frankfurt (Oder)/Direktor PRISMA UKRAÏNA, Alexander Wöll, Professur Kultur und Literatur Mittel- und Osteuropas, Universität Potsdam und Georges Khalil vom Forum Transregionale Studien an.

EUTIM wird seit April 2021 vom Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) im Rahmen der Richtlinie zur Förderung der Regionalstudien (Area Studies) über einen Zeitraum von zunächst drei Jahren gefördert.

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group, which so far includes Claudia Dathe, Erik Martin, Judith Sieber and Bohdan Tokarskyi. With the #DossierUkraine, #EUTIM hosts a section on the TRAFO Blog with contributions from the work off the program. Since the beginning of the war, EUTIM scholars have engaged increasingly in the area of research transfer and communication.

The overall coordination of EUTIM lies with Annette Werberger, Professor of Eastern European Literatures, European University Frankfurt (Oder). The Steering Group also includes Andrii Portnov, Professor of Entangled History of Ukraine, European University Frankfurt (Oder)/Director PRISMA UKRAÏNA, Alexander Wöll, Professor of Central and Eastern European Literature and Culture, University of Potsdam and Georges Khalil of the Forum Transregionale Studien.

EUTIM has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) since April 2021 within the framework of the Directive on the Promotion of Regional Studies (Area Studies) for an initial period of three years.

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In The Maghreb

Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)

Das Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) an der Universität de Tunis wurde im April 2020 von einem Konsortium deutscher und tunesischer Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen begründet. MECAM soll den wissenschaftlichen Austausch in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften in und zwischen den Ländern des Maghrebs, Europa und benachbarten Regionen stärken und wird aus Mitteln des Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) gefördert.

»Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity« ist das Leitmotiv der Forschungsagenda von MECAM, unter dem Fragen von Ästhetik & kultureller Praxis, Ungleichheit & Mobilität, Erinnerung & Gerechtigkeit, Ressourcen & Nachhaltigkeit, Identitäten & Überzeugungen in den Blick genommen werden. Diese fünf Forschungsfelder strukturieren die gemeinsame Arbeit. Damit sollen Fragen aufgegriffen werden, die den Maghreb, Europa und ihre benachbarten Regionen historisch und gegenwärtig prägen und in der Folge des »Arabischen Frühlings« und den anhaltenden Umbrüchen auf allen Seiten des Mittelmeeres (neu) verhandelt werden.

MECAM hat ein Fellowship-Programm in Tunis etabliert, das Wissenschaftler:innen aus Europa, den Maghreb-Staaten, dem Nahen Osten und anderen Regionen in Tunis zusammenbringt, um frei wissenschaftlich arbeiten zu können, sich mit Kolleg:innen im Gespräch, in Seminaren und Workshops über ihre gemeinsame Forschungsfragen auszutauschen und wissenschaftliche Netzwerke zu schaffen. Das Fellowship-Programm wird ergänzt durch kollaborative Arbeitsformate wie Workshops und Akademien an verschiedenen Orten inner- und außerhalb der Region, zusätzliche Mobilitätsstipendien für Forschungsaufenthalte von tunesischen Wissenschaftler:innen in Deutschland und eine transregionale Wissenschaftskommunikation, die die Forschungsfragen und -antworten der wissenschaftlichen und allgemeinen Öffentlichkeit zugänglich macht. Dazu tragen auch eine öffentliche Veranstaltungsreihe unter dem Titel »Rencontres Ibn Khaldun« und Open-Access-Publikationen bei. Das MECAM kann in seiner Arbeit auf die an den Partnerinstitutionen in Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Marburg, Tunis und an den zwei Netzwerkstandorten in Casablanca/Morocco and Beirut/Lebanon vorhandenen Expertisen, Formate und Netzwerke zurückgreifen.

MECAM wird von einem Konsortium getragen, dem die Philipps-Universität Marburg, die Universität de Tunis, die Universität Leipzig, das GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, das Forum Transregionale Studien und die Universität de Sfax angehören. Die deutschen Partner sind Mitglieder des Forum Transregionale Studien.

MECAM wird von einem Rat geleitet, dem die beiden Direktoren Rachid Ouaisa (Philipps-Universität Marburg) and Khaled Kchir (Universität de Tunis) vorstehen und zehn weitere Mitglieder angehören: Fadma Aït Mous (Hassan II University of Casablanca), André Bank (GIGA Hamburg), Anissa Ben

Merian Center for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM)

The Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb (MECAM) at the Université de Tunis in Tunisia supports scholarly exchange in and across the Maghreb, the Middle East and Europe, and beyond. MECAM's research agenda revolves around the guiding theme of “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity”, addressing the complex processes of transforming societal experiences into ideas for the future within the context of various forms and scales of disparity and unequal conditions, in the framework of five interdisciplinary research fields: Aesthetics & Cultural Practice, Inequality & Mobility, Memory & Justice, Resources & Sustainability, and Identities & Beliefs.

MECAM, founded in April 2020 is hosted by the Université de Tunis, with additional secondary (network) sites in Casablanca, Morocco, and Beirut, Lebanon. It is a joint initiative of six Tunisian and German research institutions, Philipps-Universität Marburg (coordination), Université de Tunis, Universität Leipzig, the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg, Université de Sfax, and the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. The funding for MECAM is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

MECAM offers fellowships in Tunis with the aim of bringing together scholars from the Maghreb, Europe, the Middle East, and other regions, providing them with time and freedom to work on their self-chosen research projects within the aforementioned research fields. These fields are interconnected through two methodological transversal axes, highlighting the influence of present perceptions of history on future ideas and the profound impact of digital media on research and research processes.

Fellows at MECAM benefit from excellent research and debate facilities. MECAM arranges seminars and workshops on site, conducts transregional workshops and academies in various locations within and outside the Maghreb, and provides mobility grants for research stays in Germany for scholars from Tunisia, the Maghreb, and other Arab countries. “Rencontres Ibn Khaldun” is a series of public events that aims to showcase the work of MECAM. Publications and transregional science communication make its themes accessible to academic and non-academic audiences through different open access publication and communication formats, and other forms of knowledge transfer and translation. MECAM leverages the expertise, existing formats, and networks of its partner institutions in Tunis, Marburg, Sfax, Berlin, Hamburg, and Leipzig. All German partner institutions are members of the Forum Transregionale Studien.

MECAM is directed by a council that consists of its two directors, Khaled Kchir (Université de Tunis) and Rachid Ouaisa (Philipps-Universität Marburg) and ten other members: Fadma Aït Mous (Hassan II University of Casablanca), André Bank (GIGA Hamburg), Anissa Ben Hassine (Université de

Hassine (Université de Tunis), Mohamed Ali Ben Zina (Université de Tunis), Faiez Gargouri (Université de Sfax), Sonja Ganseforth (Universität Leipzig), Jens Hansen (Orient-Institut Beirut), Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien), Friederike Pannewick (Philipps-Universität Marburg/Vorstandsmitglied des Forum Transregionale Studien), Nessim Znaïen (Philipps-Universität Marburg).

Dem internationalen Beirat des MECAM gehören folgende Personen an: Sana Ben Achour (University of Carthage), Karima Dirèche (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Aix-en-Provence), Franziska Dübgen (University of Münster), Sihem Najjar (Université de Manouba), Emma Murphy (School of Government and International Affairs, Durham), Amal Obeidi (University of Benghazi), Fatma Oussedik (University of Algiers), Isabelle Werenfels (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik/Vorsitzende des Beirats).

Das Forum Transregionale Studien ist für kollaborative Arbeitsformate, Netzwerke und Infrastrukturen verantwortlich: Transregional/Traveling Academies, Transregional Workshops, Network and Science Communication.

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#MECAM-Reihe auf dem TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research

Im Rahmen einer editorischen Partnerschaft werden auf dem TRAFO-Blog Beiträge zum übergreifenden Thema des Merian Centre for Advanced Study in the Maghreb (MECAM), »Imagining Futures: Der Umgang mit Ungleichheit« und zu den fünf interdisziplinären Forschungsfeldern publiziert: »Ungleichheit & Mobilität«, »Erinnerung & Gerechtigkeit«, »Ästhetik & kulturelle Praxis«, »Ressourcen & Nachhaltigkeit« und »Identitäten & Überzeugungen«. Diese Themen werden in der #MECAM-Reihe gebündelt.

<https://trafo.hypotheses.org/category/mecamseries>

Tunis), Mohamed Ali Ben Zina (Université de Tunis), Faiez Gargouri (Université de Sfax), Sonja Ganseforth (Universität Leipzig), Jens Hanssen (Orient-Institut Beirut), Georges Khalil (Forum Transregionale Studien), Friederike Pannewick (Philipps-Universität Marburg/member of the board of the Forum Transregionale Studien), and Nessim Znaïen (Philipps-Universität Marburg).

The Advisory Board of MECAM is chaired by Isabelle Werenfels (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) and includes Sana Ben Achour (University of Carthage), Karima Dirèche (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Aix-en-Provence), Franziska Dübgen (Universität Münster), Sihem Najar (Université de Manouba), Emma Murphy (School of Government and International Affairs, Durham), Amal Obeidi (University of Benghazi), Fatma Oussedik (University of Algiers).

The Forum Transregionale Studien is responsible for transregional science communication and collaborative work formats, networks, and infrastructures.

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#MECAM Series at TRAFO – Blog for Transregional Research

The blog series features contributions to the overarching theme of the Merian Centre for Advanced Study in the Maghreb (MECAM), “Imagining Futures: Dealing with Disparity” and to the five Interdisciplinary Research Fields: “Inequality & Mobility”, “Memory & Justice”, “Aesthetics & Cultural Practice”, “Resources & Sustainability”, and “Identities & Beliefs”. These themes are the threads of the #MECAM series and have been developed/tested during the first two years of MECAM’s work by five interdisciplinary research groups.

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