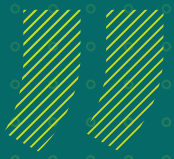
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

REPORT 2020–2022



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MAX PLANCK

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

DIRECTORS

Marie-Claire Foblets (Managing Director until 1/2021): Department 'Law & Anthropology'
Ursula Rao (since 4/2020) (Managing Director since 2/2021): Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'
Biao Xiang (since 4/2020 part-time, since 9/2021 full-time): Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Chris Hann (Director until 8/2021): Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'
Günther Schlee (Director until 7/2019): Department 'Integration and Conflict'

EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC MEMBER

Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo)

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GROUPS

MAX PLANCK FELLOW

Dirk Hanschel: 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context'

HEADS OF MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUPS

Carolin Görzig: 'How 'Terrorists' Learn'
Annika Lems: 'Alpine Histories of Global Change'
Maria Sapignoli (until 3/2021): 'Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice'

HEAD OF OTTO HAHN RESEARCH GROUP

Anaïs Ménard (since 5/2022): 'Gender, Migration und Social Mobility'

HEADS OF EMMY NOETHER RESEARCH GROUPS (FUNDED BY DFG)

Marek Mikuš: 'Peripheral Debt'
Lukas Ley (since 1/2022): 'Sand – The Future of Coastal Cities in the Indian Ocean'

HEADS OF RESEARCH GROUPS WITHIN DEPARTMENTS

Christoph Brumann: 'Urban Anthropology'
Kirsten W. Endres: 'The Political and Economic Anthropology of Southeast Asia'
Jacqueline Knörr: 'Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast'
Luc Leboeuf (since 2/2020): 'Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime (VULNER, EU Horizon 2020 project)'
Farrah Raza (since 9/2020): Minerva Fast Track Group 'The Ethics of Exchange'
Valérie Rosoux (since 3/2022): Max Planck Law Fellow Group 'Memory and Transitional Justice'
Dittmar Schorkowitz (until 6/2022): 'Historical Anthropology'

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

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Hui Wang (Tsinghua University, Beijing, China)

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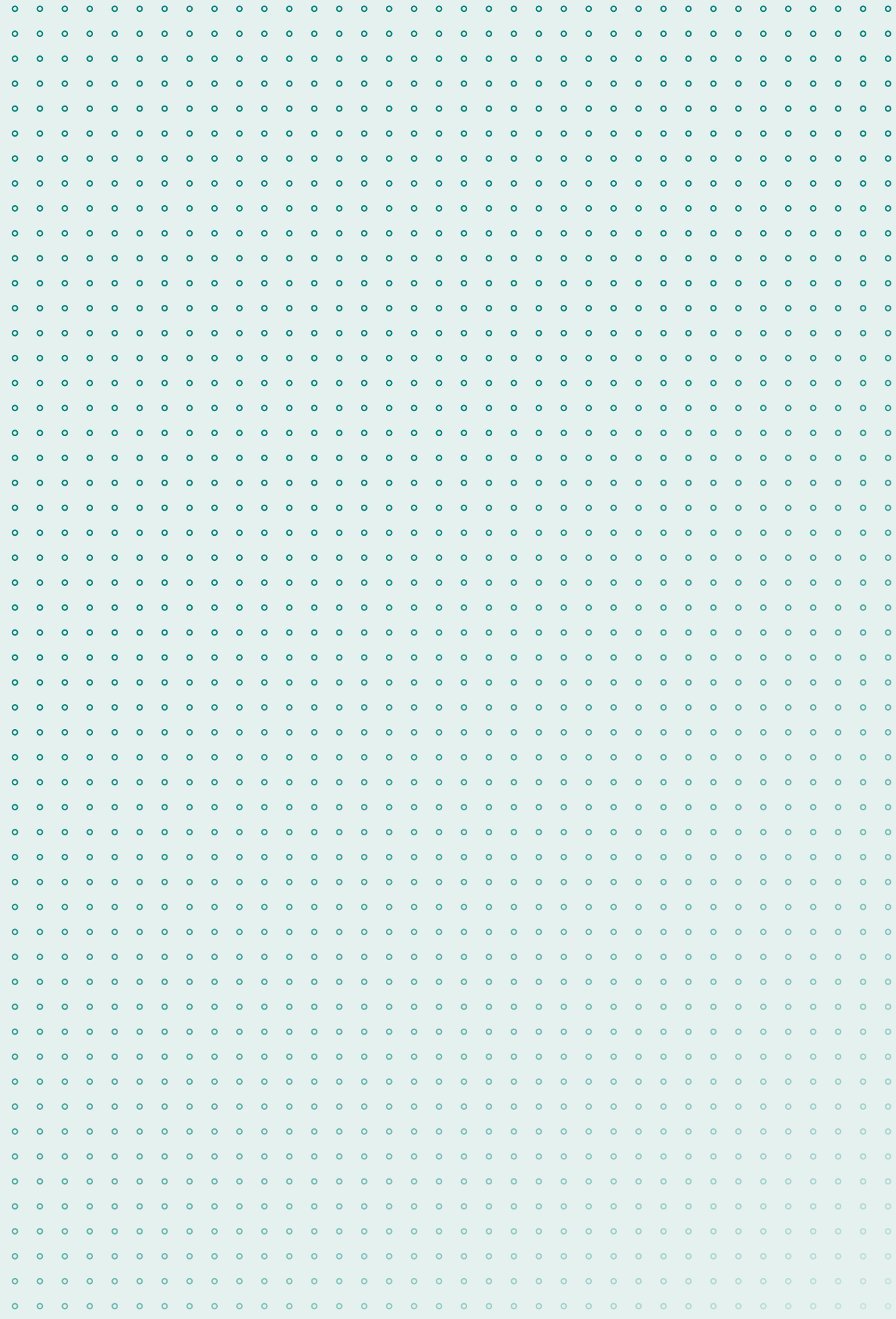
Johann Michael Möller
Satenik Roth (Vice Chair of the Board)
Wolfgang Stockert
Jan-Hinrich Suhr
Heinrich Wahlen



ORGANIZATION CHART

as of December 2022

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/KOLLEGIUM

MARIE-CLAIRE FOBLETS
Director

- **Luc Leboeuf**
  Head of Research Group (VULNER)
- **Farrah Raza**
  Head of Minerva Fast Track Group
- **Valérie Rosoux**
  Max Planck Law Fellow
- **Dittmar Schorkowitz**
  Head of Research Group (until 06/2022)

URSULA RAO
Director
(Managing Director)

- **Jacqueline Knörr**
  Head of Research Group
- **Ameyu Godesso Roro**
  Head of Max Planck Partner Group

BIAO XIANG
Director

- **Christoph Brumann**
  Head of Research Group
- **Kirsten W. Endres**
  Head of Research Group

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH GROUPS

- **Dirk Hanschel**
  Max Planck Fellow
- **Carolin Görzig**
  Head of Max Planck Research Group
- **Annika Lems**
  Head of Max Planck Research Group
- **Maria Sapignoli**
  Head of Max Planck Research Group (until 03/2021)
- **Lukas Ley**
  Head of Emmy Noether Research Group
- **Marek Mikuš**
  Head of Emmy Noether Research Group
- **Anaïs Ménard**
  Head of Otto Hahn Research Group

- **Thomas Hylland Eriksen**
  External Scientific Member
- **Chris Hann**
  Director emeritus (Director until 08/2021)
- **Günther Schlee**
  Director emeritus

SERVICE GROUPS

IT

Sebastian Ehser
Head of IT

ADMINISTRATION

Janka Diallo
Head of Administration
Head of Personnel Unit

Ines Stade
Head of Finance Unit

RESEARCH COORDINATION

Bettina Mann
Research Coordinator

LIBRARY
Anja Neuner
Head Librarian

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Stefan Schwendtner
Press and Public Relations

Carlo Diesterbeck-Roll
Multimedia Editor

PREFACE

Managing Director:
URSULA RAO

Over the past three years, the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (MPI) has undergone significant development following the appointment of Biao Xiang and Ursula Rao as new Directors and the establishment of their respective Departments, 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' and 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'. They complement the third Department, 'Law & Anthropology', which continues its excellent work under the leadership of Marie-Claire Foblets. Retired Founding Directors Günther Schlee and Chris Hann now continue their research as Directors emeriti. Along with the three Departments, the MPI hosts several research groups. Over the past three years we have welcomed the following new teams: The Max Planck Fellow Group 'Just Migration' led by Anuscheh Farahat, the Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among West African Women in Europe' led by Anaïs Ménard, the Emmy Noether Group 'SAND – The Future of Coastal Cities in the Indian Ocean' led by Lukas Ley, and the Max Planck Law Fellow Group 'Memory and Transitional Justice' led by Valérie Rosoux.

This volume provides a comprehensive report of all the MPI's activities in the years 2020–2022 and is divided into five sections. Section I summarizes the work of the three current Departments and their respective Research Groups, while Section II recapitulates the work of the Directors emeriti. In Section III, the Independent Research Groups and Max Planck Fellow Group present their ongoing work and results, and in Section IV we present lists of scientific activities. Finally, Section V provides an overview of institutional services, outlines new developments in the organization of the administration and IT, and includes reports on training, cooperation, and institutional support of researchers, multimedia and Open Access as well as an IT and library report and a report on equal opportunities.

This main report volume is accompanied by two additional volumes. The first, "Highlights", features the special achievements of our Departments and Research Groups during the reporting period. The second, "Facts & Figures", presents statistics and charts that give an impression of the development of the Institute as a whole.

The introductory summary that follows highlights new initiatives that we have taken to advance excellent scholarship, create new opportunities for intellectual learning, consolidate research training, ensure transparent communication, and implement the recommendations we received during the previous evaluation.

MISSION STATEMENT – THE MPI AS INTELLECTUAL HUB

The team at the MPI is committed to promoting individual research projects and the careers of the next generation of anthropologists while at the same time investing in transversal thinking and advancing debates in anthropology and beyond. To these ends, the Departments and Research Groups zero in on matters of concern that they have become aware of through attentive listening in their field sites and by following globally connected developments. Contemporary challenges range from climate change to species extinction and health crises and concern the long-term consequences of colonial domination, growing social inequalities, chronic conditions of enmity and war, new geopolitics, and the slow violence of environmental degradation. While these challenges are universal, their effects are patchy and always experienced in specific contexts. Therefore, any attempt to understand or deal with them must necessarily be grounded in locality and local perspectives. Research at the MPI brings together scholars working in anthropology and adjacent disciplines who use the method of in-depth fieldwork to produce nuanced understandings of key problems and show how these are reflected, experienced, and addressed in specific lifeworlds. We study the contestations organizing local approaches, including the numerous ways in which people understand and

deal with complexity. This includes but is not limited to questions such as: What is a resource and how should it be treated and distributed? What is justice and how can collectives arrive at a fair and adequate treatment of all its members? How do we deal with the outcomes of scientific revolutions that change the world, through changing the climate, the biological script of living beings, or the life chances of certain species over others? Conceptually, we focus on key tensions that underscore the making of political forms and shifting political arrangements, as people are caught between individual and collective interests, and as they long for security, freedom, and prosperity while simultaneously fearing the depletion of resources. We trace these developments and their consequences for survival on a wounded planet.

INSTITUTIONAL SETUP, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND EVALUATION

As of 2022, the MPI is home to 105 staff researchers and 73 associated researchers located within three Departments and six Independent Research Groups. They are supported by a 35-member-strong service team comprising research coordination, core administration, IT, library, media and communication, secretarial support, and house technicians. The Directors of Departments and Heads of Research Groups are responsible for the academic output of their teams and mentoring of junior scholars, and they are accountable for the use of funds in their areas of responsibility. The intellectual development of all academic employees is fostered through collegial exchange, the Transversal Thinking format, thematic workshops, the guest programme, and internal mentoring and training. In addition, we are in the process of founding a new International Max Planck Research School on "Global Multiplicity" to support doctoral education.

The success the MPI's endeavours is evidenced by the regular evaluations of the previous Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Their reports have attested that the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology has been a world leader in the discipline for many years and an important hub for the training of the next generation of scholars. Our researchers publish in top-ranked journals and with leading publishers, have received numerous awards, and participate actively in important disciplinary bodies, such as editorial boards of journals, or as office holders in disciplinary organizations. Leading employees of the MPI are appointed members in important national bodies of science management (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [German Research Foundation], Wissenschaftsrat [German Science Council]) and advise the government and public bodies (legal advice in the field of migration, training for judges).

Notwithstanding these many achievements, there are areas that require attention and have room for improvement. Responding to the feedback of the last SAB report, we have used the last three years to create clearer decision-making processes, streamline workflows, invest in administrative capacity, and clarify research ethics procedures. We are beginning to update our aging IT infrastructure and investing in multimedia outputs. Furthermore, we see opportunities to improve in the areas of interdepartmental cooperation, doctoral training, and research data management.

SCHOLARLY COLLABORATION, JOINT DECISION-MAKING, AND TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION

The MPI has always had particularly robust structures for scientific collaboration and comparative thinking within individual Departments and Research Groups. The current team is continuing this good practice and is also significantly expanding cooperation between the Departments and Research Groups, thus providing additional opportunities for dialogue, collective learning, and synergies. To this end, the three Departments are organizing an ongoing event series called "Transversal Thinking" to provide researchers with opportunities to identify overlaps in their interests, develop shared concerns, and learn from each other. The Departments are working together to host prominent anthropologists (for example, Ghassan Hage), jointly apply for prestigious awards (Humboldt Award) and funding for Max Planck Fellow Groups (Anuscheh Farahat), and they are collaborating to establish a graduate research school along with three university partners (IMPRS "Global Multiplicity"). In addition, the MPI organizes interdepartmental events dedicated to academic training and career development (e.g., the "Writer's Corner"; workshops on turning a dissertation into a book or applying for funds for a research group; seminars on alternative career paths, research ethics, and Open Access publishing) and to managing critical situations (workshops on fieldwork during the pandemic, occupational health measures, and mobile working opportunities). As before, and once COVID restriction were lifted, the Institute once again holds Christmas and summer parties and organizes an annual excursion.

Institutions the size of the MPI need robust structures for decision-making, consensus-building, and dealing with grievances. We have used this time of transition to update the Institute's By-Laws and the Standards of Operation Procedure. These provide a framework for transparent and fair decision-making. Four consultative processes are of prime importance for in-house coordination. First, the five-member Board of Directors (three Directors, Head of Research Coordination, Head of Administration) meets monthly and decides on the overall governance of the MPI. Second, the Board's work is accompanied by discussions in the Extended Collegium, which meets

three times a year and has established several working groups to support necessary transformations (Research Ethics, Sustainability, Research Data Management). Members of the Extended Collegium are the Directors, all Heads of Research Groups, and heads of service teams (administration, IT, research coordination) as well as one representative of the media team. A representative of the Employee Representative Council (ERC) and the Gender Equality Officer attend the Extended Collegium as permanent guests and are thus always informed about current processes. Third, team leaders of the service area meet regularly among themselves, consult with their teams in team meetings, and consult with the Managing Director at least once a month. Fourth, the Institute's ERC meets on a weekly basis to discuss the concerns of employees. Once a year we organize an Institute's Assembly. In case of grievances, employees can obtain support from the Gender Equality Officer, the PhD Officer, the Ombudsperson, the Employee Representative Council, and the Scientific Representative of the MPI at the Human Sciences Section of the MPS.

To ensure that all information is available equally to all employees, we provide two main resources: the MPI **Intranet** and the MPI **Handbook**. Both information sources have a long history. However, we are now in the process of updating them, to provide prompt, transparent, and timely information about all rules, regulations, opportunities, and sources of help. First, the new Intranet – programmed by our in-house programmer – will also be fully accessible from outside the building. Second, the MPI Handbook has moved from being a printed book to becoming an online resource containing structured, comprehensive, and detailed information targeted at new and established colleagues alike. It will include information on most important regulations and guidelines, opportunities and funding rules, as well as useful tips for living in Halle and Germany more generally. It will also provide necessary forms and quick and easy access to emergency contacts and procedures.

COLLABORATION IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

The MPI is embedded in a network of collaborations globally, as is apparent from the report as well as the graphics in the "Fact & Figures" volume. Along with our international partnerships, we invest in good neighbourly relations with academic institutions in Germany, especially the nearby universities. Following the tradition established by leading MPI colleagues in the past, and as a way to continue and expand the productive partnerships, the new Directors have been appointed Honorary Professors at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Xiang, Rao) and Leipzig University (Rao). This provides a solid basis for continuing the local collaboration in doctoral education, which has a twenty-year history.

In this regard, we are happy to have acquired funds to establish an International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) "Global Multiplicity" in collaboration with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Leipzig University, and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Over the next years, together with our partners, we will invest in forming a unique centre for graduate education in globally oriented, human-centred research on the human condition, which we plan to gradually expand to a size of 40 to 50 graduate students and 25 to 30 faculty. The IMPRS will officially open in October 2023 and will admit all current and future MPI doctoral students. In doing so, along with training the next generation of scholars, the school will offer necessary support for first-time supervisors, such as researchers who have successfully applied for a Minerva Fast Track programme or have been awarded an ERC Starting Grant, an Emmy Noether Group, or similar.

NEW MULTIMEDIA TEAM

Public relations work is becoming increasingly important. It provides evidence of our work and communicates important results to the wider public. To expand the range of our communication tools, we have invested in digital communication and an MPI video channel (hosted on YouTube). With the funds received by Biao Xiang and Ursula Rao as part of their job negotiations, the MPI has been able to purchase modern media equipment, improve media facilities, especially in the main seminar room, and create a new position for a full-time Multimedia Editor. In total, two permanent staff members – the Multimedia Editor and the Press and Public Relations Manager – help researchers produce media content and promote their work. Their work is complemented by temporary employees who support departmental projects with the production on databases and media content. In the "Highlights" volume, we report in detail about these projects – VULNER (Law & Anthropology), "Ticketless Travellers" (Anthropology of Politics and Governance), and "MoLab" (Anthropology of Economic Experimentation). In the main report's section on Multimedia and in the "Fact & Figures" volume, we provide detailed information about the MPI YouTube channel and other social and outreach activities.

UPDATING GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The MPI takes great pride in its efficient and very responsive service departments, which provide a solid foundation for supporting both research and researchers. Although the overall administrative structure is extremely sound, we have found that against a background of increasing differentiation and professionalization of many work processes combined with increased demands, especially due to new legal requirements, we have experienced

staff capacity problems. We have therefore used the change in leadership to review institutional work processes and optimize them by refocusing core competencies. As part of a restructuring process in middle management, we have established the new positions of Head of Finance and Head of Human Resources in the administration and recruited an experienced team leader to head the IT department. This ensures that we will continue to be able to address the steadily increasing number of complex issues with a high level of expertise and foresight. We have also invested in staff training, re-evaluated the qualifications of administrative members, and have been able to offer internal promotions to staff who have provided excellent support to the MPI over many years and undergone continuous professional development. Our employees appreciate opportunities for training, identify with their teams, and take pride in their work. We see opportunities for improvement in the areas of communication between the different service teams, stress reduction, and the frequency with which employees receive feedback on their work.

Overall, the last three years have been a time of transition, during which old systems and structures have been evaluated and new ones established. This process has encompassed all aspects of the Institute's work, from research, to training and supervision, public outreach, administration, and governance structures. We are confident that the effort we have devoted to this conscious and systematic process of restructuring and renewal will bear fruit in the years to come.

SECTION 1

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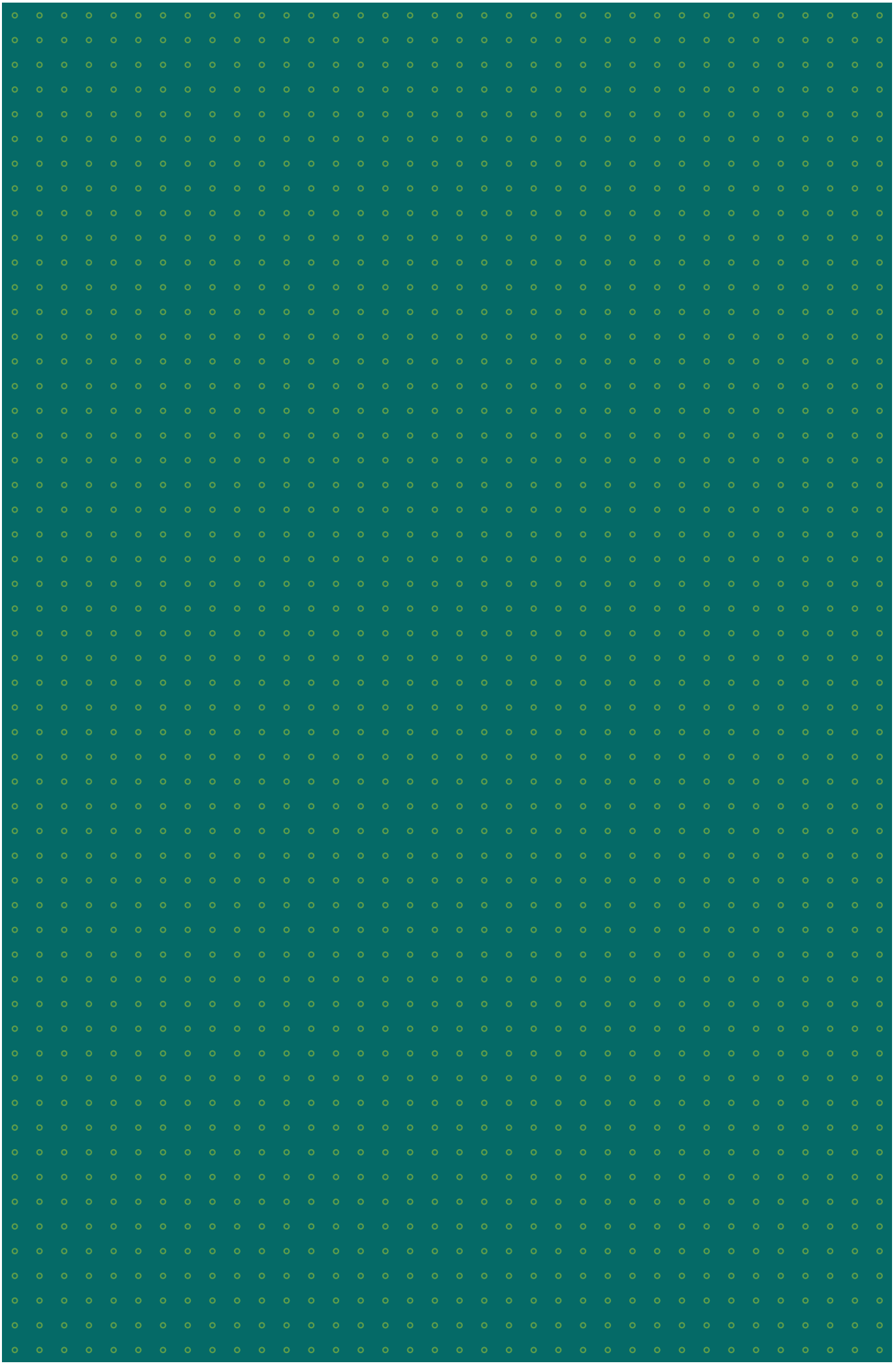

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

DIRECTOR

Marie-Claire Foblets

SENIOR SCIENTIFIC STAFF

Katia Bianchini
Brian Donahoe
Dittmar Schorkowitz (until 6/2022)
Bertram Turner
Larissa Vetters

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Hatem Elliesie
Alice Margaria
Sophie Nakueira (funded by EU project VULNER since 2/2020)
Eugenia Relaño Pastor (until 4/2021)
Maria Sapignoli (Max Planck Research Group 'Alming Toward the Future' until 3/2021)
Kathrin Seidel (3/2021 – 8/2022)
Federica Sona

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

Sophie Andreetta (until 8/2020)
Maya Avis (Max Planck Research Group Sapignoli since 8/2020)
Cengiz Barskanmaz (until 12/2020)
Jonathan Bernaerts (since 7/2020)
Rodrigo Carlos Céspedes (until 8/2021)
Jessika Eichler (funded by Thyssen Foundation until 5/2021)
Mahmoud Jaraba (until 12/2020)
Felix-Anselm van Lier (until 3/2021)
Daniel Marciniak (Max Planck Research Group Sapignoli 8/2020 – 6/2022)
Mariana Monteiro de Matos
Stefano Osella (until 8/2022)
Luisa Piart (since 2/2019, funded by Volkswagen Foundation 7/2021 – 6/2022)
Mahabat Sadyrbek (until 12/2020)
Sajjad Safaei (since 6/2020)
Luisa Schneider (until 10/2020)
Timm Sureau (funded by DFG SFB 1171 since 1/2020)
Vishal Vora (until 11/2020)
Zeynep Yanaşmayan (until 4/2021)

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Beate Anam (until 7/2022)
Pierre Druart (Max Planck Law Fellow Group since 2/2022)
Kadir Eryılmaz
Inge Fiedler (Minerva Research Group Raza since 2/2021)
Mustapha Hadji (Max Planck Law Fellow Group Rosoux since 4/2022)
Kutaiba Kaidouha
Margarita Lipatova (until 1/2022)
Afrooz Maghzi Najafabadi (until 12/2021)
Faris Nasrallah (until 9/2021)
Maria Nikolova
Frederike Nun
Abdelghafar Salim
Jodie White (Minerva Research Group Raza since 11/2022)

ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Marie Courtoy (UCLouvain and KULeuven, Belgium)
Jeanise Dalli (University of Malta)
Harika Dauth
Michelle Flynn
Waseem Naser

COMPLETED PHDS

Jonathan Bernaerts (6/2020)
Sirin Rahel Knecht (3/2022)
Laura Lambert (12/2022)
Annette Mehlhorn (10/2022)
Stefan Millar (7/2022)
Markus Vollert (4/2021)

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS, RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

Sophie Andreetta (FRS-FNRS research fellow, University of Liège) (since 9/2020)
Keebet von Benda-Beckmann († 5 October 2022)
Petra Burai (Public Sector Integrity Division, OECD)
Imen Gallala-Arndt
Deema Kaneff (University of Birmingham, UK) (since 9/2021)
Kalindi Kokal (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India) (until 6/2021)
Munkh-Erdene Lhamsuren (National University of Mongolia) (since 1/2021)
Dominik Müller (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany)
Ioan-Mihai Popa (Communal Integration Centre, Krefeld, Germany)
Martin Ramstedt (Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Spain)
Eugenia Relaño Pastor (Complutense University in Madrid, Spain) (since 4/2021)
Maria Sapignoli (University of Milan, Italy) (since 4/2021)
Luisa Schneider (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) (since 11/2020)
Tabea Scharrer (Leipzig University, Germany) (since 3/2020)
Katrin Seidel (since 9/2022)
Denis Shedov (University College London, UK) (10/2022 – 12/2022)
André Thiemann (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic)
Han Vermeulen
Olaf Zenker (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany) (until 6/2022)

WRITING-UP FELLOWS

Ana Chirițoiu (Doctoral Student, Central European University, Hungary) (1/2020 – 6/2020)
Gustav Kalm (Doctoral Student, Columbia University, USA) (6/2022 – 8/2022)
Aino Korvensyrjä (Doctoral Student, University of Helsinki, Finland) (3/2022 – 6/2022)
Mert Pekşen (Doctoral Student, City University of New York, USA) (9/2020 – 12/2020)
Denis Shedov (3/2022 – 9/2022)
David Thompson (Doctoral Student, University of California, Berkeley, USA) (1/2020 – 5/2020)

GUESTS

Dany Carnassale (EU project VULNER, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy) (9/2022 – 12/2022)
Claudia Cavallari (Doctoral Student, University of Urbino, Italy) (5/2022 – 7/2022)
Zoé Crine (Doctoral Student, EU project VULNER, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium) (3/2022 – 5/2022)
Alexander Ganepola (Institute for Minority Rights, Bozen, Italy) (11/2020)
Ian Kalman (Fulbright University Vietnam) (1/2020)
Sumit Sonkar (funded by the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD 2/2022 – 7/2022)

RESEARCH GROUPS WITH MAX PLANCK FUNDING

ANTHROPOLOGY OF AI IN POLICING AND JUSTICE
Maria Sapignoli (Head of Group)
Maya Avis (Postdoctoral Researcher)
Daniel Marciniak (Postdoctoral Researcher)

MINERVA RESEARCH GROUP: THE ETHICS OF EXCHANGE: THE REGULATION OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION
Farrah Raza (Head of Group)
Inge Fiedler (PhD Candidate)
Jodie White (PhD Candidate)

MEMORY AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
Valérie Rosoux (Head of Group)
Pierre Druart (PhD Candidate)
Mustapha Hadji (PhD Candidate)

CONFLICT REGULATION IN GERMANY'S PLURAL SOCIETY
Hatem Elliesie (Group Leader)
Cengiz Barskanmaz (Postdoctoral Researcher)
Mahmoud Jaraba (Postdoctoral Researcher)
Mahabat Sadyrbek (Postdoctoral Researcher)

SCHARIA IN GENUIN EUROPÄISCHEN SETTINGS: KONNEX MUSLIMISCHER LEBENSPRAXIS ZU ISLAMISCHER NORMATIVITÄT
Hatem Elliesie (Group Leader)
Beate Anam (PhD Candidate)
Abdelghafar Salim (PhD Candidate)

THE CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION, INTEGRATION, AND EXCLUSION (WIMI)
Zeynep Yanaşmayan (Project Coordinator)
Luc Leboeuf (Postdoctoral Researcher)

THE TECHNICISATION OF EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION
Timm Sureau (Head of Group)
Tabea Scharrer (Postdoctoral Researcher)
Laura Lambert (PhD Candidate)
Margarita Lipatova (PhD Candidate)
Stefan Millar (PhD Candidate)

HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Dittmar Schorkowitz (Head of Group)

RESEARCH GROUPS WITH THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

VULNERABILITIES UNDER THE GLOBAL PROTECTION REGIME (VULNER)
Luc Leboeuf (Head of Group, Project Coordinator)
Sophie Nakueira (Postdoctoral Researcher)

NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE: SEAFARERS AS FRONTLINE WORKERS IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND BEYOND
Luisa Piart (PI)

SENTIMENTS OF BUREAUCRACIES: AFFECTIVE DYNAMICS IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF GERMAN IMMIGRATION MANAGEMENT
Larissa Vetters and Olaf Zenker (Co PIs)
Timm Sureau (Postdoctoral Researcher)
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INTRODUCTION

Director of Department:
MARIE-CLAIRE FOBLETS

This brief introduction seeks to situate the activities organized and/or supported by the Department 'Law & Anthropology' during the 2020–2022 period with a view to specifying their role and importance for the Department's research programme. This mandate has remained the same since the launch of the Department in 2012, but over the years the programme has expanded considerably, with a diversification of both the themes covered and the partnerships engaged in, all of which open up new perspectives and enrich the life of the Department.

The introduction is distributed over three distinct but complementary parts that, together, show both the diversity and the internal logic that link the Department's research goals. The first part briefly recalls how the Department's research programme straddles law and social and cultural anthropology; in the second part, we explain how various core activities that occupied us during the reporting period fit into the Department's interdisciplinary research agenda; finally, in the third part, we show how the Department has continued to actively support research in the field of law and anthropology more broadly speaking. This includes individual research projects, collective projects, and some publication projects in progress. By so doing, the Department has considerably broadened and diversified the spectrum of topics that are addressed under its aegis, leaving to the researchers the responsibility for how they combine law and anthropology, both in their data collection and in their analyses.

The garden and buildings of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the MPI in Halle – with Eddy Walrave's sculpture "La traversée—Die Überquerung" in the foreground.

Part I: The Overall Research Programme of the Department

As already mentioned in the previous activity reports (2012–13, 2014–16, and 2017–19), a distinctive feature of the Department's research programme is the commitment to bringing together legal scholars and social and cultural anthropologists on one team to explore the different ways in which the two disciplines can join forces to provide richer, more sophisticated analyses of the pressing issues under study. With the intensification of communication and exchanges among and across communities and cultures worldwide, making ethnographic data available to those who apply the law in concrete cases is becoming a more useful and urgent task than ever before. Ethnographic baseline studies can improve the understanding of highly complex processes of adaptation (by individuals and/or communities) to new living conditions, and may offer insights that cannot be gained in any other way. Minority protection, environmental deterioration, forcible relocation of entire populations, the need for cultural expertise in court, the proliferation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms – these are just a few illustrations of concrete cases where anthropologists and lawyers can no doubt benefit from intensified collaboration.

There is no unanimity, however, and certainly not among anthropologists, regarding the question of applying anthropological knowledge. Their reservations are both methodological and ethical in nature, and publications on these issues are numerous. Yet the needs are there, and it is precisely for that reason that the Department aims to offer a prominent forum for critical reflection on and discussion of both the role of anthropologists who do consultancy work and the constraints lawyers are facing when drawing on insights gained from anthropology. The emergent situation in which consultancy work by anthropologists is conducted today requires a sharpening of the understanding of specific professional matters – theoretical, ethical, and material – that accompany some forms of consultancy work. These are matters of great interest to the Department, given the problems they raise for every anthropologist who engages in legal issues as well as for lawyers facing the difficulty of drawing on anthropological knowledge, and can only be effectively addressed if they are undergirded by solid, basic research.

Over the years, our efforts to explore the benefits of intensified collaboration between anthropology and law have systematically gained importance in the Department's research programme, not only in the hiring of researchers, but also in the establishment of collaborative networks, the organization of workshops and meetings and, last but not least, in our publication policy, as we briefly sketch out below.

Part II: Law and Anthropology: Connecting Research to Legal Practice

A central component of the Department's activities is the connection of its research activities to legal practice. The aim is twofold: first, to ensure that the research supported by the Department is not disconnected from questions that occupy legal practitioners as they go about elaborating solutions and dispensing justice; second, to explore the extent to which a truly interdisciplinary collaboration between law, both in its doctrinal and applied dimensions, and expertise acquired in social and cultural anthropology can offer insights into questions of shared interest.

Below we highlight three main pillars of our efforts that go in this direction: first, our collaboration with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN); second, the CUREDI project; and third, two major collective publications that came out during the reporting period.

COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING NETWORK

The Department's collaborative engagement with the judiciary began in 2013 with a survey conducted under the aegis of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ). Some 100 judges from 14 European countries responded, providing information on their experiences with adjudicating multicultural conflicts. In January 2015, the ENCJ convened a meeting, "Cultural Diversity and the Judiciary in Europe", which brought together 35 judges, lawyers, and legal scholars from 11 European countries to discuss the survey results. One of the themes emerging from these discussions, namely, the need for targeted training on issues of cultural, religious, and social diversity, was subsequently taken up by the EJTN. At their request, the Department developed a one-and-a-half-day training module in which teams of trainers consisting of a legal expert, an anthropologist, and a facilitator guided a group of 40–45 judges from various EU Member States through a discussion of sample cases in areas such as family law, asylum law, criminal law, and labour law. This module was offered for the first time in November 2018 in Wiesbaden and is now offered on an annual basis as part of the EJTN's training programme. The first training session in the 2020–2022 reporting period was held in November 2020 (online due to COVID-19). On 18–19 November 2021, a second training session was held in Barcelona and received such overwhelmingly positive evaluations from participating judges that the 2022 training course was again held in Barcelona (15–16 September 2022).

Two related initiatives have developed out of these training modules: a study visit by judges to our institute in Halle, and plans to publish, under the aegis of the European Commission, a casebook with judgments from across EU jurisdictions addressing cultural and religious diversity. Both initiatives have met with strong financial and logistic support from the EJTN.

On 22–26 March 2021, the first one-week study visit was held (online due to COVID-19). The topic was "Family Law and Cultural/Religious Diversity in Contemporary Europe", with the programme coordinated by Alice Margaria. The five participating judges were nominated by the Member States' ministries of justice and underwent a rigorous selection process to ensure that their interests and profiles fit with the topic. On 25–29 April 2022, the Department hosted the second study visit, a face-to-face meeting in Halle with 11 judges (the maximum number allowed by the EJTN) from 9 EU Member States. These study visits offer a unique forum for in-depth exchange and collaboration between members of the Department (legal scholars and anthropologists) and legal practitioners.

In a similar vein, the Department is currently coordinating a casebook that will contain a selection of judgments from EU Member States involving issues of cultural and religious diversity. Each judgment is accompanied by two commentaries, one from a legal scholar or practitioner and one from an anthropologist with expertise on the topic. While the casebook is intended primarily for legal practitioners and will be distributed through the EJTN, commentators are also encouraged to speak to a wider academic audience; the aim is for the casebook to foster further debate on the role of judiciaries in the governance of multicultural societies in Europe.

To date, no fewer than 23 Department members and associates have been involved in these various forms of collaboration with the EJTN, including (in alphabetical order): Imad Alsoos, Beate Anam, Sophie Andreetta, Jonathan Bernaerts, Katia Bianchini, Ana Chiriţoiu, Jeanise Dalli, Harika Dauth, Michelle Flynn, Imen Gallala-Arndt, Alice Margaria, Mariana Monteiro de Matos, Waseem Naser, Faris Nasrallah, Maria Nikolova, Frederike Nun, Stefano Osella, Eugenia Relaño Pastor, Clara Rigoni, Abdelghafar Salim, Fed-

erica Sona, Larissa Vetters, and Markus Vollert. They have helped set up working groups on a particular case or field of law for the training sessions, provided insights from their ethnographic fieldwork, developed the programme for the study visits, or chosen topics and proposed judgments for the casebook. This engagement has been productive in terms of generating new insights for their individual research projects and enriching as a professional experience beyond a strictly academic environment.

THE CUREDI PROJECT: CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

The second collaborative engagement of the Department with legal practice and the judiciary is the project "Cultural and Religious Diversity under State Law across the European Union" (CUREDI), a web-based repository of data having to do with how cultural and religious diversity is granted recognition within the framework of the domestic legal orders of EU Member States (see https://www.eth.mpg.de/5764987/CUREDI-Database). CUREDI is built on a network of scientific research teams with established interest and expertise in the relevant issues and jurisdictions. To date, the project counts 15 institutional partners whose expertise covers 10 countries. The medium-term ambition is to extend the project to cover all the jurisdictions of the EU Member States. A long-term funding application is being prepared and will be submitted to the Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften in autumn 2023; the application has already passed the first stage in the selection process and is supported by two academies: the Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften and the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

CUREDI compiles in a standardized and searchable format data drawn from legislation, case law, and various types of regulations and administrative practices in EU Member States, with a view to documenting the legal reasoning and showing how domestic legal orders are gradually adapting to the reality of increasing cultural and religious diversity and the demands for recognition that come with it. The information focuses on the arguments used – in a court decision, a bill, an administrative decision, etc. – to justify granting or, on the contrary, rejecting a claim of recognition of minority rights. To the extent possible, reference is also made to the empirical evidence that was drawn upon by the legislators or judges (e.g., recourse to expert witnesses) to reach the given outcome.

Ultimately, CUREDI aims to offer an interactive, searchable, and fully indexed compendium of case law, legislation, administrative policies, international instruments, and other materials on cultural and religious diversity as it is addressed within domestic jurisdictions throughout Europe. The hope is that the CUREDI database will enable researchers, legal experts, judges, and other professionals charged with ruling on diversity across the EU to easily locate accurate and relevant information, thereby helping them bring greater nuance into their legal reasoning about diversity issues and support their arguments with better, more accessible, more comprehensive data.

The more theoretical aspect of the project involves analyses of legal reasoning and cross-jurisdictional comparisons by trained legal scholars and anthropologists. The first major compilation of such detailed commentaries is currently in preparation and will appear in our Law & Anthropology series (see below). The edited volume will contain 12 chapters, all written by CUREDI project partners, and is intended to demonstrate some of the main challenges to legal

reasoning that come with the responsibility judges bear to find viable solutions to complex and highly sensitive situations involving religious and cultural diversity within contemporary European societies.

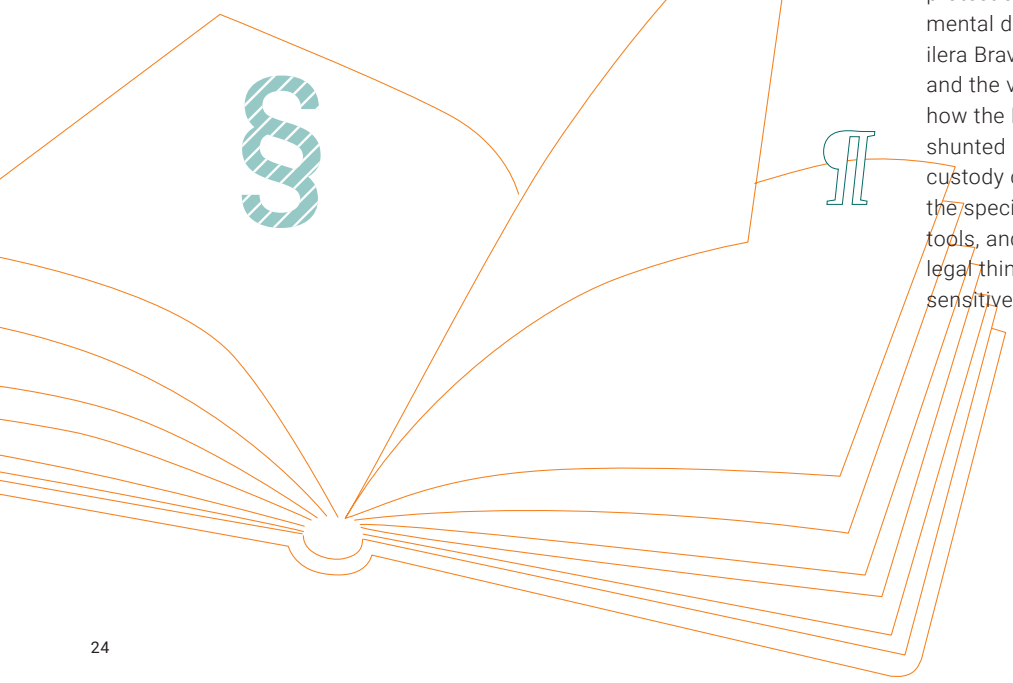
TWO MAJOR COLLECTIVE PUBLICATIONS

The 'Law & Anthropology' Department's more applied efforts, as detailed in the two previous sections, highlight the importance of the practical application of anthropological research in terms of policy, legislation, and legal reasoning, but the lifeblood of any institution conducting basic research is publications. Of the many publications that have come out of the Department in the 2020–2022 reporting period, we would like to draw attention to two that we feel reflect particularly well not only the Department's efforts to integrate law and anthropology, but also its work towards theorizing the relationship between the two disciplines.

First is *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology*, a project that is closely associated with the innovative research programme of the Department, yet goes beyond it to provide a crucial service to the discipline more generally. The *Handbook* was initiated and supported financially and organizationally by the Department, and counts no fewer than 20 members and close associates of the Department among its 60 authors, including the four editors: Marie-Claire Foblets (Director of the Department), Maria Sapignoli (co-operation partner and former postdoctoral researcher), and Mark Goodale and Olaf Zenker (both members of the Department's Consultative Committee).

The *Handbook* is a ground-breaking collection of 50 essays that provides an original and forward-looking overview of the field at a time when interest in legal anthropological research is both growing and becoming more diffuse. It showcases how legal scholars and anthropologists join forces to collaborate in such key spheres as immigration and asylum processes, international justice forums, debates over cultural heritage, law and artificial intelligence, and the writing of new national constitutions, among many others. Just as importantly, the *Handbook* lays out a new framework for the field of law and anthropology that identifies and conceptualizes its most promising areas of innovation and sociolegal relevance, while also acknowledging its points of tension, open questions, and areas of future development.

The *second* publication to be highlighted here is smaller in scale, yet has the same underlying inspiration and motivation. It is a special issue of the highly acclaimed *German Law Journal* titled "Breaching the Boundaries of Law and Anthropology: New Pathways for Legal Research", and was guest edited by Marie-Claire Foblets and two members of the Department's Consultative Committee (see https://www.eth.mpg.de/3231723/people), Jean-François Gaudreault-DesBiens and Michele Graziadei. The introduction by the guest editors emphasizes the trials, tribulations, and rewards of this interdisciplinary venture. This is followed by seven original articles, all written by legal scholars who are either members of the Department or otherwise closely associated with it, that explain how they make use of the conceptual and methodological toolbox that anthropology has to offer to enhance their legal thinking, argumentation, and practice. The contributions touch on a wide variety of highly topical issues that are at the heart of the human condition, including recognition of "third-gender" legal rights in Europe (Stefano Osella); witchcraft-related asylum cases in the UK (Katia Bianchini); non-majoritarian language use in administrative interactions in Belgium (Jonathan Bernaerts); migrants' experiences of "vulnerability" (Luc Leboeuf); the potential of mobility as an adaptation strategy in the face of climate change (Marie Courtoy); the failure of "environmental rights" to translate into real protections for communities suffering from environmental degradation (Dirk Hanschel, Mario G. Aguilera Bravo, Bayar Dashpurev, and Abduletif Idris); and the value of the *extended case method* to show how the European Court of Human Rights gradually shunted religion out of the picture in a famous child custody case (Alice Margaria). The ultimate goal of the special issue is to demonstrate that the methods, tools, and data drawn from anthropology can refine legal thinking and help jurists reach more nuanced, sensitive, and just decisions.



Part III: Ensuring Diversity in the Department's Field of Activities

From the Department's inception, one of its overriding concerns has been to develop a research programme that would not be focused exclusively on themes predefined by the Department, but would allow researchers the space to develop their own expertise in the field of law and anthropology while still being surrounded by other ideas, issues, and activities in which they can take an active interest if they so choose. In the 2017–19 report, we wrote:

An abiding effort of the Department […] is to achieve a balance between a focused research programme that gives priority to the development of a particular area of expertise and a broader orientation that links the Department with other topics and areas of the discipline variously known as legal anthropology or the anthropology of law. […]. [D]oing so ensures a degree of diversification in the Department's activities, not only in terms of the topics studied but also in conceptual and theoretical terms. […] [S]uch openness is in line with the logic of supporting a sub-discipline of anthropology that struggles with extremely challenging conditions: the resources available to researchers are often quite limited and the competition for prestigious scientific grants fierce.

We were strongly encouraged by the previous Scientific Advisory Board to *continue* to do so, so as to ensure sufficient diversity in the Department's field of activities.

This report provides brief profiles of all researchers who have been associated with the Department during the reporting period. Taken as a whole, the individual presentations demonstrate the breadth and diversity of the themes under investigation and allow for a better understanding of the richness and the vast potential of the interdisciplinary approach adopted. A majority of these researchers are trained in law, while the rest have degrees in the social sciences and/or humanities, not necessarily in anthropology, but with a particular interest in it. A few are trained in both law and anthropology. Because of the large number and great diversity of researchers within the Department, and their overlapping projects and collaborations, the profiles presented here are not ordered according to theme or content, but rather according to position within the Department, distinguishing between those with permanent positions ("Senior Scientific Staff") and those on limited-term contracts ("Senior Researchers", "Postdoctoral Researchers", "Doctoral Candidates", "Associated Doctoral Candidates", "Research Partners and Associates", "Writing-up Fellows"), and guests.

The Department also goes beyond individual research projects by developing and promoting activities that are intended to provide a broader, long-term framework for collaboration that interested researchers are welcome to join, contribute to, and make part of their training. In the space available in this brief introductory overview, we mention six such activities in particular: 1) the conferences we were able to hold during the period; 2) our Law & Anthropology book series with Routledge; 3) the Anneliese Maier Research Award, granted to Annelise Riles (Northwestern University); 4) the Department's participation in the Max Planck Law Network; 5) the active support the Department provides to researchers, both in applying for competitive research grants and fellowships and in accompanying them once they have taken up their responsibility for such grants or fellowships; and 6) our Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship Programme.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

The period covered by this report largely coincides with the period of the pandemic, which brought the Department's planned conference programme to a complete halt. Making a virtue of necessity, the Department focused on finalizing ongoing projects, for example the edited volumes *(Re)designing Justice for Plural Societies: Opportunities and Pitfalls of Accommodative Law and Practices* (Katayoun Alidadi, Marie-Claire Foblets, and Dominik Müller, eds., Routledge, 2022) and *Law, Islam and Anthropology* (Hatem Elliesie and Marie-Claire Foblets, eds., Routledge, forthcoming). Like everyone else, we had to get comfortable with remote video-conferencing platforms and technologies. One scheduled conference, "Biomedical Practices in the Middle East and Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture", had to be completely redesigned as a series of three successive video gatherings, but the programme remained unchanged. The initial inspiration for this initiative came from several members of the Department (Federica Sona, Stefano Osella, Jeanise Dalli, Alice Margaria, and, more recently, Farrah Raza) whose research addresses the legal and ethical challenges posed by the increasing use of new biomedical technologies. Research has shown that, in practice, the standards developed to regulate biomedical technologies are deeply rooted in Western concepts

of science, medicine, technology, and, ultimately, in Western principles – such as individual autonomy and consent – that are often presumed to be universal. Scientists, policymakers, and bioethicists indeed often assume that, irrespective of place and culture, biomedical technologies are used for similar ends and raise similar legal, bioethical, and moral concerns. The originality of the volume lies in the way the authors, each on the basis of their own work, critically assess this assumption of universality. They show that, with the diversification of ethnic, cultural, and religious identities and groups in the Middle East and Europe and the associated increase in demand for medical services to meet the expectations of patients (and their relatives), it behoves medical professionals and policymakers to be more systematic in the attention they pay to other worldviews, expectations, and beliefs – in short, to the varied societal contexts in which such biomedical technologies are embedded.

The publication that will come out of this series of video-meetings, *Biomedical Practices in the Middle East and Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture* (Federica Sona, Marie-Claire Foblets, Shai Lavi, and Hagai Boas, eds.), will be published in our Law & Anthropology series with Routledge (see below). Marcia Inhorn, Professor of Anthropology at Yale University, has agreed to write the preface.

LAW & ANTHROPOLOGY SERIES (ROUTLEDGE)

With a view to the long-term planning of its academic publications, the Department launched a book series bearing the name of the Department (*Law & Anthropology*), initially with Ashgate and, since the purchase of Ashgate by Routledge, with Routledge. We now have a high-profile, sustainable flagship series that includes monographs as well as edited volumes resulting from workshops and conferences sponsored by the Department. The series features five well-received volumes: *Personal Autonomy in Plural Societies: A Principle and its Paradoxes,* edited by Marie-Claire Foblets, Michele Graziadei, and Alison Dundes Renteln (2018); *State Law, Dispute Processing, and Legal Pluralism: Unspoken Dialogues from Rural India* by Kalindi Kokal (2020); *Normative Spaces and Legal Dynamics in Africa,* edited by Katrin Seidel and Hatem Elliesie (2020); the aforementioned *Redesigning Justice for Plural Societies: Opportunities and Pitfalls of Accommodative Law and Practices* (2022); and *African Witchcraft and Global Asylum-Seeking: Border-Crossing Beliefs* by Katherine Luongo (2023). Several other volumes are in the pipeline. In addition to the abovementioned *Biomedical Practices in the Middle East and Europe* and *Law, Islam and Anthropology*, the edited volumes *The Trials and Triumphs of Teaching Legal Anthropology: Testimonies from around Europe* (Marie-Claire Foblets, Anthony Bradney, and Gordon Woodman, eds.) and *Anthropological Expertise and Legal Practice in Conversation* (Marie-Claire Foblets, Maria Sapignoli, and Brian Donahoe, eds.) are nearing completion, and the first CUREDI volume (see above) is also slated to appear in the series.

The series has also started attracting submissions from scholars outside the Department, with the first volume from an external scholar being Katherine Luongo's 2023 monograph (see above).

THE ANNELIESE MAIER RESEARCH AWARD

In 2018, on the strength of the Department's nomination, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded the Anneliese Maier Research Award to Annelise Riles of Northwestern University. The award recognizes outstanding scholars in the humanities and social sciences and is designed to "promote the internationalisation of the humanities and social sciences in Germany". It comes with a grant of €250,000 for a period of five years to finance research collaboration with partners at German universities and research institutions. The award initially covered the period 2018–22, and in January 2023 was extended for one more year. Annelise Riles is an internationally renowned scholar in both anthropology and legal studies. With insights drawn particularly from her expertise in the fields of human rights protection and financial law, her development of new methodological approaches to law and anthropology will no doubt inspire a new generation of researchers on this side of the Atlantic, including young scholars currently doing ethnographic research on international institutions, the relationship between business and human rights, and the study of activist networks. The collaboration between Professor Riles and the Department contributes to the internationalization of the subject area in Germany. Thanks to the award, in 2021 we were able to organize an international seminar on the theme "Law, Technology and Social Movements". The initiative was a great success, and we are considering organizing a follow-up seminar this year.

PARTICIPATION IN THE MAX PLANCK LAW NETWORK

Max Planck Law was launched in 2017 within the Social Sciences and Humanities Section of the Max Planck Society to enable 10 MPIs active in the field of law to set up joint activities and to allow researchers to intensify contacts across institutes. It has been such a success that the Max Planck Society has recognized Max Planck Law as a faculty in its own right (see https://law.mpg.de), with its own curriculum, exchange agreements with universities abroad (e.g., Cambridge and Melbourne), and an annual conference. In May 2022 the Department held the first

in-person Max Planck Law curriculum event (after pandemic restrictions had been lifted), a two-day course called "Law and Anthropology: Rethinking Normativities, Legal Dynamics, Approaches and Practices". Highlights included the opening address and concluding reflection session by Marie-Claire Foblets and a keynote panel discussion on the topic "The ECtHR between Law and Anthropology", which featured Angelika Nussberger (University of Cologne), who from 2011 to 2020 was the German judge at the Court of Human Rights; Anja Bernstein (formerly of the University at Buffalo School of Law, now at the University of Connecticut School of Law); and Jessica Greenberg (Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign).

Several Department members have also been influential in setting up and/or actively participating in Max Planck Law "initiatives". These are bottom-up, researcher-led thematic working groups on, for example, law and technology (Felix van Lier), law and gender (Maria Nikolova and Alice Margaria), international arbitration (Faris Nasrallah), law in Africa (Hatem Elliesie), and law in Latin America (Dirk Hanschel), that facilitate cooperation and collaboration between researchers across the ten participating MPIs.

Max Planck Law has given many of the Department's members the opportunity to collaborate with researchers from all over the world (within the framework of Max Planck Institutes) and to critically reflect on topics and questions of mutual interest that engage their expertise and responsibility as legal scholars and (future) practitioners.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Department invests a great deal of energy and resources into supporting promising young scholars' applications for research grants and fellowships. In the previous reporting period, the Department supported three such successful applications: Luc Leboeuf for a Horizon 2020 grant ("Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime" [VULNER]); Maria Sapignoli for a Max Planck Research Group ("Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice"), and Farrah Raza in the Minerva Fast-Track Programme ("The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation"). The support offered by the Department includes a thorough review of the proposal, careful language editing of the proposal (if necessary), and mock presentations and interviews to prepare the candidates.

During the current reporting period the Department again successfully supported four additional applications: Valérie Rosoux's proposal for a Max Planck Law Fellowship with the project "Memory and Transitional Justice" (2021–2024), and three projects funded by the Volkswagen Foundation: Luisa Piart's "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond" (2021–2022); Alice Margaria's "Who is the Court for? Bringing the Human (back) into Human Rights Research" (2022–2023); and Mario G. Aguilera Bravo, Dirk Hanschel, and Annette Mehlhorn's "Rights of Nature without Biocultural Rights? Investigating the Conflicting Dimensions of Ecocentrism" (2022–2023).

The Department benefits greatly from these and several other collective projects which, each in its own way, broaden and diversify the research programme of the Department. The projects that were active in the 2020–2022 reporting period are listed below, organized according to the terms of their funding (for the sake of comprehensiveness, the lists include the projects mentioned in the previous paragraph; please excuse the unavoidable repetition). The first category includes eight projects that received additional funding from the Max Planck Society:

- "Anthropology of Artificial Intelligence in Policing and Justice" (Max Planck Independent Research Group; PI: Maria Sapignoli);
- "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation" (Minerva Fact Track Fellowship; PI: Farrah Raza);
- "Memory and Transitional Justice" (Max Planck Law Fellowship, in cooperation with MPI Luxemburg; PI: Valérie Rosoux);
- "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" (fully funded by the Department; Group Leader: Hatem Elliesie);
- "Scharia in genuin europäischen Settings: Konnex muslimischer Lebenspraxis zu Islamischer Normativitäte" (fully funded by the Department; Group Leader: Hatem Elliesie);
- "The Challenges of Migration, Integration and Exclusion" (Coordinator: Zeynep Yanaşmayan);
- "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration" (a legacy of the IMPRS "Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment"; Coordinator: Timm Sureau);
- "Historical Anthropology" (a personal project of Dittmar Schorkowitz, previously affiliated with the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia').

In the second category are projects that were fully funded by third parties:

- "Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime" (VULNER; PI: Luc Leboeuf);
- "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond" (PI: Luisa Piart);
- "Sentiments of Justice: Affective Dynamics in the Digital Transformation of German Immigration Management" (PI: Larissa Vetters).

Separate entries (project descriptions and researcher profiles) for these projects follow the profiles of the Department's researchers.

The Department also encourages researchers to avail themselves of the opportunity to spend time at other research institutions in Germany or abroad, allowing them to return to the Department to complete their contract after doing so. In this way the Department offers young scholars a chance to expand their networks and discover other approaches and research methods without losing their appointment at the Institute. During the reporting period, several researchers have been able to benefit from stays at Harvard (Federica Sona), Cambridge (Kadir Eryilmaz), Oxford (Farrah Raza), and in Germany at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg in Bonn (Stefano Osella) and the University of Bayreuth (Alice Margaria and Tabea Scharrer). They have, without exception, returned to the Department enriched, refreshed, and full of new ideas.

Through these additional forms of support and a policy that ensures researchers maximum academic autonomy and flexibility in terms of networking and the exploration of new veins for collaboration with external partners, the Department invests in and nurtures the professional development of the next generation of scholars, thereby contributing to the advancement of law & anthropology as a discipline in its own right.

One of the Department's points of pride is the large number of researchers who have been offered permanent professorships, either while still with the Department or immediately thereafter. These include Dominik Müller (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), Luisa Schneider (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Maria Sapignoli (University of Milan), Cengiz Barskanmaz (Fulda University of Applied Sciences), Alice Margaria (University of Zürich), and Stefano Osella (University of Hong Kong). This track record of success attests to the effectiveness of the active support the Department offers to its researchers.

DISSERTATION WRITING-UP FELLOWSHIP

After some very successful and productive experiments with hosting visiting scholars for extended stays (up to one year), in 2017 the Department formally instituted a Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship Programme. The idea came out of a meeting of the Consultative Committee (see https://www.eth.mpg.de/3231723/people), who identified the later stages of the dissertation writing-up period, often when funding has run out, as one of the most precarious and uncertain moments in a young scholar's life, and suggested that such a fellowship programme would be an excellent way to support these early-career scholars and give back to the discipline. The programme has since become a true jewel in the Department's crown. Writing-up Fellows bring with them energy, enthusiasm, new ideas, and a breath of fresh air; they inspire our PhD candidates, being just one step ahead, and show them, Yes! It can be done! And so far, they have all, without exception, moved on very quickly after their stay with us to take up excellent positions that are sure to be stepping stones to successful and productive professional careers. The vast majority of the Dissertation Writing-Up Fellows we have hosted have submitted their theses shortly after returning to their home universities. Several of them have won awards for their work and/or were offered postdoctoral research positions. Almost all of them remain in contact with the Department to this day. In the period 2020–22 we were, of course, severely constrained by the pandemic in our capacity to receive visitors. The Department nevertheless managed to host six Dissertation Writing-Up Fellows for periods ranging from four to six months: Ana Chirițoiu, Gustav Kalm, Aino Korvensyrjä, Mert Pekşen, Denis Shedov, and David Thompson.

In addition to the Writing-Up Fellowship Programme, the Department continued, to the degree possible given the constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic, to nurture its Visiting Fellows Programme. In the period 2020–22, the Department hosted five guests for longer periods (one to six months): Dany Carnassale, Claudia Cavallari, Zoé Crine, Ian Kalman, and Sumit Sonkar.

All of these scholars – whether Writing-up Fellows or Visiting Fellows – actively engage in the intellectual life of the Department and the Institute, taking advantage of opportunities to share their ideas and to constructively engage with the work of the researchers at the Institute. All of them present their research in departmental seminars or in some other forum, and many have used their time at the Institute to develop working papers for publication in the Institute's Working Papers Series. These guest programmes allow us to broaden our horizons without losing sight of the Department's more targeted focus. It is one more way the Department reaches out to the wider academic community and builds valuable networks and connections.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

DIRECTOR

Marie-Claire Foblets is Director at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, where she was Managing Director from July 2015 to January 2021. She is head of the Department 'Law & Anthropology', which she founded in 2012. She is also Honorary Professor at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and at the University of Leipzig. She has been teaching law and social and cultural anthropology at the universities of Leuven, Antwerp, and Brussels for more than twenty years. Before becoming a member of the Max Planck Society in March 2012, she was a full-time professor at KUL, where she was head of the Institute for Migration Law and Legal Anthropology. She is a member of many academic networks that focus on research on the application of Islamic law in Europe and on law and migration in Europe, including the Association française d'anthropologie du droit (AFAD), of which she was co-president for several years. In 2001, Foblets was elected to the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB). In 2004, she received the Francqui Prize, the most prestigious academic award in the humanities in Belgium. In 2016 she received an honorary doctorate from the Law Faculty at the Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis, Brussels, Belgium, and in 2019 from the Law Faculty at the University of Uppsala, Sweden. She became a full member of the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Philological-Historical Class) in February 2015.

SENIOR SCIENTIFIC STAFF

Katia Bianchini has been a postdoctoral researcher in the Law & Anthropology Department since September 2018. Before coming to the MPI for Social Anthropology, Bianchini was a research fellow at the MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Göttingen). She was awarded her PhD in law from York University (UK) in 2015.

Bianchini's main research project involves analysing how sea migration in the Mediterranean challenges the rule of law. In the monograph she is preparing on this topic, she illustrates how sea migration raises issues that extend far beyond human rights, affecting not only migrants, but also the institutions and fundamental governing principles of European democracies. In addition to detailing the relevant international and EU law, the monograph adopts a case study approach, focusing on Italy's legislation, policy, and case law in order to better understand the issues at stake. Bianchini employs a methodology grounded in interdisciplinary legal research (combining legal and empirical data), which allows her to examine how the law works on the ground.
From September 2022 to June 2023, Bianchini was a visiting scholar at the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham University in New York City. Her recent publications include "An Illustration of Anthropology's Contribution to Refugee Law Research" (*German Law Journal*, 2022); "The Role of Expert Witnesses in the Adjudication of Religious and Culture-based Asylum Claims in the United Kingdom: The Case Study of 'Witchcraft' Persecution" (*Journal of Refugee Studies*, 2021); and "Identifying the Stateless in Statelessness Determination Procedures and Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom" (*International Journal of Refugee Law*, 2020).

Brian Donahoe is Senior Scientific Editor of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. As such, he manages the Department's flagship book series *Law & Anthropology* (Routledge) and many of the other publications coming out of the Department. He supervised the editorial work on *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology* (2022) and the Department's special issue of the *German Law Journal*, "Breaching the Boundaries of Law and Anthropology: New Pathways for Legal Research" (2022). Donahoe also provides crucial editorial support to Department members and associates in their applications for third-party funding. He offers occasional seminars on

academic writing and, with Larissa Vetters, organizes the Department's thesis-writing seminars for doctoral candidates.
Donahoe holds an MA in Journalism and a PhD in Anthropology, both from Indiana University–Bloomington. He conducted long-term fieldwork among the hunting and reindeer-herding communities of the Saian Mountain region in southern Siberia (Tozhu, Tofa, Soiot, and Dukha), and has published on the politics of indigeneity in Russia. In the 2020–2022 reporting period, he co-authored (with Florian Stammler and Aytalina Ivanova) the chapter "Russian Legal Anthropology: From Empirical Ethnography to Applied Innovation", which appeared in the *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology*, and is putting the final touches on a co-edited volume (with Marie-Claire Foblets and Maria Sapignoli) tentatively titled *Anthropological Expertise and Legal Practice in Conversation*, which is slated to appear in the Routledge series *Law & Anthropology*.

Dittmar Schorkowitz *(see profile under project "Historical Anthropology of Colonialism: Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past")*

Bertram Turner is the Institute's and the Department's most senior researcher, having served at the MPI since its foundation in 1999. With the untimely passing of Keebet von Benda-Beckmann in 2022 and Turner's upcoming retirement on 1 June 2024, the Research Group Legal Pluralism – predecessor to the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and continued within its institutional framework since 2012 – comes to an end. Landmarks of the Project Group's research trajectory will be highlighted in a special issue of the journal *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*, dedicated to the memory of Keebet von Benda-Beckmann, which Turner is co-editing with Melanie Wiber. That issue also outlines what they anticipate will drive the future of theorizing in legal anthropology and legal pluralism and how they envision the further advancement of the epistemological achievements of the Project Group.
A number of publications mark the end of this period. Deserving of special mention are two co-authored chapters, "The Anthropological Roots of Global Legal Pluralism" in *The Oxford Handbook of Global Legal Pluralism* (co-authored with Keebet von Benda-Beckmann) and "Law, Science, and Technologies" in the *Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology* (co-authored with Melanie Wiber). Turner and Wiber also co-edited a special issue of the journal *Science, Technology, & Human Values* and co-authored the introduction to the special issue, "Legal Pluralism and Science and Technology Studies: Exploring Sources of the Legal Pluriverse". Within the reporting period, Turner also published book chapters on retaliation and forgiveness.
Turner will continue conducting research on mobility and migration, property relations, care, human security, law and materiality, extractivism, and the law of the anthropocene, all of which will remain embedded in international cooperation through his commitment to the LOST research network and the Commission on Legal Pluralism, among others.

Larissa Vetters *(see profile under project "Sentiments of Bureaucracies")*

SENIOR RESEARCHERS

Hatem Elliesie *(see profile under project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society")*

Alice Margaria (PhD in Law, European University Institute) has been a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since October 2017 (with time off for maternity and parental leave). Before joining the MPI, Margaria was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Fundamental Rights Laboratory (Turin, Italy), where she undertook a comparative study of the role of judges in bridging the gap between the social and legal existence of families created via assisted reproductive technologies.
Her research lies at the intersection of family law, diversity, and human rights. The focus of her work has been the regulation of legal fatherhood in times of social change and family diversity in contemporary Europe. More recently, she has become interested in empirically reconstructing cases involving religious and cultural diversity decided by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), drawing on the extended case method to give voice to a variety of social and legal agents and documenting the after-law moment from the litigant's perspective. At the MPI, she is the convenor of the judicial study visit "Diversity in the Courtroom", which takes place every year (since 2021) in collaboration with the European Judicial Training Network.
In 2021, Margaria was awarded a Bavarian Gender Equality Grant at the University of Bayreuth and, in 2022, a NEXT grant by the Volkswagen Stiftung to lead a project on minorities at the ECtHR, in collaboration with the Academy of European Human Rights Protection (Cologne). She is co-editor (with Stefano Osella and Daniela Alaattinoğlu) of a special issue, "Trans Identities and Law", which will appear in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, and of an edited collection entitled *Leading Works in Law and Anthropology* (with Larissa Vetters, forthcoming, Routledge). In April 2023, she took up an assistant professorship at the Faculty of Law, University of Zurich, as part of an interdisciplinary research programme on human reproduction and genetics.

Sophie Nakueira *(see profile under project "Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime" [VULNER])*

Eugenia Relaño Pastor was, along with Marie-Claire Foblets, Scientific Coordinator of the CUREDI project until April 2021, when she returned to Complutense University in Madrid to resume her teaching responsibilities in the Department of International Law,

Ecclesiastical Law, and Philosophy of Law. As Scientific Coordinator of CUREDI, she co-organized CUREDI workshops in October 2020 and July 2022, as well as the panel "Preliminary Results from the CUREDI Database Project" at the 6th ICLARS Conference in Córdoba, Spain (September 2022). She was appointed to a five-year term as the Spanish Alternate Member of the Management Board of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and co-organized a panel on applying the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to uphold values and rights in Europe at the European Fundamental Rights Forum in October 2021.
During the reporting period, Relaño Pastor continued publishing on the recognition of religious minorities, human dignity, and religious freedom from a socio-legal approach. She also published on migration, new models for the governance of religious diversity, how judges deal with cultural practices in courts, and the impact of Covid-19 on human rights. Her efforts to reach a broader public include legal blogposts and short articles addressing such diverse topics as gender discrimination and religion, Islamophobia, and antisemitism.
Relaño Pastor is a faculty member at the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law, where she taught a two-week course on human dignity in legal procedures in the Sociolegal Masters Programme in 2021. She continues to collaborate as a judicial trainer with the EJTN and the Spanish Judiciary Council. She joined the editorial board of the *International Journal of Law and Society* (IJLS) and two national research projects: "Forty Years after CEDAW: Women's Liquid Rights?" (PI: Ana Gemma López Martin) and "LegalTech y JudicialTech: The Digital Transformation of the Legal Profession" (PI: Concepción Rayón).

Maria Sapignoli *(see profile under project "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice")*

Katrin Seidel is a research associate and former senior research fellow in the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. Drawing on her interdisciplinary background (law and African/Asian studies) and her PhD in African/Asian Studies at Humboldt University of Berlin, her postdoctoral project examined local, regional, and global negotiation processes revolving around peace, statehood, and constitution making in two fragmented and conflict-prone societies – South Sudan and Somaliland – against the backdrop of increasingly globalized norm-setting and legal transfer.
With the full support of the Department, Seidel completed her habilitation at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2021). The Department further supported her in turning her habilitation thesis, *Internationalised Constitution-Making as a Tool for Negotiating Statehood and Rule of Law: South Sudan's and Somaliland's Constitutional Genesis in the Context of Plural Legal (Dis-) Ordering*, into a book manuscript as well as in developing a proposal and application for the DFG-Heisenberg Fellowship programme. In the reporting period, Seidel was also actively involved in the Max Planck Law network, particularly in supporting the establishment the Law & Africa Initiative. In addition, the MPI supported the panel "Decolonisation of Plural Legal Orders", which Seidel co-organized with MPI research partner Martin Ramstedt at the Global Meeting on Law and Society (Lisbon, 2022). The panel has resulted in a special issue of the journal *Oñati Socio-Legal Series*, co-edited with Ramstedt (slated for early 2024). Seidel was also involved in the development of the MPI's application for the new International Max Planck Research School "Global Multiplicity: New Approaches in Social Anthropology", thus supporting the strengthening and institutionalization of collaborative research beyond disciplinary boundaries and across the MPI's sub-disciplines of political, economic, and legal anthropology.

Federica Sona has been a Senior Research Fellow in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since January 2018. Prior to that, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Laboratory of Fundamental Rights and in the Law Department at the University of Turin, both in Turin (IT), as well as being a Teaching Fellow in the Law Faculty at SOAS, University of London. From January to June 2022 she was a Stipendiary Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA, and in 2020 she secured a Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London.
In addition to being involved in several MPI projects, since 2016 Sona has acted, on behalf of the Department, as expert, lecturer, and convenor in the European Judicial Training Network. She is also currently co-investigator in an international research group funded by the Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative, Jagiellonian University (Kraków, PL).
Sona has conducted research commissioned by official authorities and public bodies such as the Ministry of Justice in the UK and the National Council for Research in Italy. From 2019 to 2021, she contributed to PriMed, the first major project for preventing religious radicalization, launched by the Italian government via the Ministry of Education, Universities and Scientific Research. In 2021, she also served as a referee for the European Research Council.
Sona's research focuses on European Muslims interacting with diverse normative orders, including common law and civil law; family-related issues encompassing vertical and horizontal kinship connections; Muslims living in minority contexts; biotechnologies, biomedicine, and medical ethics according to Islām; and the digitalization of justice in cultural and religious (extra)judicial environments. Her research findings have been widely disseminated, and she has taught at universities in the US and Europe.
Sona's habilitation is currently pending before the Italian Ministry of Education and Research.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Sophie Andreetta was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from September 2017 to September 2020, and has been a research associate since September 2020. Before coming to the MPI, Andreetta was awarded her doctorate in Social and Political Sciences from the University of Liège (2016). During her three years at the Institute, she examined irregular migrants' itineraries within and against welfare administrations, the daily practices of social workers, their interactions with beneficiaries, lawyers and the judiciary, and the way judges decide on social assistance cases, with the aim of analysing how human dignity is performed on a daily basis for those without a regular immigration status. Her research delved into the dynamic interactions between immigration proceedings, welfare administrative practices, and labour courts in French-speaking Belgium, looking at three interconnected dimensions: litigants' itineraries, their understanding of law, and their expectations of the state; administrative practices; and judicial discretion in welfare courts.
Since September 2020, in addition to being a research associate of the Department, Andreetta has been an FRS-FNRS research fellow at the University of Liège, focusing on the history of West African bar associations, the daily life of practising lawyers, and their relationships to the state and to various governments. She was also appointed guest professor at the University of Brussels for two years (2021–2022). Based on the research she conducted with the support of the Department, Andreetta has recently published five research articles and one book chapter (2022) and coordinated two special issues. In November 2020, she was also awarded one of the first Migration Politics Fellowships, sponsored by the journal *Migration Politics*. The article Andreetta wrote within the framework of the fellowship was published in *Migration Politics* in 2022.

Maya Avis *(see profile under project "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice")*

Cengiz Barskanmaz *(see profile under project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society")*

Jonathan Bernaerts became a research partner of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in August 2020. Currently based at the KU Leuven (Belgium), he is a member of the coordination team of the CUREDI database project, where he works on the overall content development and the basic tools used in the project. Bernaerts has also taken part in multiple training sessions for judges organized by the Department within the EJTN framework, and is one of the editors working on the MPI–EJTN casebook on culture in the courtroom. Furthermore, he co-teaches the courses "Law and Anthropology" with Marie-Claire Foblets at KU Leuven and "Sociology and Sociology of Law" with Steven Gibens at the University of Antwerp (Belgium).
Previously, Bernaerts was a doctoral candidate in the Department, receiving a joint PhD in Law in June 2020 from the University of Antwerp (Belgium) and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. His dissertation, "Linguistic Diversity and Administrative Interactions in Belgium and Germany: A Legal and Empirical Analysis", focused on interactions between administrative authorities and non-majoritarian language speakers. He has published extensively on this topic and on language legislation in general, including an article in the *German Law Journal* titled "A Socio-legal Approach to Language Use in Administrative Settings in Belgium's Dutch-Language Area" (2022). Together with Adriaan Overbeeke, he presented at the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS) conference and has published on the CUREDI-related theme of freedom of religion (e.g., "Case Law on the Freedom of Religion during the Covid-19 Crisis in Belgium" in the *Journal of Church and State* (2022)).

Mahmoud Jaraba *(see profile under project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society")*

Felix-Anselm van Lier was a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department 'Law and Anthropology' from 2019 to 2021. During his time with the Department, he investigated the possibilities and the limits of digital democracy tools for fostering meaningful public participation in constitution making and beyond. As part of this project, he spent a year as a visiting scholar at the Alan Turing Institute in London, which was partially funded by a *re:constitution* fellowship awarded by Stiftung Mercator. At the Alan Turing Institute, he investigated and co-developed digital tools to advance public decision making and leverage the use of machine-learning tools in different policy areas, including constitution making and peace mediation.
While at the Max Planck Institute, Lier founded the Max Planck Law, Tech, and Society Initiative, which serves as a hub across all Max Planck Law Institutes for the exchange of ideas on common themes, concerns, and challenges raised by the interplay of law, technology, and society. He produced empirical research on how digital democracy tools can be harnessed to support law and policy making that has been published in academic journals such as *Digital Government: Research and Practice* and *Data and Policy*, as well as in outlets targeting a broader public, such as *Open Democracy*.
Before coming to the MPI, Lier was awarded his doctorate in Socio-Legal Studies from the University of Oxford. Prior to that, he studied law in Germany and Italy and completed an MSc in Law and Anthropology at LSE. He is now a Research Fellow at the Government Outcomes Lab at the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, where he investigates new contractual approaches to better organize the provision of public services. He works with academics, investors, and local and central administrations to build evidence around how innovations in

social policy and outcomes-based commissioning can improve citizens' lives and their long-term prospects.

Daniel Marciniak *(see profile under project "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice")*

Mariana Monteiro de Matos joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' as a postdoctoral researcher in November 2018. Before joining the MPI, Monteiro de Matos received her doctorate in law (*Dr. iur.*) from Georg August University in Göttingen. Her dissertation became her first book, entitled *Indigenous Land Rights in the Inter-American System: Substantive and Procedural Law* (Brill/Nijhoff 2021). During the reporting period and with the support of the Department, she has presented papers and organized scientific events at conferences of prominent associations, including the International Law Association, the European Association of Social Anthropologists, the Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists, and the Law and Society Association, in addition to lecturing at various European institutions.
Monteiro de Matos's current research project examines how the Portuguese legal system deals with religious and cultural diversity in relation to vulnerable groups, and how the Portuguese approach can be compared with the approaches of other European countries. Drawing on her research, she has supported the training of judges through the 'Law & Anthropology' Department's cooperation with the European Judicial Training Network, and has published case law reports for legal databases developed by the University of Minho, the MPI for Social Anthropology (CUREDI), and Oxford University Press. As a way of giving back to the community, Monteiro de Matos intends to organize an outreach event in Portugal for the general public to discuss the results of her current research project. The results will also form the basis of her second monograph, the publication of which will enhance her professional profile as a global scholar in the field of international law and interdisciplinary legal studies.

Stefano Osella (PhD in Law, European University Institute) was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from June 2019 to September 2022. During that time he also took some time away from the Department to accept a fellowship at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg 'Recht als Kultur', University of Bonn. Before joining the MPI, Osella was a Postdoctoral Global Fellow at the New York University School of Law. From September 2022 to May 2023, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Legal Studies at Bocconi University in Milan. In June 2023, Osella took up his current post as Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong. Osella is also a member of the Committee for Community and Engagement of the International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) and associate editor of the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (ICON).
Osella's research focuses on how law defines and limits the identities of gender minorities and the cultural and structural reasons that prompt public authorities to control and restrict the recognition of gender diverse people. He is also interested in the connections between legal comparison and law and anthropology, and studies how these two disciplines can be combined to produce analytical and normative arguments that help understand and advance the rights of minorities. Finally, of particular interest to Osella are the intersections between the anthropological study of law and constitutional law. He has published extensively in all these fields.
During the reporting period, Osella also actively contributed to the Department's CUREDI database project.

Luisa Piart *(see profile under project "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond")*

Mahabat Sadyrbek *(see profile under project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society")*

Sajjad Safaei has been a postdoctoral researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since June 2020. Before that, he was a doctoral candidate in the Department, earning his PhD in Anthropology from MLU Halle-Wittenberg with a thesis on barbarism versus civilization in punishment, analysed through legal, philosophical, sociological, and historical lenses. He holds an MA in Anthropology and MSc in Industrial Management from KU Leuven. He is currently the language editor for the CUREDI database project. He has also contributed to other editing projects, including *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology*.
Apart from his Department-related activities, during the reporting period Safaei made independent forays into new fields such as Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations. He has been writing regularly on Iran, the Middle East, and international security for reputable journals and outlets such as *Foreign Policy*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, and *Responsible Statecraft*, and *The Middle East Institute*. He has accepted invitations to provide expert testimony to the Dutch and German parliaments and has been interviewed by media platforms such as *Middle East Eye* and Spain's *El Confidencial*. A notable accomplishment is Safaei's article in the *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society,* which showed how one of the staples of modern intellectual life, Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, wholly misrepresented philosopher Jeremy Bentham's ideas on punishment. He has been a peer reviewer for prestigious journals such as the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* and *History of European Ideas*.

Safaei is currently in the process of transforming his thesis into a monograph. He also plans to build on the findings of his PhD research by converting them into peer-reviewed journal articles and aims to

contribute to an anthology of the Iran–Iraq war. Looking ahead, Safaei will continue to contribute to the scholarly debate on – and a better understanding of – the Middle East.

Luisa Schneider was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from January 2019 to October 2020, and has continued as a research associate since then. Schneider holds a PhD from Oxford University (2019) and, since November 2020, has been an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where she obtained tenure in 2022.
From the perspective of legal anthropology, Schneider studies housing, crises, and how people reconfigure political and legal systems in West Africa and Europe, where her long-term research has taken place. Her recent publications have demonstrated that some welfare states make basic rights – e.g., family, protection, health – conditional on housing, which challenges the democratic contract. To claim their rights, some homeless people even seek imprisonment. Their readiness to trade freedom for protection demanded a reconceptualization of theories on punishment, rights, and welfare, which Schneider undertook during a fellowship at the Prisons Research Centre at Cambridge University (August–October 2022).
Ethnographic research allows Schneider to illuminate pressing societal challenges and propose possible solutions. She advises practitioners, parliamentarians, and policymakers on their welfare agendas and disseminates findings in newspapers, podcasts, online, and on television. In recognition of her theoretical innovations and commitment to valorization, she received the Open Science Community Amsterdam Award (2023) and the VU Social Science Faculty Research Prize (2021). Schneider received the VU teaching innovation grant (2021) for her efforts to decolonize academia and for her supervision of graduate students, and a nomination for De Jonge Akademie KNAW (2022). Her article "Sexual Violence During Research", which addresses the nexus between ethnographic unpredictability and institutional demands, has become one of the most frequently downloaded and cited articles from the journal *Critique of Anthropology*.

Timm Sureau *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Zeynep Yanaşmayan *(see profile under project "The Challenges of Migration, Integration, and Exclusion" [WiMi])*

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Beate Anam *(see profile under project "Sharia in European Settings")*

Pierre Druart *(see profile under project "Memory and Transitional Justice")*

Kadir Eryılmaz joined the Department 'Law and Anthropology' as a PhD candidate in October 2018. He holds an LLM in Public Law from Ankara University. His master's thesis exposed how the Turkish judiciary cynically implements the so-called "hate speech prohibition article" in the Turkish Penal Code to intimidate and suppress human rights activists. Before joining the MPI, Eryılmaz worked as a research assistant in the Department of Philosophy and Sociology of Law at Istanbul Bilgi University. He co-taught the course Philosophy of Law and assisted with several other courses relating to sociolegal studies, including Sociology of Law, Law and Politics, Criminology, and Law and Society.
Since 2018 Eryılmaz has been working on his doctoral research project, which examines how people marginalized by law perceive the law and how these perceptions influence their decisions regarding the use of judicial means to combat human rights violations. To answer these questions, he has conducted multi-sited ethnographical fieldwork in Germany and Turkey among the Syriac Orthodox community, a displaced ethno-religious minority group originating in south-eastern Turkey. Eryılmaz's research focuses on this group's prominent legal conflicts relating to human rights, such as unlawful property expropriations, legal claims for mother-tongue education, and discrimination on the basis of ethnic and/or religious background. Eryılmaz intends to submit his dissertation (supervised by Marie-Claire Foblets and Michael Germann [Faculty of Law, Economics and Business at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg]) in 2023 and to continue pursuing an academic career in human rights law and sociolegal studies.

Inge Fiedler *(see profile under project "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation")*

Mustapha Hadji *(see profile under project "Memory and Transitional Justice")*

Kutaiba Kaidouha joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in November 2018 as a doctoral candidate and later joined the research project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society". He earned his bachelor's degree in Islamic Law at the University of Damascus, where he also completed his MA in Islamic Law in 2011, producing a thesis titled *Taṣarufāt An-nabī Muḥammad biwaṣfihi imam* ("The Behaviour of the Prophet Muhammad as a Head of State").
Kaidouha's research focuses on Syrian families in Germany and their conflicts, particularly those between spouses. His research addresses the impact of war

and forced migration on these families and the challenges and changes in the Syrian family in the German context. He examines the factors of conflicts between spouses through two determinants: internal and external. The internal determinants include differences in gender roles, economic factors, and cultural-religious clashes. The external determinants are observed through the effects of war and forced displacement on the family, legal dimensions affecting both parties, and socio-cultural context. His research explores the alternatives that parties resort to when resolving their disputes in the new context. It also observes the complexities of resolving disputes resulting from religious marriages and the difficulties faced by women seeking a certain type of Islamic divorce (*khul'*), as there is no official recognition of such contracts.
Kaidouha has finished writing his dissertation and expects to defend it in spring 2023. He has also written two articles that are still in progress, tentatively titled "Gender Balancing and Family Conflicts within Syrian Families in Germany" and "Parental Power within Syrian Families in Refugee Contexts in Germany".

Margarita Lipatova *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Afrooz Maghzi Najafabadi joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in January 2019 as a PhD candidate in the research programme "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society". She holds an LLM from University College Dublin (Ireland), an LLM from Mazandaran University (Iran), and an LLB from Tehran University (Iran). Before joining the MPI, Maghzi worked as a human rights lawyer and legal researcher in Iran, Ireland, and Malaysia. She has lectured, written policy papers, conducted workshops, and worked with civil society and international human rights organizations.
In her doctoral research project, Maghzi sought to understand how empirical research and ethnographic accounts can inform and contribute to human rights discourses regarding faith-based and customary non-state justice (NSJ). Accordingly, the thesis followed a twofold inquiry. First, with a focus on ECtHR case law, Maghzi investigated how NSJ is perceived under international and regional human rights law. Second, she explored minority groups' lived experience of various types of NSJ, the socio-structural grounds for their existence, and the reasons why members of minority groups resort to them. The thesis concludes with some observations and insights about the existence and operation of NSJ in minority groups in Europe and how the state can respond to them. She submitted her thesis, supervised by Marie-Claire Foblets and Caroline Meller-Hennich (Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) in January 2023, and successfully defended it. A chapter based on her research is slated to appear in the edited volume *Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft: Parallel-justiz?* (Nomos, forthcoming).
In October 2022, Maghzi joined the Erlangen Center for Islam and Law in Europe (EZIRE) as a research assistant, where she works on the project "Legal Advocacy in Authoritarian Settings: The Case of Human Rights Lawyering in Iran". She was invited to spend the spring semester of 2023 as a fellow at Harvard Law School's Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World, but had to decline the offer.

Faris Elias Nasrallah is a doctoral candidate in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. He was first invited to the Department as a visiting researcher in June 2018, and later in 2018 commenced his doctoral research on the relationship between theory and practice in international arbitration. He expects to defend his thesis in 2023 at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Christian Tietje [MLU]).
Before joining the Department, Nasrallah was a practising lawyer specialised in international arbitration, having worked for international law firms in London and Dubai. Nasrallah's study takes an interdisciplinary and practice approach to exploring the theory of arbitration, noting that the vast amount of practitioner and academic arbitration literature has yielded scant enquiry into the foundations of this transnational system of dispute resolution and how it operates both within and between different national legal systems. As international arbitration practice takes its place as the leading global technique for alternative resolution of commercial and trade disputes, its relationships with different national legal orders can become increasingly strained unless managed correctly. Using the combination of law and anthropology, Nasrallah offers unique insight into the interactions between the main stakeholders and social actors in international arbitration. Nasrallah publishes regularly, and in 2022 contributed several book chapters, including "Applicable Laws in the International Commercial Courts of the Gulf", in S. Brekoulakis and G. Dimitropoulos (eds.) *International Commercial Courts: The Future of Transnational Adjudication* (Cambridge University Press) and "Alternative Dispute Resolution", in M.-C. Foblets, M. Goodale, M. Sapignoli, and O. Zenker (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology* (Oxford University Press). In 2022, Nasrallah was appointed as a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre.

Maria G. Nikolova joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in 2018 as a Doctoral Candidate. Before coming to Halle, she practised law in Bulgaria, specializing in representing victims of sexual violence and asylum seekers. Nikolova's doctoral project, entitled "The Secret Life of Criminal Law: Child Marriage Prosecution in Europe", traces the development of the legal concept of child marriage

through the archives of the UN and into present-day international and domestic legislation, and examines its adjudication in criminal courts in Europe.
In addition to working on her doctoral project, Nikolova contributes to the Department's CUREDI database project, providing expertise on child marriage prosecutions, extradition, and asylum, analysing established judicial practice, and identifying judicial decision-making patterns with respect to customary practices that come before the courts as substantive issues.
In 2019, 2021, and 2022, Nikolova served as a trainer for judges during judicial visits and workshops in the framework of "Cultural Diversity in the Courtroom – Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges", a collaborative project of the European Judicial Training Network and the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. Nikolova is a member of the Organizing Committee of the Minerva LAW Network. The initiative is part of the Max Planck Law Group, and its goal is to bring female legal researchers together with leaders in the field of law to spark innovative and engaging discussions about career development and gender equality. Nikolova expects to complete her project in Spring 2023 and earn her doctorate in law from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Angelika Nussberger [University of Cologne]).

Frederike Nun joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in November 2018 as a PhD Candidate. Her research project examines cultural diversity, anti-discrimination law, and minority rights in Romania. As part of her field research from 2019 to 2021, she worked with Romania's equality body – the National Council for Combating Discrimination (*Consiliul național pentru combaterea discriminării*, CNCD) – as well as with non-governmental organizations and other actors from the legal and civil society sectors. She also conducts archival research to gain an understanding of how this particular area of law has been interpreted, applied, and shaped in Romania. Based on the respective bodies of data, Nun describes and analyses everyday practices at the Romanian equality body and social perceptions of antidiscrimination efforts and respective legal measures, i.e., ideas circulating in society regarding the government's claim that it is protecting and promoting cultural diversity in accordance with EU Standards, a claim that emerged as part of the historical process of integration into the European institutions (e.g., the EU and the European Council). By drawing on exemplary cases from the CNCD's mandate history and current cases, Nun examines individual and collective experiences of discrimination. This actor-centred research approach primarily identifies research partners' perspectives, the meaning they give to their experiences, and how they assess relevant developments. Another important focus of the research project is the so-called Europeanization processes. The aim here is to understand how the legal field of anti-discrimination has been established within the framework of European dynamics, as well as within a specific national context.
Nun anticipates completing her doctoral project in 2023 and graduating with a degree in anthropology from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Dominik Müller [FAU]).

Abdelghafar Salim *(see profile under project "Sharia in European Settings")*

Jodie White *(see profile under project "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation")*

ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Marie Courtoy started her doctoral studies in January 2020 at Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), in partnership with the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and with funding from the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research. She holds a double bachelor's degree in Sociology & Anthropology and in Law (Université Saint-Louis in Brussels), as well as a master's degree in Law (UCLouvain). Her master's thesis, "Climate Migrants: Symptoms of a Failing Global Governance of Migration" (2018, in French), won the Jacques Falys Prize for the best thesis in the Law Faculty at UCLouvain as well as the ESPO Prize for the best thesis in the Faculty of Economic, Social, Political and Communication Sciences at the Université Saint-Louis.
Her research focuses on the use of human mobility as a means of adapting to changing environmental conditions in an anticipatory manner. Based on fieldwork in coastal areas in France, Guadeloupe, and Senegal, where mobility measures such as relocation are being considered or implemented due to hazards related to rising sea levels, she asks if the law *requires* states to act to protect people living in deteriorating territories; if so, what kind of action should be taken and, in particular, when is it appropriate to take mobility measures; and what issues emerge when taking mobility measures.
Her research is situated at the crossroads of law and anthropology. Her various stays at the Department 'Law & Anthropology' have provided her with a stimulating environment for exchange and reflection on how the two disciplines can mutually enrich each other. The substance of her research is especially closely aligned with the questions raised by the Max Planck Fellow Group "Environmental Rights in Cultural Context" (ERCC). The research group has been able to explore common themes from different angles and deepen the individual research projects of its members. This has notably been achieved through joint training on environmental anthropology, a series of talks with external speakers on areas of

interest to the overall project, mutual feedback on members' respective work, and common participation in various external events (such as the Law and Society Association's annual meeting and the Max Planck Law annual conference).
Courtoy's doctoral work is supervised by Sylvie Sarolea (UCLouvain) and Marie-Claire Foblets, and she anticipates completing her project in 2024 and earning her doctorate in law from UCLouvain and KU Leuven.

Jeanise Dalli is currently an assistant lecturer in the Civil Law Department at the Faculty of Laws, University of Malta. Before taking up her current position, Dalli had been a PhD candidate in the Department 'Law and Anthropology' from October 2018 to October 2019. She has been an associated doctoral candidate of the Department since November 2019. At the University of Malta, Dalli lectures on refugee law, family law, and advocacy skills within the Master of Advocacy programme. She also serves as legal representative in refugee and family cases at the Law Clinic of the University of Malta, and supervises law students who work there. She is currently finalizing her doctoral thesis on the legal and medical regulation of female genital interventions in Malta and the UK, which she intends to defend by the end of 2023 at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Michael Germann [MLU]). She is also a contributor to the CUREDI project of the Department 'Law & Anthropology'.
Dalli has two forthcoming publications: "Advocating against Female Genital Mutilation: Analysing Advocacy at the Global and European Level with Reference to the Maltese Scenario" in the *Mediterranean Human Rights Review* (University of Malta), and a chapter, *"'Cultural' vs. 'Non-Cultural' Genital Interventions on Females in Malta and the UK: Exploring Regulatory Approaches"*, which has been accepted for inclusion in the edited volume *Biomedical Practices in the Middle East and Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture* (Federica Sona, Marie-Claire Foblets, Shai Lavi, and Hagai Boas, eds., Law & Anthropology series, Routledge, forthcoming).

Harika Dauth is currently an associated doctoral researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. She joined the Department in 2014 as a PhD candidate. She is writing her dissertation with the working title "Testimonies of the 'Citizen's Other': Analysing the Migration of Roma in Europe through the Prism of Multiple Legalities".
Her research revolves around the topics of state politics and inclusionary/exclusionary practices with regard to Roma in Germany. In her thesis, Dauth explores various legal regimes and groupings of Roma through the lens of citizenship technologies. Investigating the framing and implementation of these legal settings in the everyday lives of Roma individuals in contemporary and historical contexts, she examines the social dimension of law and political strategies of social justice. Her research builds on ethnographic fieldwork in Skopje (northern Macedonia), Prishtina (Kosovo), Plovdiv (Bulgaria), and North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany), and on her social work in an activist Romani organization in Leipzig (Germany).
In her time at the Institute, Dauth also served as an expert in court. With her colleague Ilenia Ruggiu, she has published on the issue of the "cultural defence" (2020) and offered a training module in the criminal law group within the framework of the training programme offered by the European Judicial Training Network in collaboration with the Department (2021).

Michelle Flynn is a Research Fellow in the Department 'Law and Anthropology'. Prior to joining the Max Planck Institute in 2018, she gained over twelve years of experience working within domestic and international courts. Flynn has held judicial support roles at national and supranational levels with members of the judiciary of Ireland, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Court of Justice of the European Union. She also has significant practical experience as a barrister and as a Consultant Legal Advisor with Irish Rule of Law International, working on judicial capacity building projects in developing countries. She is also a former academic staff member in the Faculty of Law at KU Leuven, Belgium.
Flynn holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Legal Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway; a Barrister-at-Law Degree from the Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin, Ireland; and an LL.M. in International and European Public Law from KU Leuven, Belgium.
Her current research examines the jurisprudence of the superior courts in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States concerning religious prescriptions and religious personal laws. Since January 2019, she has been a Visiting Researcher at Yale Law School, where she is carrying out research concerning the relationship between law and religion in the US.

Waseem Naser is a PhD Candidate within the Emmy Noether Research Group "The Bureaucratization of Islam and its Sociolegal Dimensions in Southeast Asia", headed by Prof. Dominik Müller. Naser's doctoral research, funded by the DAAD, is on personhood among Indian Muslims in Malaysia. He was based at the Department 'Law and Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology from October 2018 to October 2022. He served as a trainer at the workshop organized by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in Barcelona, Spain, in August 2022. He published two book reviews during his time at the Department, and has an MPI Working Paper scheduled for publication in 2023. He will be submitting his dissertation at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in March 2023.

COMPLETED PHDS

Jonathan Bernaerts *(see profile under Postdoctoral Researchers)*

Sirin Rahel Knecht has been Programme Director for Political Education and Event Management at the Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte (HdDM) in Berlin since October 2022. She joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in May 2015 as a doctoral candidate within the framework of the International Max Planck Research School 'Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment' (IMPRS–REMEP), and received her doctorate from Martin Luther University in March 2022 on the basis of her dissertation, "A Vision of Visibility: The Politics of Women's Rights and International Aid in Lebanon", which focused on women's rights, international development, and humanitarian work (supervisors: Olaf Zenker [MLU] and Marie-Claire Foblets).
Before taking up her current position, Knecht was coordinator and head of office at the NGO Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte (ILMR) in Berlin. Her work experience in various civil society organizations has given her a good overview of public relations and networking activities within civil society structures. The main tasks of her current work include the conception, preparation, implementation, organization and follow-up of events and political education programmes in the field of democracy promotion and human rights. Knecht also works as a freelancer in international project management, providing support to international companies through applied business anthropology and human-centred (clinical) studies.
Knecht has presented her research results in a number of forums. Her chapter "'Mobilizing for Punishment': Legal Activism, Women's NGOs and the Grassroots in Lebanon" appears in the edited volume *International Responses to Gendered-Based Domestic Violence* (Dongling Zhang and Diana Scharff Peterson, eds., Routledge, 2023). Knecht plans to continue working with academics, sharing, presenting, and publishing together knowledge and ideas related to her research fields. She also aims to pursue her professional career with a focus on conflicts and human rights.

Laura Lambert *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Annette Mehlhorn is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher in the project "Rights of Nature without Biocultural Rights? Investigating the Conflicting Dimensions of Ecocentrism", which is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and operates under the umbrella of the Max Planck Fellow Group "Environmental Rights in Cultural Context" (ERCC), headed by Dirk Hanschel. She was in the first cohort of PhD students in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' (starting in 2014), and successfully defended her thesis, "With, Against and Beyond the Law: Radical Politics, Legal Activism and New Constitutionalism in Plurinational Bolivia", in October 2022 (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Mark Goodale [Lausanne]).
Her research revolves around the topics of law and radical politics. In her dissertation, Mehlhorn explores these issues in the context of the so-called emancipatory constitutionalism in Latin America, building on ethnographic fieldwork with a small legal-aid/activist organization working with communities in the Bolivian highlands. She intends to publish a monograph based on her dissertation in the Department's Law & Anthropology Series with Routledge.
Mehlhorn's new project will build on qualitative research with various actors involved in the famous Atrato ruling of 2016, in which the Colombian Constitutional Court declared the Atrato River a legal, rights-bearing subject and, emphasizing the notion of biocultural rights, recognized the rights of "ethnic communities" to be involved in the protection of the river. She aims to trace the travels and translations of the concept of biocultural rights, as well as its de- and re-materializations, focusing particularly on the material conditions of legal, academic, and activist knowledge production.

Stefan Millar *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Markus Vollert is currently *Rechtsreferendar* ("legal trainee") at the Landgericht Leipzig (the court of the State of Saxony for civil and criminal matters). He was a doctoral candidate in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from 2014 to 2018, and an associated doctoral candidate until April 2021. His dissertation, "'God Cannot Live Here': Legal Conflicts Concerning the Twelve Tribes in Germany", was successfully defended (*summa cum laude*) in April 2021 (supervisors: Christoph Kleine [University of Leipzig] and Marie-Claire Foblets). In it, Vollert combined approaches from three different disciplines – law, anthropology, and religious studies. The dissertation was nominated for the Otto Hahn Medal, which recognizes outstanding scientific achievement by junior scientists and scholars. Vollert holds an MA in Religious Studies and a BA in History, both from the University of Leipzig. In his master's thesis he examined the problem of state neutrality concerning religion and ideology in light of religious pluralization in Germany. Vollert also studied law at the University of Leipzig in parallel with his doctoral studies at the MPI and the University of Leipzig, graduating from law school in January 2021 with the successful completion of the first state examination. In 2020 he served as a trainer for the labour law session of the judicial training programme "Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Courtroom", organized by the Department and the European Judicial Training Network.
He is currently doing an internship with a renowned

law firm in Leipzig as part of his legal traineeship and focusing on completing the second state examination. He plans to work as a legal professional in the future, but intends to maintain his connection to science and academia.

PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES

Sophie Andreetta *(see profile under Postdoctoral Researchers)*

Petra Burai is a policy consultant at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Her main fields of research, policy engagement, and teaching include integrity and accountability within the public sector and civil society. She has been a research partner of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since February 2015.
Burai was awarded her doctorate from Eötvös Loránd University Budapest in 2016. Her thesis, which addressed the limitations of anti-corruption regulations and ways of overcoming such obstacles, was granted the *Pro Dissertatione Iuridica Excellentissima* award by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Legal Studies on the basis of its academic merit and social significance.
Burai has more than fifteen years of experience as a consultant and legal expert for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In her current role she regularly advises countries on the design and implementation of policies that ensure public integrity and prevent corruption. She has been a member of the Academic Defence Committee of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) since 2022.
Over the course of her academic career, Burai has received numerous academic and executive awards and scholarships, including the Chevening Fellowship (UK), the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Fellowship (USA), the Carl Friedrich Goerdeler-Kolleg Fellowship (Public Sector Executive Leadership Programme) awarded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, a predoctoral research fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, and research fellowships at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.
In her most recent research project, carried out for the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Chr. Michelsen Institute (Norway), Burai explored how communities can be engaged in anti-corruption initiatives and what role trust, a sense of ownership, and inclusion play in creating and strengthening participation.

Imen Gallala-Arndt holds a doctorate in Law from the University of Heidelberg. Prior to earning her doctorate, she received a master's degree in Legal Sciences from the University of Tunis II. Having Tunisian roots and living in Germany for many years sharpened her curiosity and interest in the ways in which the religious beliefs and dominant values in a given culture influence the legal norms, and whether these norms can be an efficient tool for bringing about positive change in society. She was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, where she was involved in projects related to the peace process in Sudan and state building in Afghanistan. Prior to joining the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in 2016, Gallala-Arndt was part of the research group "Family and Succession Laws in Islamic Countries" at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law (Hamburg). During that time she rendered numerous legal opinions for German tribunals on family and succession law in Islamic countries, which has given her deep insight into the real legal difficulties and challenges that immigrants from Muslim countries face in Europe.

Deema Kaneff is Reader in Social Anthropology at the University of Birmingham, UK. She has been a research associate of the Department 'Law and Anthropology' since 2021. In this latter capacity she offers mentoring support to PhD students in the Department (especially those with a regional focus on eastern Europe and/or thematic interest in human mobility, diversity, and minority issues), and provides feedback to speakers at work-in-progress sessions.
Before taking up her current position in the UK, Kaneff was a Senior Researcher at the MPI, in the former 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia' Department, and prior to that she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK. Apart from teaching on migration and global capitalism, she is also Director of the Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies Centre at the University of Birmingham. Her research activities are based on her regional expertise in eastern Europe (Bulgaria and Ukraine) and cover a wide variety of topics, including resources and social change (the topic of her Ukrainian fieldwork, which is the subject of a forthcoming monograph) and inequalities and European peripheries. In the reporting period, and with the much appreciated infrastructural as well as intellectual support from the Department 'Law and Anthropology', Kaneff has published a co-edited book, *Explorations in Economic Anthropology* (with Kirsten W. Endres, Berghahn 2021), as well as articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *Europe-Asia Studies* and *Critique of Anthropology*. Alongside her long-term involvement as a member of the editorial boards of several anthropology journals with an eastern European regional focus, she has also recently been invited to serve on the Scientific Committee of *Balkanologie – Revue d'études pluridisciplinaires* (the journal of the French Association of Balkan Studies). Kaneff is also launching a new anthropology book series with Central European University Press.

Kalindi Kokal is currently a visiting faculty member at ILS Law College, University of Pune, India. She was a PhD candidate in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from 2014 until July 2017, when she successfully defended her PhD thesis (*summa cum laude*) and was awarded her doctorate from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Business at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (supervisors: Marie-Claire Foblets and Werner Menski [SOAS University of London]). Her monograph, *State Law, Dispute Processing and Legal Pluralism: Unspoken Dialogues from Rural India*, based on her thesis, was subsequently published in the Department's flagship Law & Anthropology series (Routledge, 2019).
During the 2020–2022 reporting period, in addition to being a research associate of the Department, Kokal was a postdoctoral fellow at the Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India). As part of this fellowship, she completed 18 months of fieldwork – interrupted by the COVID 19 pandemic and its various lockdowns – for an ethnographic study of the everyday workings of police stations in India. In the course of her fieldwork, Kokal observed that interpersonal conflicts involving married and unmarried people and their families are often processed informally by the police using a repertoire of legal orders that give life to a range of different meanings of justice. The study is being written up as a series of papers, but in the process the focus is evolving away from a study of police stations and into an examination of how the Indian state understands the emotion of love, and when and how it decides to regulate it through the use of state law and, more specifically, penal forms of state law.
In the reporting period, Kokal wrote a number of blogposts for the Centre for Policy Studies and published the article "Living By Religion, Playing by Law: Early Glimpses of The Ban On Triple Talaq" in the National Law School of India University's journal *Socio-Legal Review*.

Munkh-Erdene Lhamsuren (Ph.D. Hokkaido University, 2004) is Professor of History and Anthropology at the National University of Mongolia. He was a research partner of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology from 2020 to 2022 (first in the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' and then in the Department 'Law and Anthropology'). During this time he focused his energies on completing two book manuscripts for publication: *The Taiji Government and the Rise of the Warrior State: The Formation of the Qing Imperial Constitution* (Brill, Inner Asia Book Series, 2021), and *The Nomadic Leviathan: A Critique of the Sinocentric Paradigm* (Brill, Inner Asia Book Series, 2023). The latter focuses on the origins and nature of the state, civilization, and tribalism.
Lhamsuren first came to the MPI in 2015 as a Humboldt research fellow in the Department 'Integration and Conflict'. He began his fellowship with a project entitled "Making Mongolia Multi-Ethnic: Knowledge, Power and Identity", in which he analysed the agency that state power and "scientific" knowledge have in the construction of an ethnically framed vision of society. The nearly book-length manuscript that resulted from the project had to be temporally shelved as Lhamsuren completed the abovementioned two volumes. His association with the Department 'Integration and Conflict' continued through 2019.
Before coming to the MPI, Lhamsuren held research fellowships at Stanford University (2008–2009), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (2009–2011), and the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (2012–2013). He has published on pre-modern Eurasian political order, state and empire building, ethnicity, nationalism and the construction of collective identity, and postsocialist transition.

Dominik Müller was appointed Chair of Cultural and Social Anthropology at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in April 2022. From November 2019 until March 2022, he held a fixed-term, grant-funded full professorship at FAU in the framework of the Bavarian Elite Masters Programme "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures" (SDAC). His new chair is permanent and has been established with the support of the DFG's Heisenberg Programme and the HighTech Agenda Bavaria (HTA). He has been a research partner of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since 2020, and led a DFG-funded Emmy Noether Group from 2016 until 2019 at the MPI. He is developing a new, long-term research group project at FAU entitled "LawTech Ethnographies", in cooperation with the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. At FAU he is also one of three directors of the Center for Advanced Studies "Alternative Rationalities and Esoteric Practices from a Global Perspective" (since April 2022) and spokesperson of the SDAC (since January 2020).
Müller received his PhD in Anthropology from Goethe University Frankfurt in 2012, and from 2012–2016 was a postdoctoral fellow in the Cluster of Excellence "Formation of Normative Orders", also at Goethe. In recent years he has held short-term fellowships and visiting positions at Stanford University, the University of Brunei Darussalam, the University of Oxford, the National University of Singapore, and twice at Harvard Law School. He has also taught at the universities of Frankfurt, Mainz, Heidelberg, Leipzig, and Halle-Wittenberg. He has secured a number of major grants, including from the DFG's Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences Programme, the DFG's Emmy Noether Programme, the DFG Heisenberg Programme, the Daimler & Benz Foundation, and the DAAD. During the reporting period he published numerous articles, handbook chapters, and book reviews.

Ioan-Mihai Popa is currently a project coordinator at the Communal Integration Centre (Kommunales Integrationszentrum) of the City of Krefeld in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. He completed his PhD

in Social Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in 2016, and was a research partner of the Department 'Law and Anthropology' until the end of 2021.
While affiliated with the Department, Popa held postdoctoral positions at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) in Athens (in the ERC-funded project "Directions in Religious Pluralism in Europe: Examining Grassroots Mobilisations in the Shadow of European Court of Human Rights Religious Freedom Jurisprudence" (GRASSROOTS-MOBILISE)) and at The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB). During his time as a doctoral and postdoctoral fellow, his research interests included welfare policy, inequality, transnationalism, and pluralism. These topics have also found their way into Popa's current work at the Communal Integration Centre in Krefeld, in the field of migrant and refugee integration in Germany.
Since October 2020, he has primarily worked towards consolidating a local volunteer project supporting children from immigrant families in their efforts to learn German and to improve their educational attainment more generally. He has also helped expand the educational offerings of a local NGO, organizing afterschool activities for children from families that have migrated to Germany from Romania. In the future, Popa plans to complement his practical work with applied research in the field of migrant integration.

In the 2020–2022 reporting period, **Martin Ramstedt** was Ikerbasque – Basque Foundation for Science Research Professor, Scientific Director of the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL), and a member of the Doctoral and Postgraduate Administrative Commission of the Department of Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, and Philosophy of Law, University of the Basque Country in San Sebastián, Spain. His two principal research foci during this time were, first, the role of Basque law (*fueros*) in the development of Basque identity politics from the early 19th century onwards and, second, the implementation of restorative approaches in Basque prisons against the backdrop of the ETA prisoners' transfer from penitentiary centres in the south of Spain to penal institutions in the Basque Country and Navarra. Since the end of his term of office at Oñati, he has served as a member of the IISL Governing Board and as a member of the Oñati Socio-Legal Series editor-in-chief team. He continues to be involved in joint research ventures with colleagues from the University of the Basque Country on the interrelation between Basque law and Basque identity politics and on the role of mediation in cases of sexual abuse in religious communities, while transitioning back to the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.
Ramstedt has longstanding ties to the MPI, having been a senior researcher in the Project Group 'Legal Pluralism' from 2006 to 2012. He was senior researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' until February 2014, and was a research associate of the Department after that. When Ramstedt was appointed Ikerbasque Research Professor, he became a research partner of the Department. Since then, he has also served as an active ambassador for the Department in his role as founder and chair of the working group "Legal Pluralism" within the International Sociological Association's Research Committee for Sociology of Law.

Eugenia Relaño Pastor *(see profile under Senior Researchers)*

Maria Sapignoli *(see profile under project "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice")*

Luisa T. Schneider *(see profile under Senior Researchers)*

Tabea Scharrer *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Denis Shedov *(see profile under Dissertation Writing-up Fellows)*

André Thiemann is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, where he works on the ERC-funded project "The Veterinarization of Europe? Hunting for Wild Boar Futures in the Time of African Swine Fever" (BOAR). He previously held fellowships at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research ZIF Bielefeld and at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Budapest, was Visiting Professor of Social Anthropology at the Central European University Budapest, and worked at Riga Stradiņš University, where he led the project "Comparing Vital Capitals: An Anthropological Analysis of the Global Value Chains of Sea Buckthorn and Raspberries".
Thiemann is a long-time research associate of the Department 'Law and Anthropology', and was a guest of the Department from mid-November 2021 until mid-January 2022. During this time he worked on five articles and book chapters (see publications list). He studied for his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, and received his doctorate from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in 2016 with a thesis on everyday state relations in Serbia. His research interests include political economy, kinship, ecological processes, multispecies relationships, global value chains, infrastructures, and the state. Thiemann explores these issues by combining new and historical materialist perspectives, working towards a deeper understanding of the contemporary moment and its possible futures.
Within the BOAR project, Thiemann studies how wayward domestic and wild pigs in Serbia create frictions between veterinarization, environmentalism, recreational hunting, culling due to African swine fever, and a meat sector moving unevenly from

extensive pannage and garden pig rearing practices towards industrial-scale pig farming (which produces toxic ecologies on an entirely new scale). One focus is the metabolic triangle of plants, pigs and humans, such as the competition between humans and pigs over Serbia's raspberries – a major postsocialist cash crop.

Han F. Vermeulen is a research associate of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, specializing in the history and theory of anthropology. Trained as a cultural anthropologist in Leiden, Vermeulen conducted field studies in Tunisia and carried out library and archival research in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Russia. He has convened workshops on the history of anthropology in Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Italy, and Sweden, out of which have emerged numerous articles and edited volumes, including *Fieldwork and Footnotes: Studies in the History of European Anthropology* (Routledge, 1995), *Treasure Hunting? Collectors and Collections of Indonesian Artefacts* (CNWS 2002), and *Tales from Academia: History of Anthropology in the Netherlands* (Verlag für Entwicklungspolitik, 2002). His book *Before Boas: The Genesis of Ethnography and Ethnology in the German Enlightenment* (University of Nebraska Press, 2015) was listed by the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* as one of the most important books of 2016 and awarded the International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) Book Prize in 2017. Most recently he co-edited, with Frederico Delgado Rosa, *Ethnographers before Malinowski: Pioneers of Anthropological Fieldwork 1870–1922* (Berghahn Books, 2022). He is also co-editor of "German-Speaking Anthropologists in Latin America, 1884–1945", a special issue of the journal *Revista de Antropologia* (2019).
Vermeulen is a founding member of the History of Anthropology Network (HOAN) of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and former coordinator of both HOAN and the History of Anthropology Working Group within the German Anthropological Association (DGSKA).

Olaf Zenker is Professor and Chair at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany). After earning master's degrees in Social Anthropology (LSE) and Linguistics & Literature (University of Hamburg), he completed his PhD at the Integration and Conflict Department at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and the Martin Luther University in Halle in 2008, and subsequently became a post-doctoral fellow in the Max Planck Fellow Group "Law, Organisation, Science and Technology" (LOST). In 2009, he joined the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern as Assistant Professor, where he also held an Ambizione Research Fellowship (SNSF) from 2012 to 2014, and received his Habilitation in Social Anthropology in 2015. He has had visiting fellowships at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa), the University of Cambridge (UK), and Harvard University, and has taught social anthropology at the University of Cologne, Freie Universität Berlin, and the University of Fribourg. Focusing on southern Africa, Northern Ireland, and Germany, his research has dealt with political and legal issues such as statehood, the rule of law, plural normative orders, modernity, conflict and identity formations, as well as sociolinguistics and anthropological epistemologies. Besides numerous articles, his recent co-edited and authored books include *The Oxford Handbook of Social Anthropology* (Oxford, 2022); *The State and the Paradox of Customary Law in Africa* (Routledge, 2018); *South African Homelands as Frontiers: Apartheid's Loose Ends in the Postcolonial Era* (Routledge, 2017); *Transition and Justice: Negotiating the Terms of New Beginnings in Africa* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015); *Irish/ness Is All Around Us: Language Revivalism and the Culture of Ethnic Identity in Northern Ireland* (Berghahn Books, 2013); and *Beyond Writing Culture: Current Intersections of Epistemologies and Representational Practices* (Berghahn Books, 2010).

WRITING-UP FELLOWS

Ana Chirițoiu is a postdoctoral researcher at Uppsala University's Department of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology. In 2020, she was awarded a six-month Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle (Saale). Chirițoiu defended her PhD thesis, titled "Making Virtue out of Necessity in a Southern Romanian Mahala", in March 2022 at the Central European University PU in Vienna, Austria, with highest honours (*summa cum laude*). In 2021, she received the Central European University's Award for Advanced Doctoral Students. In 2022, she served as a trainer for the training workshop "Cultural Diversity in the Courtroom – Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges", jointly organized by the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and the European Juridical Training Network.
During her time at the Department, Chirițoiu finalized several chapters of her dissertation and edited a special issue of the journal *Martor: The Museum of the Romanian Peasant Anthropology Review / Revue d'Anthropologie du Musée du Paysan Roumain* on the topic of Romani marriage-making, which also included an article by the Department's Maria Nikolova. Following her stay at the Department 'Law & Anthropology', Chirițoiu's work veered more decisively towards the intersection of legal, moral, and political anthropology. She is currently concerned with how the social exclusion of Roma impacts the Roma's own notions and practices of kinship, social order, exchange, and moral norms. Her next research project, set in Scandinavia and North America, will examine the tensions between the criminalization of Roma migration and the reproduction of their moral community.

Gustav Kalm is an Institute for Global Law and Policy Fellow at Harvard Law School and PhD Candidate in Anthropology at Columbia University. He was awarded a Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship with the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in Summer 2022.
Kalm's dissertation focuses on foreign direct investment and international investment protection, enquiring how people in materially very different positions across state borders perceive the justness of their share in big international production and investment networks. The research is grounded in ethnographic fieldwork with project finance and investment arbitration lawyers in Paris, with an extended case study of iron ore mining projects in the Simandou mountains in Guinea and the disputes stemming from those efforts. Drawing on three disparate sources of data – an analysis of the submissions and hearings in the most highly publicized investor–state arbitration proceedings to date (*BSGR vs Guinea*), an economic and legal analysis of the relevant financial models and mining conventions, and ethnographic research among both the legal experts involved in the projects and the inhabitants of the Simandou mountains – this project offers unique insights into transnational investment networks as political configurations and fields of belonging.
In his postdoctoral research, Kalm intends to examine how international tax arbitrage – in other words, the ability of multinational corporations and rich individuals to structure their revenue and wealth across plural jurisdictions to lower tax burdens and increase income – structures international inequalities. Given the increasing importance of such international inequalities, especially in light of climate policies, anthropology needs to provide a better picture of how those inequalities are perceived in different parts of the planet. Overall, Kalm's research combines empirical studies of legal pluralism and political economy to analyse how law structures international inequalities.

Aino Korvensyrjä is a research associate at Justice Collective (a Berlin-based NGO), a lecturer at Freie Universität Berlin (European Studies), and a PhD student in Social Anthropology at the University of Helsinki, Finland. In 2022, she was awarded a four-month Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. During this time she drafted several chapters of her dissertation and worked on three article manuscripts. She is currently finalizing the dissertation, which is an ethnography of law enforcement and the production of race in the German asylum–deportation regime from the perspective of black immigrants. She intends to defend the thesis at the end of 2023.
Since the beginning of 2023, Korvensyrjä has also been conducting a new, three-year research project on racism in German criminal courts and the criminal legal system. This is a mixed-methods study relying on courtroom ethnography (observation of 200 trials by Korvensyrjä, 300 by two co-researchers), interviews with racialized defendants, and court actors. The research is jointly conducted by Justice Collective and the Institute for Criminology, University of Cologne. She is also co-editing two special issues – one for *Citizenship Studies* on European deportation regimes, and another for *movements journal* on West African perspectives on border externalization. Her first peer-reviewed article will appear soon in the journal *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. A second one is forthcoming in the journal *Geoforum*. She has also published numerous shorter articles and non-peer-reviewed pieces.
In addition to academic work, Korvensyrjä has continued her active engagement in various social movements addressing deportation, externalization and other border violence, and structural racism in the police and courts. This includes monitoring and publishing reports on state institutions and practices, supporting anti-racist litigation, speaking on public panels, organizing discussions and workshops, and giving training on anti-racist approaches.

Mert Pekşen is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS) at the University of Osnabrück, Germany. He was awarded a Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in 2020. He completed his doctoral studies at the Graduate Center, City University of New York in June 2021 with a dissertation titled "Displacing the Border: Refugees, Law, and Geography in Turkey". His research interests include borders, forced migration, the spatial implications of changing migration control strategies, legal geography, as well as the geographies of remembrance and critical cartography. His current project at IMIS focuses on the relationship between race and space. In particular, he is researching the places and practices of memorialization of racist violence against migrants and minorities in Germany. He published an article, "Reluctant Border Agents: Enlistment of Transportation Workers in Procedures to Limit Refugee Mobilities in Turkey", in the peer-reviewed journal *Citizenship Studies*, a draft of which he was able to present to the MPI audience during his fellowship in Halle.

Denis Shedov is a research assistant at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London (UCL). He was awarded a Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in 2022, and has continued working with the Department as a research associate since then. He is currently finalizing his PhD thesis on Islam–state relations in modern Russia, legal consulting in mosques in central Russia, and trends in the bureaucratization of Islam and Muslim activism in non-Muslim regions of the Russian Federation, which he intends to defend at the University of Helsinki.
As part of UCL's international research team, Shedov is working on an interdisciplinary project on the history and sociology of human rights in Eastern

Europe and Russia. Through archival and field research, the team delves more deeply into the *humans* behind human rights in Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, and Russia. The study focuses on the unprecedented number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights from these five countries.
In addition to academic research, Shedov is engaged in human rights activism. He is a board member of the Human Rights Defence Centre "Memorial", which was one of the three co-laureates of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize, and a member of the OSCE's *Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights* (*ODIHR*) Panel of Experts on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association. In September 2022, the OSCE published a report, "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Right to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly", of which Shedov is a co-author, responsible for covering East European and Central Asian countries. Shedov intends to continue combining interdisciplinary research with more applied analytical work.

David Thompson is a postdoctoral research fellow in the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University. He was awarded a Dissertation Writing-Up Fellowship from the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in early 2020 to support the completion of his doctoral research project, titled "'Resocialize to Conquer the Future': Incarceration and Reform in Rio de Janeiro". He received his PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley in May 2020, shortly after completing the fellowship in Halle.
Thompson's research centres on prisons and incarceration in contemporary Brazil. He considers the forms of social life and governance that have emerged out of the nation's rapidly expanding carceral landscape. With a focus on men's penitentiaries, this work follows prison workers and incarcerated people as both groups navigate the tensions between an enduring legal mandate to resocialize those in prison and the violent realities of mass incarceration. He has recently begun a new research project on the new architectures and infrastructures of confinement that have arisen as a result of Brazil's recent prison construction boom. This project will chart a path through departmental budgets, public debates, architectural blueprints, construction techniques, and protests as each new prison becomes a stage on which different actors vie to shape the future of punishment in Brazil.
Thompson received the 2020 Sérgio Buarque Award for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences from the Brazil Section of the Latin American Studies Association. He has published the results of his doctoral research in the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and *Cultural Anthropology*. He is the current recipient of a Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to support the completion of a book manuscript based on the project.

GUESTS

Dany Carnassale is currently an adjunct lecturer of Cultural Anthropology at the University of Padua (Italy). He was a guest of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from September to December 2022, a period in which he was working as a postdoctoral research fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Programme VULNER. During his time as a visiting scholar at the MPI, Carnassale worked on processing the data he collected during his fieldwork in Italy. He also attended a number of activities at the MPI, including the workshop "Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women", organized by the Otto Hahn Research Group (26–28 October 2022). Based on the ethnography that he carried out in Italy, he published the second Italy country report for the VULNER project, "Vulnerabilities and the Italian Protection System: An Ethnographic Exploration of the Perspectives of Protection Seekers" (co-authored with Sabrina Marchetti) while he was a guest in Halle. Carnassale also drafted the article "Vulneralized Subjects: Ethnographic Perspectives on Migrants Seeking Protection in Italy", which he presented at one of the Department's "work-in-progress" sessions in December 2022. Carnassale benefited greatly from being part of the international scientific community of the MPI for Social Anthropology, and considers the time spent in Halle to be an enriching and remarkable way station as he moves forward on his research path.

Claudia Cavallari is a PhD student at the University of Urbino, Italy, with a research project titled "Cultural Diversity and the Law: Perception and Management in Italian Courtroom Settings". She was a guest of the Department "Law & Anthropology" in May–July 2022, during which time she worked on writing her thesis and on drafting the article "The Blurred Lines of Intercultural Mediation: Practices of Formal and Informal Training in Italy". Besides concluding her PhD, she is now collaborating in the project "Smart Justice: Tools and Models to Optimise the Work of Judges", one task of which is to develop a "cultural *vade mecum*" to inform and assist judges as they go about their daily work.

Zoé Crine is a PhD candidate in immigration law at the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium. She was a full-time researcher for the Horizon 2020 project VULNER. She is also writing her doctoral thesis on the autonomy of women seeking asylum in reception centres in French-speaking Belgium, combining legal and empirical research. She was a guest of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from March to May 2022. During this period, she focused on her thesis, complementing her research with the resources available at the MPI. She also finalized the writing and publication of the second Belgium country report for the VULNER project, "Through the Eyes of the 'Vulner-

able': Exploring Vulnerabilities in the Belgian Asylum System" (co-authored with Sylvie Saroléa and Francesca Raimondo), based on a year of fieldwork in Belgium during which she sought to better understand asylum seekers' experiences of vulnerability. Crine has also developed policy recommendations to give further insight into the results of the study. During her stay, she completed a co-authored chapter (with Marie Courtoy) on vulnerability and environmental degradation in migration, to be published in 2023.
Crine is currently completing her fieldwork in reception centres with female asylum seekers and is entering the final year of her doctoral studies. She is finalizing her contribution to the VULNER project by contributing to several chapters of a collective publication on the vulnerabilities of asylum seekers, which will be published in the International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) Research Series. She is also currently contributing to a research project to create "educational tools" to better explain European migration policies, in collaboration with various universities in France and Belgium.

Ian Scott Kalman is a founding faculty member and Associate Professor of Social Studies at Fulbright University Vietnam. He began his relationship with the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology's Department 'Law and Anthropology' as a doctoral candidate in 2014–2016, and maintained an affiliation as research associate and research partner, with periodic visits as a guest until 2020, during which time he presented ongoing research on the legal infrastructure and the internationalization of higher education. In 2021 he published a monograph, *Framing Borders: Principle and Practicality in the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory* (University of Toronto Press), which is based on writing that he began while at the MPI. In addition to his research, Kalman has drawn upon experiences and collaborations with the Department to develop Fulbright University's Social Studies major and to offer Vietnam's first course on the anthropology of law. He is currently working to publish his work on the internationalization of higher education, while continuing to help develop Fulbright University Vietnam as Vietnam's first private, non-profit institution of higher education.

Sumit Sonkar is a PhD candidate at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was a visiting researcher at the Department 'Law and Anthropology' from February to July 2022, with funding from the German Academic Exchange Service under a Short-Term Research Grant 2021. While at the Institute, Sonkar worked on his thesis, "Progressive Constitutionalism in India: Examining Women's Right to Access Hindu Temples and its Societal Harmonization", which combines law, religion, and gender studies. In the thesis he examines the Supreme Court of India's recognition of women's right to worship, and how this right can be made socially acceptable. He also developed a paper titled "Empowering Rural Communities: The Impact of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment on Panchayats in India." During his visit, Sonkar presented papers at the annual Law and Society Association Meeting in Lisbon (Portugal) and the International Society for Public Law (ICON-S) Annual Conference on Global Problems and Prospects in Public Law in Wrocław (Poland), both of which took place in July 2022. He was sponsored by the Consortium for Undergraduate Law & Justice Programs (CULJP) Travel Award and the Reaching Out Award from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Sonkar is currently conducting fieldwork for his project "State Courts in Context: Indian Perspectives".

RESEARCH GROUPS

In what follows we present all of the research groups associated with the Department. Five of them appear on the organizational chart at the beginning of this report. However, not all of the research groups associated with the Department fit neatly into the categories "dependent" and "independent" research groups. The fact that the Department 'Law & Anthropology' started while the two founding departments were still active means that the Department was in a position to host and/or support individuals and groups that remained after the founding departments closed down. Thus, while they are now hosted by the Department and are "dependent" on it in terms of funding, their genesis was outside the Department. These include the projects "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration" and "Historical Anthropology". Other projects came about in response to requests to the Department or Institute to design research projects to address some of the very urgent social issues in Germany at the time, to engage in public discussions, and make policy recommendations. This was the case for the projects "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" and "The Challenges of Migration, Integration, and Exclusion" (WiMi). And others still were initiatives of individual researchers in the Department and can be seen as extensions of the research they conduct within the framework of the Department's research agenda, yet have third-party funding. These include Luisa Piart's "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond" and Larissa Vetters's "Sentiments of Bureaucracies". These groups, with their varied structures, origins, and funding mechanisms, do not lend themselves to easy categorization, yet are still important parts of the Department's profile and activities. The Department invests time, energy, and resources into them, and they, for their part, diversify the Department's profile, expand its reach and networks, and enrich the intellectual life of the Department in general. For these reasons, they deserve mention in this report.

The organizational logic that best allows us to present these projects in a coherent fashion is by source of funding: in the first part, we present projects that are funded in one way or another by the Max Planck Society; in the second part we present the three projects that have third-party funding.

RESEARCH GROUPS
WITH MAX PLANCK FUNDING

Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice

Principal Investigator:
Maria Sapignoli

Postdoctoral Researchers:
Maya Avis,
Daniel Marciniak

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In April 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning, the Max Planck Research Group "*AI*ming Toward the Future: Policing, Governance and Artificial Intelligence" got underway. The group was led by Maria Sapignoli, who had been a Senior Researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology', and included two postdoctoral researchers, Daniel Marciniak and Maya Avis, who joined the group in 2021. The former has expertise on the use of predictive policing technologies in the US and the UK, and the latter on activism and justice-seeking in Palestine/Israel.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to undertake exploratory ethnographic fieldwork as planned, nor for the group to meet in person. The main activities of the group took place online. These activities had the aim of producing a common theoretical toolkit and some grounds for comparative research to guide the group in the development of the project.

Weekly reading meetings took place, and several seminars with international guests were organized, including a workshop titled "Roundtable: The Ethnography of Algorithmic Assemblages". The workshop aimed to establish a network of scholars who work on topics relevant to the group and to learn from each other's experiences with methods for studying algorithms, machine learning, and automated decision-making systems (ADM). It served as a collective brainstorming session to reflect on and rethink what *ethno+graphy* means, does, and how it unfolds when we study socio-technical assemblages, particularly when the *ethnos* is not the main or only subject of concern.

In April 2021, Sapignoli took up a professorship at the University of Milan (Italy), which led to a change in the structure of the research group. She has remained connected to the Institute and to the Department 'Law & Anthropology' as a research partner, and she has continued collaborating with the members of the group, which has been renamed "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice" but still builds on the research trajectory set out by "*AI*ming Toward the Future".

The research group's main aim has been to examine the increasing use of big data, machine learning systems, and ADM (or AI technologies more broadly) in state and non-state policing, and how these socially embedded technologies are being conceptualized, transferred, and applied in the context of institutional attempts to re-orient policing with promises of a "smart, effective and accountable" criminal justice system. Machine learning systems and digital technologies have become increasingly important and are having immediate consequences for a wide range of issues relevant to governance and justice, including where and when law enforcement will direct policing efforts and how they will be held accountable; the decisions judges make; and who goes to prison and for how long. What these issues all have in common is the fact that decision-making takes place through algorithmic assemblages, raising questions and concerns about the fairness, accountability, and transparency of such decisions.

The project has been guided by concerns and open questions on the place of algorithms, and digital technologies more generally, in deploying or expressing relationships of power, and the role of tech corporations in shaping governance, policies, and laws. The objective of this study was to first take note of the evolution of policing technology and

Graffiti of police robot in Birmingham.

related programs, as well as other modes of surveillance and automation, as part of data-driven governance, and then to shed light on the use and effect of these technologies in policing, governance, and society, emphasizing the implications their uses have for social inequality, law, and the outcomes of criminal justice procedures.

One tool investigated by the research group is predictive policing and related digital systems, a computer-driven risk assessment tool based on statistical prediction and engineered to identify likely targets for crime prevention and police intervention. The most significant novelty of this forecasting technology is the fact it combines disparate data sources with machine learning systems to predict crime.

The most common software platforms already in use by police departments are those that guide officers to "hot spots" where crimes are predicted to happen. These predictions are based on crime history and socioeconomic and environmental factors. There are also software applications that develop profiles of potential victims or perpetrators. These are based on past criminal activity, current social networks and associations, and other factors that correlate with criminal propensity. These new technologies are often presumed to be objective and rational, but they are not pure mathematics, nor are they bias-free. In fact, the accuracy and representativeness of the data used to train predictive software systems often mirror existing forms of structural discrimination and inequality. Policy problems and technicians' own perceptions of risk and crime become part of the algorithmic coding. Finally, when police officers use the software's outputs to make decisions in the field, they create new data – also not bias-free – that become part of the database for future analyses.

The research group wanted to ethnographically examine digital technology at various stages, from development through use, situating them in their local contexts, while also analysing their global circulation. The process of technology production provides a unique opportunity for critical enquiry into developers' underlying assumptions before they become widely accepted as normative values.

The novelty of the project lies in how it ethnographically and comparatively engages with the *entire cycle of existence* of these new technologies, from their conceptualization to their application. It accomplishes this through two interconnected research trajectories. The first traces technologies in practice, considering the social and material consequences of "data-driven governance": how digital policing and predictive software are employed by law enforcement officials in the UK, Palestine/Israel, Italy, and South Africa, and how it plays out on the ground. The second trajectory entails ethnographies of tech labs to investigate engineers' and designers' conceptualization, creation, and transfer of these policing technologies, including their interactions with police officers. This is important because experts' limited knowledge of criminal justice can have a disproportionately large influence on the present and the future that these technologies produce.

The research is guided by questions about how new technologies transform security practices, produce unexpected consequences, and interact with existing inequalities and injustices. The group's original intention was to pay particular attention to the interaction of new technologies with legal frameworks, and both the support and push-back from civil society. While these questions can be adequately addressed only through a comparative and ethnographic approach in several field sites, it was not possible to undertake fieldwork in the initial year of the project due to the pandemic.

Thus, when Sapignoli took up her new position in Milan, the group's research agenda had to be reduced and reframed, and the group "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice" was formed.

Marciniak's started his fieldwork research in the UK in the summer of 2021, attending security trade shows, where he paid specific attention to the present and future of artificial intelligence in video surveillance with a focus on its implementation in private security operations. Avis started her fieldwork in spring 2021 in Palestine/Israel, where she interviewed lawyers and software developers to gain insights into the emerging dynamics of data-sharing and policing during the pandemic, which led to controversial cooperation between health institutions and the internal security ministry. She has also looked into the increasing use of drones, spyware, and facial recognition technologies, primarily in relation to the policing of Palestinian protests.

Their research starts from the assumption that algorithmically mediated socio-technical assemblages are changing governance and decision-making. When comparing cases of policing in the US and Israel, the group noticed differences in the role played by mistakes and false positives in relation to predictive policing models and other kinds of ADM. This led to the formulation of what the group has come to call "arbitrary AI". In the case of Israeli control of Palestinians, arbitrariness can become a component of governance and, as such, might not necessarily be viewed negatively if the aim of this kind of policing is the generation of actionable targets. The group refers to this as "arbitrariness by design". By contrast, in the US, especially in light of Black Lives Matter mobilizations, the arbitrariness of these models plays a different role in the socio-technical context. In such cases, "arbitrariness as result" may be a more accurate formulation of the relationship between policing, technology, and error.

In December 2021, the research group organized a workshop called "Situated AI: Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice", which has resulted in a co-edited volume, *States of Surveillance: Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice* (Routledge, forthcoming). The contributions in this volume examine the socio-technical assemblages that underpin the surveillance carried out by criminal justice institutions – particularly the digital tools that form the engine room of modern state bureaucracies and produce the knowledge states use to govern.

The chapters in the first part of the volume explore how those at the margins navigate experiences of surveillance – the consequences, frictions, and refusals that emerge in relation to new technologies of policing and surveillance. These chapters make apparent what the stakes are for the design and function of technology. The contributions in the second section examine the promises and fears state employees attach to the introduction of new technologies. They highlight how technologies can be unfit for purpose given the social relations they are imagined to become part of on the one hand, or seamlessly integrated as a legitimizing cover for continuing existing practices on the other. The third section is broadly concerned with questions of the epistemology produced by surveillance systems. The contributions reveal the difficulty in following large socio-technical assemblages and the necessity of doing so to confront the fantasies they can produce. In the final section, the authors consider the broader political economy of surveillance systems and the dynamics of their expansion, including questions about the design, configuration and political reasoning behind these systems.

Taken together, the chapters provide insight into how technologies (re)shape surveillance relations with intimate, often ambivalent and contradictory, consequences for those who use them and, especially, for those who are their targets. They demonstrate that approaching surveillance relations through their respective technological artifacts opens up novel approaches to established questions regarding the role of surveillance in social control, as well as new avenues of research around, for example, the epistemologies built into these technologies and their at times precarious existence within strained socio-technical relations.

By bringing attention to the practices, hopes, and daily experiences of those who use and navigate changing landscapes of technological surveillance, this volume – and the work of the research group more generally – offers new perspectives on how digital technologies of governance and control function, and what such changing conditions mean for rights and justice.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Maria Sapignoli is Assistant Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Milan, Italy. Since April 2021, she has been a cooperation partner of the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and Accompanying Scientific Committee Member for the research cluster "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice", which she contributed to setting up.
Before taking up her current position, she was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department (2014–2019) and, from January 2020 to February 2021, she led the Independent Max Planck Research Group "*AI*ming toward the Future: Policing, Governance and Artificial Intelligence".
Sapignoli has spent the last decade conducting ethnographic fieldwork in southern Africa as well as in several international organizations. Most recently she has carried out research in New Zealand. She has explored topics of institutional reform, Indigenous and minority rights, social movements and advocacy and, ultimately, justice. Her more recent work investigates how artificial intelligence and related technologies are being conceptualized, developed, transferred, and applied in governance and in the context of the intensification of state and non-state policing. She has also been working on a project on the social and environmental life of AI systems in Indigenous governance. Through these projects, Sapignoli critically engages with the legal and social challenges and opportunities presented by the use of digital technologies and big data in social and environmental governance, shedding light on the human creators of such technologies, including the values and aspirations that become codified in the programs they develop.
She is co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Law and Anthropology* (2022) and *Digital Technologies and States of Surveillance: Ethnographies in Policing and Justice* (with Daniel Marciniak and Maya Avis, under contract with Routledge). The latter is the result of a workshop held by the members of the research group "*AI*ming toward the Future".

Maya Avis joined the independent research project "AIming Toward the Future: Policing, Governance, and Artificial Intelligence" (now called "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice") as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2020. She has a BA from SOAS (University of London) and an MA and PhD from the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. Her PhD thesis focused on Palestinian Bedouin land claims in the Naqab region of southern Israel and in the West Bank. In her current research project, Avis interrogates the social dimensions of the use of digital technologies in policing in Palestine/Israel. As part of the project, she helped organize the workshop "Situated AI: Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice", which was held on 9–10 December 2021. She carried out preliminary research in the spring of 2021, which was followed by a more significant period of research in late 2021 and 2022. The preliminary research focused on the regulation of the Israeli track-and-trace system. It consisted of conducting interviews with lawyers and software developers to understand more about the emerging dynamics of data sharing and policing during the pandemic that led to controversial cooperation between health institutions and the internal security ministry. This research also included attending several Israeli Supreme Court hearings on the question of data privacy. Avis also looked into the increasing use of drones, spyware, and facial recognition technologies, primarily in relation to the policing of Palestinian protests. Initial results of the two research stays will be reflected in a forthcoming publication, *Digital Technology and States of Surveillance,* co-edited by the research group (Maria Sapignoli, Daniel Marciniak, and myself), which will be published by Routledge.

Daniel Marciniak is a research associate within the research group "Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice" at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. He joined the group as a postdoctoral researcher in August 2020 after completing his PhD on technology use in policing within the "Human Rights, Big Data and Technology" project at the University of Essex, UK. In his research, Marciniak examines how the increased digitization of police processes renders them amenable to statistical data analysis and prediction. New forms of knowledge produced in this manner pose a challenge to established forms of decision-making, from case-by-case discretion to wider strategic directives. They also rearrange power relations both within police organizations and in police interactions with citizens. How do data contribute to decision-making, how do they inform police strategy, what crimes become possible to investigate given the ever-growing collection of data through sensor networks, from CCTV to automatic number plate recognition? Marciniak's research seeks to empirically contribute to the political debate on the uses and misuses of these technologies that are set to redefine security for the foreseeable future. One of his sites of ethnographic fieldwork is security trade shows in the UK, where he pays specific attention to the present and future of artificial intelligence in video surveillance with a focus on its implementation in private security operations.
In June 2022, Marciniak left his position as a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute to take up a permanent position as Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Hull in the UK, but will continue his involvement in the group, most notably by contributing as editor and author to the group's joint publication *Digital Technology and States of Surveillance* (to be submitted to Routledge).

Minerva Research Group: The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation

Principal Investigator:
Farrah Raza

PhD Candidates:
Inge Fiedler,
Jodie White

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Farrah Raza was awarded the Minerva Fast Track Fellowship in January 2020 on the strength of her proposal for a project titled "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation", and arrived at the Department 'Law and Anthropology' in September 2020. Her first task was to flesh out the team with two PhD candidates: Inge Fiedler, who is working towards her doctorate in anthropology, and Jodie White, who will be completing her doctorate in the field of law. Marie-Clare Foblets is the lead supervisor for the research group. The group is, thus, interdisciplinary and draws on different approaches. Philine Dellbrügge, the student assistant who has been assigned to the group, has provided excellent research and administrative support.

The ethics of organ donation and transplantation is a hotly debated issue globally and is linked to a number of complex medical, legal, and regulatory questions. Calls for legal reform in organ donation and transplantation in a number of jurisdictions, including in the UK and Germany, have resulted in different policy options. Currently, the jurisdictions of the study include the UK and Germany. The UK recently adopted an "opt-out" system whereby individuals are presumed to consent to donation upon death unless there is an explicit objection or statutory exemption that applies. While the law provides an overarching framework, greater insight into how discretion is exercised in decisions about patient consent and autonomy, organ optimization, and resource allocation can reveal how different layers of decision-making intermesh within the clinical setting. Moreover, the religious and cultural beliefs of patients *and* their families are relevant factors to be considered from both an ethical and a clinical viewpoint. This project fills in a gap in the scholarship by conducting a novel study of the "middle layers" of decision-making processes. To capture the complexity of how the law is negotiated and translated into practice at the various levels of decision-making, the project is structured around two key workstreams.

Workstream 1: Regulation and Decision-making in Organ Donation and Transplantation

This workstream assesses the regulation and decision-making processes in organ donation and transplantation in the countries of the relevant case studies. The notion of decision-making is understood broadly to include a range of practices, forums, and actors.

Workstream 2: Religion, Culture, and Minority Rights in Organ Donation and Transplantation

Given the specific challenges that minority groups face, this workstream aims to arrive at a better understanding of how religious and cultural diversity is accommodated in clinical decision-making.

Overall, the group seeks to make an original contribution both empirically and normatively by investigating how the law's boundaries are negotiated in decision-making processes in organ donation and transplantation in the selected jurisdictions, with their different regulatory systems. These questions have become even more pertinent in light of the increasing number of people living with co-morbidities and the Coronavirus pandemic, which highlights the vulnerabilities of patients in need of organs.

Current Outputs and Activities

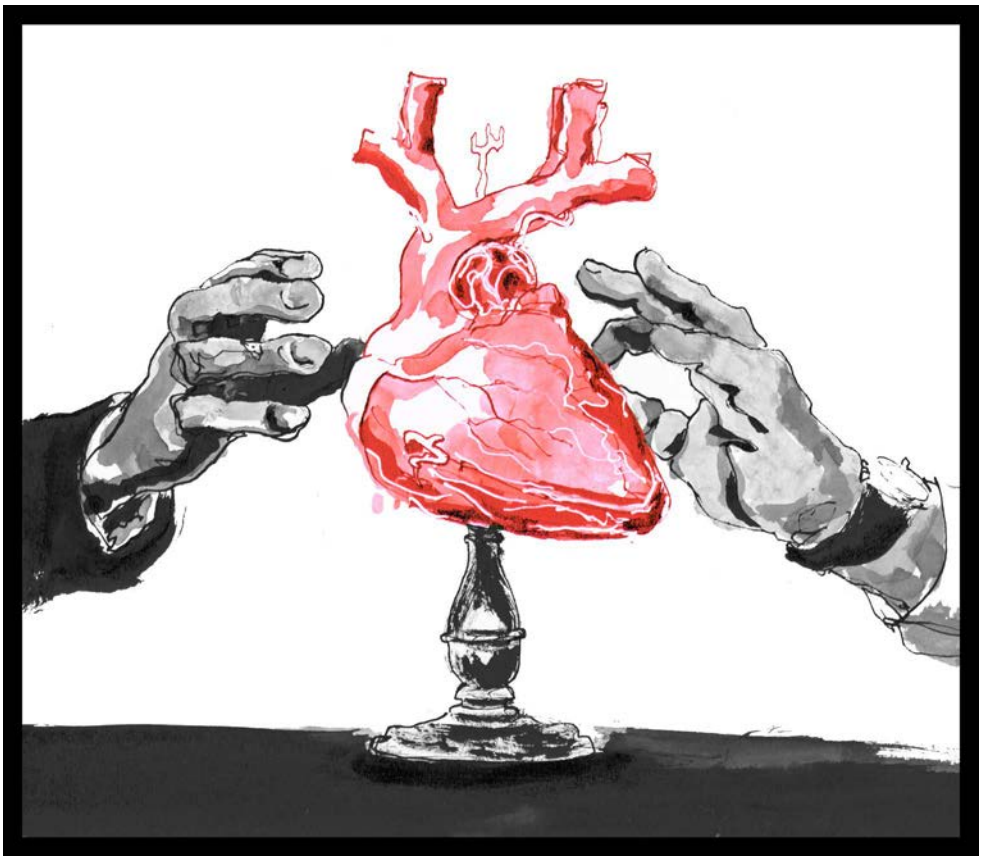
To get the project off the ground, Raza first developed and submitted an ethics framework for the project, which was positively evaluated and approved by the Ethics Council of the Max Planck Society. During the reporting period, she also co-authored an interdisciplinary article with James Neuberger titled "Consent in Organ Transplantation: Putting Legal Obligations and Guidelines into Practice", which was published in the journal *BMC Medical Ethics* (2022).

On 26 August 2022, Foblets, Raza, and Fiedler organized a symposium and panel discussion entitled "Anthropological Research in Organ Donation and Transplantation: Interrogating the Gift of Life". The panel discussion critically revisited the "gift of life" metaphor in its various forms. In the field of organ donation, the "gift of life" trope features on campaign posters, in public discussions, and in conversations with organ recipients and donors' families. While researchers can approach this as a discursive motif and investigate its trajectories in communication, it is also possible to focus on the *affects* the notion produces, such as feelings of gratitude, the urge to reciprocate, or survivor's guilt. But the gift of life is also visible in certain practices, such as when people engage in new bodily regimes to honour the gift, express gratitude in public testimonies, include

the organ donors in their prayers, or plant trees to memorialize them. The "gift of life" thus can carry over to organ recipients as well as the next of kin of organ donors. It can also, however, limit how organ donation is experienced or how the experience is expressed. The discussion enabled us to revisit core anthropological concepts related to "the gift" with a fresh lens, drawing on fieldwork of the participants.

On 25 November 2022, Raza held a closed workshop at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, entitled "Translating Legal Obligations in Practice in Organ Donation & Transplantation". The interdisciplinary workshop investigated how the law is translated in the clinical context with regard to organ donation and transplantation. Calls for legal reform in organ donation and transplantation in a number of jurisdictions, including in the UK and Germany, have resulted in different policy options, making this a topical comparative issue. The objective was to bring academics, lawyers, doctors, and other actors together to discuss, and interrogate, how legal concepts such as "consent" are understood and applied in practice. The workshop comprised three substantive sessions which covered core issues such as informed consent and religious and cultural diversity in practice. White provided research assistance to Raza, who also received funding from the Law Research Support Fund and from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account to organize a workshop on the project. The Conference Report is due to be published, and a follow up workshop will be held this year.

The group members are in the process of conducting fieldwork and look forward to sharing their findings in due course. Raza and White have been working together on the Research Protocol and will collate empirical data from their respective hospital sites. The next steps will be to draw their research materials together in the form of joint publications, and for Fiedler and White to complete their doctoral theses. Moreover, Philine Dellbrügge's blogpost, "The Missing Pieces: Living Organ Donation and Personal Autonomy in Germany", has been published on the Oxford Human Rights Hub Blog.



RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Farrah Raza was awarded the Minerva Fast Track Fellowship in 2020 and, since September 2020, she has been Head of the Minerva Research Group "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation", hosted by the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. Raza is also a Stipendiary Lecturer in Public Law at Pembroke College, University of Oxford. She was previously a Senior Teaching Fellow in Public Law at the School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, where she delivered lectures on the Human Rights Act 1998. Her monograph, *Religious Accommodation and its Limits* (Hart Publishing, 2023) is now available. It proposes an original model of religious accommodation which can be applied in secular liberal democracies where religious diversity has been a hotly contested issue. She presented her work at the Twenty-Ninth Annual International Law and Religion Symposium "Religion's Role in Peacebuilding", which was held in October 2022 at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, US.

Inge Fiedler joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in February 2021 as a PhD Candidate in the Minerva Research Group "The Ethics of Exchange: The Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation". Before joining the MPI, Fiedler worked in science communication at the NGO Wissenschaft im Dialog. She holds BA and MA degrees in the Study of Religion(s) from the University of Leipzig (Germany). The working title of Fiedler's doctoral research project is "Faith-based and Non-faith-based Views on Organ Donation in Germany: An Ethnographic Exploration among Three Communities". In 2020 the German Parliament (Bundestag) passed the "Act to strengthen the decision-making process on organ donation of 16 March 2020", aimed at encouraging the public to declare and record their decisions on post-mortem organ donation. In light of this recent legislative change, Fiedler's doctoral thesis will focus on the decision-making processes that people engage in when deciding whether to agree to post-mortem organ donation or not. Biographical experiences, customs, worldviews, and religious and philosophical beliefs all play a significant role in how death and organ donation are understood. To capture the complexity of individual decisions, Fiedler is interviewing people from three communities in Germany – Christian, Jewish, and secular – who have made decisions about organ donation either for themselves or for others. She not only considers the individuals' perspective(s), but also situates them within the relevant communities and institutions by engaging with a range of actors, from laypeople to experts involved in community leadership, patient consultation, and hospital chaplaincy. Fieldwork has started and preliminary findings were presented at the Minerva Research Group's one-day workshop "Anthropological Research in Organ Donation and Transplantation: Interrogating the *Gift of Life*", which was convened at the MPI in August 2022.

Jodie White has been a PhD candidate in the Law & Anthropology Department since November 2022. Before joining the MPI, White completed her Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws in International Law at the University of Reading. Prior to beginning her PhD programme, she worked as an English teacher in Thailand. White also worked on human rights-related issues in Bangladesh, focusing specifically on the rights of women and girls. She has continued this work in Bangladesh as a Foreign Officer at the charity With She.
White is working within the Minerva Research Group "The Ethics of Exchange: The Law and Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation", headed by Dr Farrah Raza. White's research focuses on the legislative framework surrounding organ donation and transplantation within the UK from a human rights perspective. White aims to critically assess, in particular, articles 8 and 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Her consideration of Article 8 will include an in-depth analysis of the notion of informed consent and autonomy in relation to organ transplantation, while analysis of Article 9 will require an overview of the different religious views on organ transplantation and the extent to which current UK legislation potentially impacts religious freedom. White will aim to draw a link between medical ethics and human rights more generally, assessing which ethical positions are compatible with human rights and which are contradictory. As White is still relatively early on in her research, she is still developing her specific research questions.

Memory and Transitional Justice

Principal Investigator:
Valérie Rosoux

PhD Candidates:
Pierre Druart,
Mustapha Hadji

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Memory and Transitional Justice research group has been conceived as a way to reflect on theoretical and applied challenges related to post-war reconciliation. For two decades, the group's leader, Valérie Rosoux, has approached this topic as a political scientist and a philosopher, working with and drawing on insights from sociologists, psychologists, and historians to address questions of post-conflict justice and peacebuilding efforts. With the support of two MPI directors – Hélène Ruiz Fabri of the MPI Luxembourg for Procedural Law and Marie-Claire Foblets of the MPI for Social Anthropology – Rosoux was awarded the Max Planck Law Fellowship. The fellowship will enable her and two PhD candidates, Mustapha Hadji and Pierre Druart, to work together on the project "The Intergenerational Memory of Mass Atrocities: The Missing Piece of Transitional Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution". The project aims to help bridge the gap between insights obtained through anthropological study and the post-conflict norms and institutions that are formalized in law. In this regard, this fellowship is one more step towards the cross-fertilization of disciplinary methods.

Research Design

The research group explores the importance of recognizing and addressing the memory of violence in post-conflict transitional justice and peacebuilding efforts. This project is of common interest to both the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law. For the MPI Luxembourg, the project contributes to reflections on how best to adapt legal procedures and proceedings to the particular social context and, ultimately, to achieve a positive outcome. The MPI Luxembourg has already conducted some research into the sociological aspects of international adjudication. That research raised awareness of the need for multidisciplinary approaches to procedure. Indeed, the best conceived legal proceedings can fail if not carefully adapted to the context in which they have to function. Mass atrocities are extreme situations that call for justice in order to re-establish peace. Nevertheless, international criminal justice, which is the branch of law that the MPI Luxembourg has been most involved in thus far, offers only a partial answer. The same is true of transitional justice. The question remains: How do we design procedures that can reach those who are the most in need of justice?

The MPI for Social Anthropology, for its part, contributes to this project by bringing to bear its expertise drawn from case studies it has conducted over the years on how victims of mass atrocities experience attempts at post-conflict dispute resolution. Various members of the Institute have also looked at the long-term impact of collective trauma on diaspora communities that have not seen justice done for what they have suffered. An anthropological approach can contribute to this type of study and documentation and help the project achieve its aim of assessing the success of international legal proceedings.

The research agenda of the group goes beyond the usual strategic or politico-normative analysis. It strives to elucidate the complexity of uses of the past by focusing on the intersection of transitional justice and peacebuilding. One of the guiding research questions underpinning the project is: How, if at all, can the minds of people who have suffered the consequences of mass atrocities be released from the fear and violence they have experienced? The research group addresses this question in two ways. First, the research group is working very closely with practitioners tasked with managing the consequences of mass atrocities. This allows for an empirical assessment of the scope and limits of both judicial and non-judicial processes and undertake detailed comparisons. Second, the researchers analyse post-conflict settings from a genuinely multidisciplinary perspective. The members of the research group are linked to research teams based at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and are involved in several other multiyear, multidisciplinary projects devoted to studying the long-lasting impacts of political violence.

Exploring the impact of memory in the *longue durée* implies understanding the transmission from one generation to the next of narratives and emotions related to past violence. There is much at stake for both theory and practice: addressing this intergenerational transmission is crucial for developing sustainable dispute resolution mechanisms and designing the accompanying legal procedures.

The project aims to address two significant gaps in the current scholarship: 1) the striking dearth of research on the link between intergenerational transmission of memory and transitional justice; 2) the lack of collaborative research platforms on conflict resolution involving legal experts, anthropologists, and political scientists.

The research project takes a three-pronged approach. The first is *disciplinary*. The project involves an approach combining three disciplines, namely, law, anthropology, and political science. Only by bringing together expertise in these three disciplines is it possible to identify phenomena relating to procedures and "judicial truth" (law), the use of memory (political science), and transmission, rituals, and collective mourning (anthropology).

The second angle is *temporal*. The aim is to scale up the number of people involved. Rather than restricting the study to one generation of actors, this project considers two, or even three, generations within each family studied. The family remains one of the most important sites of intergenerational transfer; it therefore offers the opportunity for an in-depth understanding of intergenerational phenomena. This is a demanding task, but it is a *sine qua non* for identifying the tensions, discrepancies, and even contradictions between one generation and another.

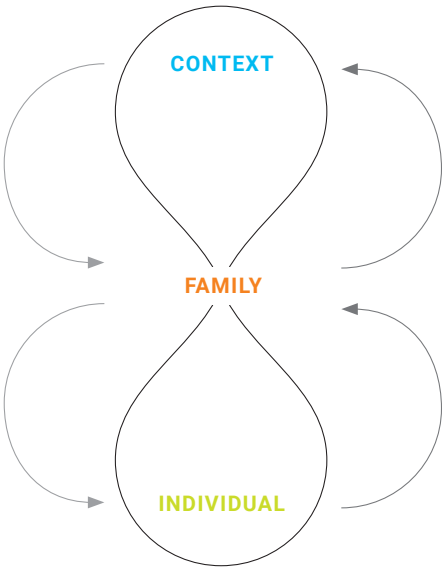
The third angle is *spatial*, focusing on the geographical variable. The research group studies the intergenerational effect on memory of the narratives highlighted by courts and other transitional justice bodies set up to deal with past violence, which may differ depending on the geographical anchoring. Each case study will compare families remaining in the country where the violence took place and families living in the diaspora.

Methodology

To understand the scope and limitations of transitional justice mechanisms in the aftermath of mass crimes, the project employs a multi-level research design that aims to combine both top-down and bottom-up approaches to the phenomenon in order to identify the interactions between the collective and the individual. The objective is to better understand how the judicial narrative of past violence and the intimate recounting of this same violence are linked.

To illustrate this, the group proposes the hourglass as a metaphor. Beyond the apt allegorical depiction of the passing of time visualized as the accumulation of sand, both the shape of the object and its invertible nature can serve as a representation of our approach.

At the top of the hourglass lie the political, social, and legal contexts (macro). This is a large area that combines an ensemble of collective notions, beliefs, and perceptions of the past. In the centre, the narrow passage between the two bulbs represents the particular case of family memory (meso). It acts as a filter, a meeting point between the official narrative of the past – partly shaped by tribunals – and the period of history that people actually lived through. At the bottom is the individual (micro). However, the individual is not an empty receptacle. In this broad space lies the individuals' idiosyncrasies, such as their personal beliefs, attitudes, or social identifications. But each accumulated grain of sand – each memory – will have a certain impact on the individual either directly or indirectly. Conversely, inverting the hourglass makes it possible to put the individual and their family at the top. After all, it is the individuals themselves – not the groups to which they belong – who remember, and it is the weight of their memories that is brought to bear on the way history and societies represent the past.



These three layers – macro, meso, and micro – will be investigated in the project's different work packages.

Work Package 1 (WP1) focuses on the legal context (macro). In particular, it will first examine the existence – or lack thereof – of courts, tribunals, or transitional justice initiatives in each case study. It collects and analyses an exhaustive corpus of judicial-historical narratives.

Work Package 2 (WP2) highlights the transmission processes (meso). More specifically, the processes of the intergenerational transmission of memories related to past violence within the family unit are examined. WP2 consists of collecting testimonies within families directly affected by the past violence (victims/perpetrators and their descendants). Data are collected through semi-structured interviews.

Work Package 3 (WP3) concentrates on individual impacts (micro). Notably, it examines the attitudes of particular individuals to the narratives emphasized in the framework of transitional justice initiatives.

The research data draw on three paradigmatic and contrasting case studies: Rwanda (post-genocide),

Morocco (post-dictatorship), and Belgium (post-colonial violence). These three cases are analysed in the light of the following criteria: 1) type of court proceedings involved; 2) historical depth of the violence; 3) existence of a diaspora. In each case, three main variables will be considered: 1) the context (initial post-violence context vs. diaspora context); 2) the generation (G0: first-hand witnesses; G1: their children); 3) the degree of individual involvement in dispute resolution initiatives (involvement vs. non-involvement).

In terms of methods, the project combines three main approaches: discourse analysis of a corpus of legal documents, official speeches, and individual narratives (press interviews, autobiographies, etc.); semi-structured (qualitative) interviews with respondents who can bear witness to the memory of past violence across generations, as well as with families, representatives of local associations, religious leaders, etc.; and quantitative surveys conducted among members of associations and local universities.

Added Value of this Cooperation

This Max Planck Law Fellowship is part of a larger multidisciplinary endeavour involving the fields of law and anthropology. More often than not, research indicates a gap between anthropological findings and what actually gets translated into legal norms. This fellowship can be a step towards filling that gap, especially by adopting a critical stance that allows law and anthropology to interact fruitfully. The stakes are high; the scientific challenge is to ascertain how ethnographic data can help formulate rules that bring the law closer to its principal objective of delivering. In this regard, the project points out the challenge, paradox even, of delivering justice at a given point in time and space and for a given set of people when reconciliation is not limited to that point in time and space nor to that set of people. Reconciliation is a long-lasting process that affects several generations and several regions, if not continents.

The contribution of legal experts to the multilayered analysis proposed in the project is paramount, as the project's ultimate objective is to integrate diverse perspectives into more effective legal practice and procedures. Anthropologists' added value lies in their ability to collect and analyse the empirical data that constitute the core of the research design. Political scientists' expertise is decisive in understanding how former enemies can engage with post-war memory without 'backsliding' into new armed conflicts. Thus far, research demonstrates that inappropriate proceedings (either judicial or non-judicial) are fruitless and can even be detrimental to peace.

In terms of outcomes and deliverables, the fellowship involves the completion of two PhD theses. Both PhD students receive professional training in a variety of methods and analysis techniques (including a certificate in Memory Studies). They benefit from a dynamic and international environment (thanks to the presence of five PhD students and four postdoctoral researchers at UCLouvain who are involved in related projects).

In addition to submitting papers to top peer-reviewed journals in the disciplines involved, particular attention is devoted to an interdisciplinary publication presenting the main outcomes of the research group. A number of publications related to the topic have already been published since the project commenced, including *Memory Fragmentation from Below and Beyond the State* (Routledge, 2023); "Collective Memory: An Hourglass between the Collective and the Individual", (*Memory, Mind & Media*, 2022); "Embodied Reconciliation: A New Research Agenda" (*Peacebuilding,* 2023); "Deepening Understandings of Success and Failure in Post-Conflict Reconciliation" (*Peacebuilding,* 2022); and "Memory and Narratives of Hate and Forgiveness in Post-Conflict Societies" (in Amrita Narlikar and Fen Hampson (eds), *International Negotiation and Political Narratives: A Comparative Study,* Routledge, 2021).

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Valérie Rosoux is Research Director at the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) and Professor in the Faculty of Economic, Social, Political and Communication Sciences (ESPO) at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) in Belgium, where she teaches the courses "International Negotiation", "Transitional Justice", and "Politics of Memory". In 2021 she became a Max Planck Law Fellow, jointly appointed by the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and the MPI Luxembourg. Rosoux has a master's degree in Philosophy and a PhD in Political Sciences, both from UCL. Her research interests focus on post-war reconciliation and the uses of memory in international relations. In 2010–2011, she was a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace (Washington, DC) and, since 2016, she has been a member of the Belgian Royal Academy. In 2020 she was appointed by the Belgian Parliament to serve on a commission to deal with the colonial past, and was the only expert who participated in the writing of both the initial and the final reports of the Parliamentary commission (August 2020 – December 2022). She is now writing a book, provisionally titled *Negotiating Decolonization: The Limits of a Fairy Tale*, based on this long period of participant observation. Rosoux has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Ernest Lémonon Prize (Institut de France) and the Henri Rolin Prize (Centre of International Law at the Université libre de Bruxelles) for her book *Les usages de la mémoire dans les relations internationales* (Bruylant, 2001), the Journal of Contemporary European Studies Anniversary Prize in 2018, and the International Affairs Centenary Prize in 2023. She is the (co)-author of several books and articles, the latest of which are: *Memory Fragmentation from Below and Beyond the State* (Routledge, 2023); "How Not to Mediate Conflict?" (*International Affairs*, 2022); "Collective Memory: An Hourglass between the Collective and the Individual" (*Memory, Mind & Media*, 2022); and "Deepening Understandings of Success and Failure in Post-Conflict Reconciliation" (*Peacebuilding*, 2022).

Pierre Druart is a doctoral candidate in the Max Planck Fellow Research Group "The Intergenerational Memory of Mass Atrocities: The Missing Piece of Transitional Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution", which he joined in 2022. Before coming to the MPI, Druart finished a joint LLM at KU Leuven and the University of Zurich. Druart's research project aims to understand the long-term impacts of having opted for either a punitive or a restorative approach in the aftermath of mass atrocities. He draws on a number of resources to facilitate successful completion of this project. First is his education in legal philosophy and international law, which allows him to grasp the philosophical foundations of transitional justice, as well as to gain an overview of the mechanisms already put into place. Second is the setting at the MPI for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale (Germany), where he is developing the methodological skills to investigate empirically the impact transitional justice mechanisms can have on the people on the ground. Third will be immersive fieldwork in Rwanda and among the Rwandan diaspora in Brussels, where Druart will tackle the following research question: "How is memory being transmitted across two or three generations of victims and perpetrators who have participated in either punitive or restorative justice mechanisms in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide?" Druart aspires to complete his doctoral studies in early 2026 and will get his PhD from KU Leuven and UCLouvain, with the support of the MPI for Social Anthropology.

Mustapha Hadji is a doctoral candidate in the Max Planck Fellow Research Group "The Intergenerational Memory of Mass Atrocities: The Missing Piece of Transitional Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution." Before Joining the MPI in April 2022, Hadji worked as programme director for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Morocco, where he implemented programmes designed to encourage youth political participation and civic engagement.

Hadji holds a master's degrees in Global Affairs from George Mason University in the United States, a master's degree in Human Rights and Democratization from the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Italy, and a bachelor's degree in Public Law and International Affairs from Moulay Ismail University, Morocco.

In his doctoral project, Hadji examines the effects of state violence – primarily enforced disappearance – on survivors and communities near former illegal detention sites in Morocco. The project aims to shed light on the representations and hidden dimensions of the memory of political violence by exploring how memories of political violence travel through time and space and impact individuals and communities. More specifically, he is investigating the multigenerational effect of political violence within the social groups of Morocco's south-eastern region and the role that "mnemonic communities" such as the family play in shaping collective memory.

Hadji has recently published a study commissioned by the New York City-based International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) on Morocco's transitional justice experience and prevention. The study explores the nexus between transitional justice mechanisms and the prevention of gross human rights violations.

Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society

Group Leaders: Marie-Claire Foblets and Hatem Elliesie

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The research group *Conflict Regulation* is jointly headed by the Director of the Department 'Law & Anthropology', Marie-Claire Foblets, and the Group Leader (*Gruppenleiter*, GL), Hatem Elliesie. As illustrated in the organization chart below, the research group consists of two major research areas: focus group studies and institutional research. The former entailed field research among communities; the latter produced a study of how judicial authorities in Germany deal with concrete cases. To date, several experts and institutional partners have been involved in the project. Intuitional partners include the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, the universities of Halle-Wittenberg, Erlangen-Nürnberg, and Münster, and the justice ministries in Berlin, Bremen, and North Rhine-Westphalia. The focus group studies component consisted of three postdoctoral researchers who started in 2017 (Mahabat Sadyrbek, Cengiz Barskanmaz, and Mahmoud Jaraba) and two doctoral students (Afrooz Maghzi and Kutaiba Kaidouha). At the very start of the reporting period, each of them had freshly returned from around one year spent in the field, conducting ethnographic research in carefully selected immigrant communities. The year 2020 was entirely devoted to the analysis of the data. The institutional research was conducted by Elliesie himself jointly with Clara Rigoni, a Senior Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law. The fieldwork studies in both research areas were completed by the end of 2022.

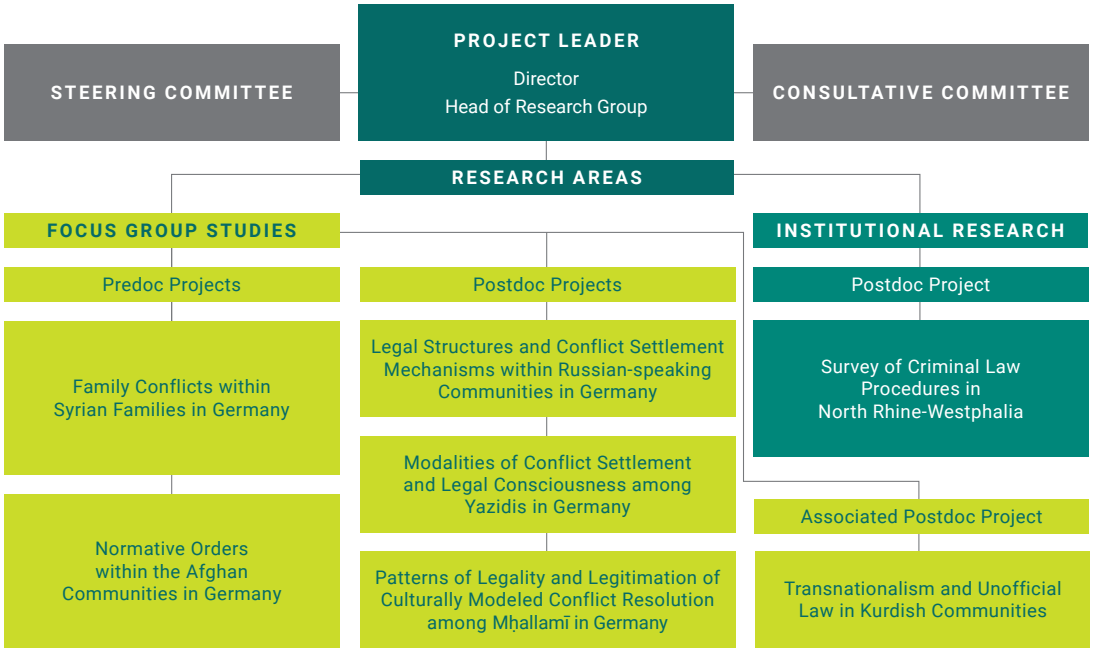
The overall aim of this research group has been to investigate targeted (minority focused) dynamics behind dispute settling processes within Germany, from both legal and anthropological perspectives. The research group developed its own analytical framework.[1] It called into question how the term "parallel justice" (*Paralleljustiz*) is used in Germany. The term is problematic in that it carries with it the underlying presumption that particular communities are *per se* conflict ridden. Even the term *Justiz* ("justice"), as used in the ongoing debates about these issues in Germany, is misleading. It implies that the communities under scrutiny have established quasi-judicial structures similar to and potentially in competition with the state's judiciary. Thus, the researchers in the Department avoid using the value-laden term *Paralleljustiz* (and its English translation) except when referring explicitly to the concept as it features in the debates in Germany. In order to avoid the risk of confusion with the contested concept, the project uses the term *Konfliktregulierung* ("conflict regulation"), which reflects a more nuanced way of understanding the existence and functioning of various forms of social ordering in the context of the current legal framework of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Regarding the focus group studies in particular, the research group takes its inspiration from the concept of "semi-autonomous social fields" as developed by the American anthropologist Sally Falk Moore,[2] which refers to the existence of fairly autonomous, self-regulating, self-enforcing, and self-propelling social fields operating within the larger legal, political, economic, and social environment of a society. The researchers have been using the concept to examine how social fields, in the specific context of German society today, interact with one another.

The guiding question of the focus group studies has been to find out, to the extent possible, how the communities under scrutiny settle their disputes, whether they have set up their own bodies to negotiate, mediate, or even adjudicate cases of conflict among members of the community and, if so, how these bodies proceed in concrete cases. In so doing, the research project seeks to engage in, inform, and enrich the ongoing public debate on *Paralleljustiz* in Germany. The data of the five ethnographies, when taken together in a comparative analysis, help refine the knowledge available so far on the very reasons why some minority communities in Germany – such as Afghans (Maghzi), Chechens (Sadyrbek), Kūsāwīya, also known as Mḥallamīya (Jaraba), Syrians (Kaidouha), and Yezidis (Barskanmaz) – would rather not take recourse to state justice in cases of conflict, and how exactly they provide for their own dispute resolution mechanisms. A critique often levelled at these mechanisms is that they clash with the principles of fair trial and the rule of law. The researchers are committed to a neutral position in

[1] This framework is outlined in "Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft: 'Paralleljustiz'? – Konzeptioneller Rahmen eines Forschungsprojekts" (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology Working Papers Series no. 199) and several other articles by Elliesie as detailed in the former report period (see Report 2017–2019, p. 35) and in this report.

[2] SF Moore, "Law and Social Change: The Semi-Autonomous Social Field as an Appropriate Subject of Study" (1973) 7 (4) Law & Society Review 719–746.



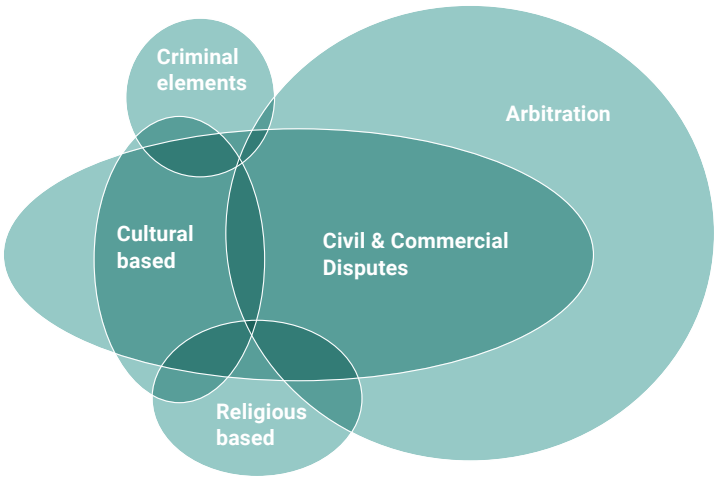
Organization Chart of the Research Project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society"

this regard, since the first aim is to accurately document the reality on the ground and understand the underlying motivations.

In the institutional research framework, Elliesie and Rigoni conducted research within the formal state justice system (including law enforcement agencies) in North Rhine-Westphalia on informal dispute resolution mechanisms and out-of-court conflict settlements – there explicitly labelled as *Paralleljustiz* ("parallel justice") by the actors. In doing so, they were assisted by Freya Guddas, a student assistant at the MPI in Freiburg. Elliesie and Rigoni's research set out to answer the question: How do actors within the formal justice system deal with the phenomenon of informal dispute resolution and what they refer to as *Paralleljustiz*? To do so, qualitative methods were used to collect and analyse data. In particular, the research relied on surveys, analyses of prosecutors' dossiers, expert interviews, focus-group interviews with judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies, and roundtable discussions among experts. The data gathered were analysed according to the qualitative content analysis method and with the help of the software MAXQDA. The findings were presented at a national press conference at the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia in 2022. In the same year, the survey "Paralleljustiz in Nordrhein-Westfalen aus strafrechtlicher Sicht" was published. It is not limited to the findings of the project's institutional research branch, but also delivered several recommendations anonymously expressed by the interlocutors to the government of North Rhine-Westphalia, especially regarding approaches and processes within the regulatory authority of the ministries of Interior and Justice, as well as their subordinated administrative bodies.

Further research findings will be published in a two-volume set, edited by Foblets and Elliesie, to which all researchers and partners of the project have submitted their papers in 2022. Findings and views on the topic are currently being brought together by Foblets and Elliesie and are expected to be available in a print and most probably an open access version by 2023.

In the broader research context of extrajudicial dispute resolution, Foblets and Elliesie have not only cooperated with the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, in the area of the focus group studies; they are also participating in the Comparative Procedural Law and Justice (CPLJ) project within the Max Planck Law Consortium. CPLJ is a global project on comparative civil justice, organized by the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law and supported by the Luxembourg Research Fund FNR. Officially launched in September 2020, it is the flagship research project of the Department of European and Comparative Procedural Law. It is envisaged as a comprehensive study of comparative civil procedural law and civil dispute resolution schemes in the contemporary world. It aims at understanding procedural rules in their cultural context, as well as at highlighting workable approaches to the resolution of civil disputes. More than one hundred scholars from all over the world are actively involved in CPLJ. It contains 18 thematical segments. In this context, Foblets and Elliesie are in charge of Segment 2, "Civil Dispute Resolution from a Pluri-Disciplinary Perspective". They presented their research with a paper, "Extrajudicial Dispute Resolution in Europe: Anthropological Insights on the Impact of Religion and Tradition", at a CPLJ seminar in 2021 that was linked to the Department's CUREDI project as well as the Conflict Regulation project's



focus group studies and the "Sharia in European Settings" research group. The research is expected to be submitted for publication by the end of 2023.
The third activity in the context of Max Planck Law has been the working group "Arbitration and Dispute Resolution", headed by Elliesie and Faris Nasrallah. The working group started by identifying a conceptual design at the intersections of the participating researchers of the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, and the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, as illustrated in the Venn diagram above. Quarterly meetings were organized by Nasrallah in the course of the reporting period. The research was presented at the Max Planck Law Annual Conference in Berlin in 2021.

In addition to the aforementioned working paper that came out of the focus group studies and the published survey "Paralleljustiz in Nordrhein-Westfalen aus strafrechtlicher Sicht" out of the project's institutional research branch, the chapters "Wie begegnet die Rechtsforschung und -praxis außergerichtlicher Konfliktregulierung ('Paralleljustiz') nahöstlich geprägter Bevölkerngsgruppen" (Elliesie) and "Strafrechtliche Aufarbeitung von Kriminalität im arabisch-migrantischen Milieu Berlins – ein Fallbeispiel zum Umgang mit 'Selbstjustiz' und 'Familienehre'" (Elliesie, co-authored with Peter Scholz) were published in the edited volume *Migration und Heimatrecht: Herausforderungen muslimisch geprägter Zuwanderung nach Deutschland* (edited by Irene Schneider, Hatem Elliesie, and Silvia Tellenbach, Harrassowitz, 2022). In the reporting period, Rigoni published "La Clankriminalität e la Lotta al Crimine Organizzato in Germania" in *Rivista di Studi e Ricerche sulla Criminalità Organizzata* (2021) and "Crimes d'honneur et mariages forcés: l'expérience scandinave de la médiation transformative interculturelle" in *La Justice Restaurative en France et en Europe* (Janie Bugnion, ed., Médias & Médiations, 2020).

The research group's outreach activities included training at the German Judicial Academy by Foblets and Elliesie in 2020 and 2022. A research report by Rigoni and Guddas was published in *TOA-Magazine* in 2021, and, in the same year, Rigoni was featured on the podcast "Doing Time, Talking Crime" of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law in Freiburg. The abovementioned press conference and survey were extensively covered by national media outlets such as *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, RTL, etc.
The Max Planck Society (MPG) published English and German versions of a research report and interview: "On the Fringes of the Rule of Law" in *MaxPlanck-Research Science Magazine* (2022–02) and "Im Schatten des Rechtsstaats" in *Wissenschaftsmagazin – Max Planck Forschung* (2022–02).

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Hatem Elliesie joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in 2016 and is Senior Research Fellow and Group Leader (*Gruppenleiter*) of two dependent research groups in the Department, "Sharia in European Settings" and "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" (see project descriptions in this report). Besides his tasks in the Department, he is currently Acting Professor of Islamic Law at the University of Leipzig and was appointed Head of Junior Research Group at Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in 2021.
Within the reporting period, Elliesie successfully completed the professorial "FAUnext Career Programme" and the Planck Academy's "MP Leaders Programme". He has also been very active in Max Planck Law, a network of ten MPIs engaging in legal research. In this context, he was actively involved in several working groups and initiatives including, most recently, being a founding member of the African Law Initiative (headed by Ralf Michaels) and a member of the Network's Research Data Management Coordination Team, which cooperates with the Max Planck Digital Library in Munich. He is a principal investigator, based at the FAU, in the consortium project KONTEST, comprising of nine research projects, five partner institutions, and some 30 scholars all over Germany. Funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, KONTEST is thematically linked to the research area "Institutional Research" of the Department's Conflict Regulation Project.
In the context of his Africa-related research, Elliesie co-edited (with Katrin Seidel) the volume *Normative Spaces and Legal Dynamics in Africa* in the Department's Law and Anthropology series (Routledge, 2020). He also co-authored (with Beate Anam) the article "Rechtslinguistik: Sprache, Recht und Translation" in the German Foreign Ministry's handbook *Rechtsstaatsförderung* (Kohlhammer, 2021). His commitment to combining research and teaching has recently been recognized by a Pre-Doc Award for the

supervision of doctoral candidates and a nomination for the Supervisor Award at the University of Leipzig.

Cengiz Barskanmaz was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from May 2017 until December 2020. He obtained his doctorate in law at Humboldt University in Berlin. In his doctoral thesis, "Law and Racism", Barskanmaz conducted an extensive analysis of the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights concerning cases that have a racial component.
During his time at the Department 'Law and Anthropology', Barskanmaz was member of the research group "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society". His own project focused on legal consciousness and modalities of conflict regulation in Yazidi communities. For this purpose, he conducted extensive field research in various Yazidi communities in the German cities of Celle, Hannover, Oldenburg, and Berlin, and also in Yazidi towns, villages, and refugee camps in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) (September/October 2019). He presented his preliminary findings at the German Judicial Academy in February 2020, and has since developed his results into a chapter, "Conflict Regulation and Legal Consciousness", which will be published in the volume *Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft: Paralleljustiz?* (Marie-Claire Foblets and Hatem Elliesie, eds., Nomos, forthcoming).
Upon leaving the Department 'Law and Anthropology', Barskanmaz took up his second postdoctoral position at the Law Faculty of Freie Universität Berlin (FU) (July 2021– March 2022), where he was the principal researcher in the project "Open Access in Law". Since April 2022 Barskanmaz has been Professor of Law of Social Work at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences, where he teaches constitutional law, human rights, social law, and critical race theory. He is also principal investigator of the research project "Inclusive Administration".

Mahmoud Jaraba joined the Department 'Law and Anthropology' in January 2018 and was a postdoctoral research fellow in the research project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" until December 2020. Prior to joining the MPI, Jaraba was involved in the research project "Muslime in Bayern" ("Muslims in Bavaria") with the Erlangen Centre for Islam and Law in Europe (EZIRE) and the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities). In 2021, EZIRE welcomed Jaraba again as a research fellow, and he also continued to be affiliated with the MPI. Jaraba has been active in various fields of ethnographic research for many years, during which time he has developed deep insights into the social, religious, and cultural practices of various Muslim communities in Germany. In his fieldwork research, he investigates extended Arab families in Germany and how socio-economic conditions, learning processes, cultural and religious norms, and institutions under which extended families live can contribute to shaping the so-called "clan crimes" and the intergenerational transmission of criminal behaviour.
In his current research project, he intends to identify social actors who can act as "bridge builders" by using extrajudicial dispute resolution instruments in extended family structures ("clans") in accordance with the rule of law, thereby opening legally compliant, long-term ways of cooperating between the state and representatives of extended Arab families. The results of the research he undertook while at the MPI will be published in the edited volume *Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft: Paralleljustiz?* (Nomos, forthcoming).

Mahabat Sadyrbek is currently a research associate in the project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" in the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. She studied foreign language pedagogy and law in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), and continued her studies of German language and literature and political science in Hannover (Germany). She earned her doctorate from the Institute of Central Asian Studies, Humboldt University Berlin with a thesis that is a historical, anthropological, and legal analysis of the forms of local law and indigenous popular justice in (rural) Kyrgyz communities. During that time she also completed the doctoral programme of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures & Societies (BGSMCS), Freie Universität Berlin.
After a research fellowship at the Institute for Islamic Studies (Freie Universität Berlin), she joined the Department, where she worked from 2017 to 2020 as a postdoctoral research fellow in the research project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society". Her focus within the project was on the community of Chechens who had emigrated from Russia to Germany after the first and second Chechen wars. On the basis of intensive ethnographic field research over fifteen months, she examined how Chechens living in the Berlin/Brandenburg area engage in "forum shopping", that is, appealing to various sources – German state law, sharia, and Chechen customary law (*adat*) – in their efforts to solve conflicts within their families and communities. The research forms the basis of Sadyrbek's contribution to the forthcoming edited volume *Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft: Paralleljustiz?* (Marie-Claire Foblets and Hatem Elliesie, eds., Nomos).
Sadyrbek has recently completed a draft of *Kirgisische Grammatik* (a grammar of the Kyrgyz language) and published numerous articles on political and legal issues in Central Asia. She works as a sworn translator for Kyrgyz, German, and Russian, and is engaged in various educational and social projects.

Sharia in European Settings: The Connection between Muslim Life Practices and Islamic Normativity

Group Leaders: Marie-Claire Foblets and Hatem Elliesie

PhD Candidates: Beate Anam, Abdelghafar Salim

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The research group "Sharia in European Settings" is led by Hatem Elliesie and jointly supervised with Marie-Claire Foblets. It comprises three closely connected individual projects: Hatem Elliesie's habilitation project (on hold during the reporting period) and the PhD projects of Beate Anam and Abdelghafar Salim (detailed below). The overall project focuses on, among other topics, intra-Muslim debates on certain aspects of sharia in Europe, such as "gender jihad", the issue of unregistered marriages, eco-Islam and its interdependencies with the *ḥalāl* market in Islamic industry, and blockchain- and crowdfunding-based models of Islamic finance. Employing anthropological methods, the members of the research group enquire into everyday life practices of Muslims with a view to understanding the extent to which these practices are defined and legitimized by religion and can technically be regarded as sharia-compliant.[3] A distinctive characteristic of the approach adopted by the research group is that it examines current developments among Muslims and in Muslim normativity *outside* of the prevailing debates on Islamism, fundamentalism, and the war on terror. It is based on ethnographic fieldwork and challenges the thesis that Muslim life is linked mainly to migration to the "geo-cultural space" of Europe and which views Muslims as a homogeneous group. From this perspective, Islam atrophies into a placeholder for a wide range of phenomena, attitudes, and developments, while actual religious and religiously motivated conduct in daily life and knowledge production among Muslims are systematically neglected. By pursuing a bottom-up anthropological approach to Islamic legal scholarship, the members of the research group seek to understand how individual actors comprehend their own Islamic self-perception.[4]

In her project, Anam deals with the lived religiosity of Muslim women. At its core is the question of whether indicators of a certain form of interpretation of the Quran that argues for gender inclusiveness (the so-called "gender jihad") can be identified in the religious practice of Muslim women. Accordingly, Anam's PhD project, "Alltagspragmatische Lebenswelten und islamische Normativität im Kontext des gender ǧihād" ("Daily Practical Life and Islamic Normativity with Regard to the 'Gender Jihad'"), addresses the negotiation processes of Muslim women (specifically Sunni women) who seek to live according to their religious convictions, taking the conditions of daily practical life in Germany into account as they do so. For methodological purposes, Anam limited her selection of research participants to women who identify themselves as Muslims and who went through the German school system. She conducted her field studies in western Germany (Düsseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia) and eastern Germany (Leipzig, Saxony) in 2019 and 2020.

Salim's PhD project, "Lebensweltliche Alltagspragmatik von Muslimen und islamische Normativität im Kontext aktueller Migrantenmilieus" ("Daily Practical Life and Islamic Normativity in the Context of Muslim Migrants' Milieus"), takes an anthropological approach to the ongoing dynamics between Islamic normativity (as reflected in Islamic legal theory) and the religious practices of Muslim refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2015. At the centre of the conceptual outline lies the question of the extent to which everyday practices are defined and legitimized by religion and regarded as sharia-compliant. In this context, Salim's research does not take religion as the exclusive frame of reference for the daily practice of Muslims; it is, rather, open to the possibility that other socio-cultural references could be of primary interest for Muslims. Salim conducted his ethnographic study between 2019 and 2021 in the former East German states of Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, examining the implications of the divergent contexts of urban and rural areas. Using anthropological methods, he aims to deliver novel insights to a largely unexplored area of Islamic studies. His research will also critically engage with the socio-political discourses on Muslims in Germany that underlie and constitute categories and epistemological assumptions about Muslims and influence academic knowledge production.

[3] For the terminology and underlying normative concept of sharia, see the Department's Report 2017–2019, p. 29.

[4] Due to the pandemic Elliesie had to redefine and ultimately change his individual research priorities. For the time being and in addition to their joint project leadership and PhD supervision in both dependent research groups, Foblets and Elliesie agreed to place his focus on the intensive work with Clara Rigoni in the "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society" project. For this reason, only the two research projects of Anam and Salim are presented here.

These two projects share a common aim: to offer an in-depth, empirically based study of the development of Islamic law in the contemporary German context. The objective is to provide a fact-based analysis that stays away from the highly charged and emotional debates we have seen in recent years in many European countries about the growing influence of Islamic culture and sharia (the religious and legal system of norms in Islam). All three researchers are particularly interested in the question of how Muslims in Germany experience their situation, in which a variety of regulations, systems of order, and sources of law and legal frameworks coexist. These questions will be of increasing relevance in the years to come, and not only in Germany. Yet very little work has been done on how Muslims live and experience sharia in daily life.

Among several other initiatives, the members of the research group were intensively engaged in university teaching in all of the abovementioned topics at the universities in Leipzig and Erlangen. The group members also continued their involvement in training workshops such as those organized by the Department in collaboration with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the principal platform and promoter for the training and exchange of knowledge of the European judiciary. Both Anam and Salim were part of the Department's delegation at the EJTN's judicial training in Barcelona (Spain) in 2021. Moreover, in the context of knowledge transfer, Elliesie and Salim were involved as consultant and expert in an advanced training course for imams and social workers in Muslim communities, funded by the Senate Administration for Justice in Berlin in 2022. The course, which imparted skills and knowledge on how to deal with alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and its Islamic elements in Muslim communities, was based on the findings of two of the Department's dependent research projects ("Sharia in European Settings" and "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society") as well as on Elliesie's latest publications, including the volume *Migration und Heimatrecht: Herausforderungen muslimisch geprägter Zuwanderung nach Deutschland*, edited by Irene Schneider, Hatem Elliesie, Silvia Tellenbach (*Studies on Islamic Cultural and Intellectual History*, Harrassowitz Verlag, 2022). A related volume, *Islam, Law and Anthropology in Europe*, edited by Marie-Claire Foblets and Hatem Elliesie, which includes chapters by Beate Anam and Abdelghafar Salim, has been finalized and is forthcoming in the Department's Law & Anthropology series with Routledge. Likewise, Foblets and Elliesie submitted a chapter tentatively titled "Islam in Europe – Balancing Conflicting Values and Interests: The Case of Unanaesthetized Slaughter of Animals" to the second edition of the volume *The Sociology of* Shari'a – *Case Studies from around the World* (Adam Possamai, James T. Richardson, and Bryan S. Turner, eds., Springer).

The research group furthermore substantially contributed to volumes 3 (2020) and 4 (2021) of the prestigious *Lexikon für Kirchen- und Religionsrecht*. Elliesie authored the entries "sharia", "Islamic dispute resolution" (*ṣulḥ*), "sharia courts", and "Islam and Human Rights", and co-authored the entry "Islam and Human Dignity" with Salim and an article on the concept of Islamic residency with Anam. The latter is linked to the *fiqh al-aqallīyāt* ("jurisprudence of minorities"), a concept of Islamic legal theory which has emerged as a distinctive field of research in the wake of the post–World War II establishment of sizable Muslim populations in western Europe and North America. It is therefore relevant for solid anthropological, sociological, and Islamic studies of Muslims in the so-called *West*, especially in Europe.

The research group members organized several conferences, conference panels, and workshops, and presented papers at events sponsored by the Department. These include the workshop "Sharia in the European Context", jointly conducted with the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2021; a conference organized by Elliesie with the title "Islam and Law in Africa" at the 47th Annual Law Conference of the African Law Association (in cooperation with the Erlangen Centre for Islam and Law in Europe at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg); and the panel "Medical Ethics and Islam" at the International Congress of the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO) in Berlin in 2022, chaired by Anam. Salim was invited to and presented his research in 2022 at the Arab Graduate Student Conference, Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies in Doha (Qatar); a conference on "Religion, Religiosity and Society", hosted by the Orient Institute Beirut, Cairo Office, in Alexandria (Egypt); and at a conference organized by the King Abdul-Aziz Al Saoud Foundation for Islamic Studies and Human Science in Casablanca (Morocco).

The research group also engaged in diverse outreach activities. In 2021 Elliesie was invited by Udo di Fabio, former judge at the Federal Constitutional Court, to participate in a podcast on "Dogma vs. Pragma: Zum Islam in Deutschland" in the renowned podcast series *Auf den Grund! Wissenschaft im Gespräch mit Udo di Fabio*, sponsored by the Forschungskolleg normative Gesellschaftsgrundlagen. Elliesie was also featured in a University of Leipzig podcast on Islamic law, "Auf einen Kaffee mit… Rechts- und Islamwissenschaftler Hatem Elliesie". In 2022 *Deutsche Welle* published an interview with Elliesie in which he discussed his views on Islamic law in Africa. Salim contributed German and Arabic versions of a segment on the religious life of Muslims in Germany to the Institute's video series "Spot On", in which MPI researchers give a three-minute introduction of themselves and their work. All three – Anam, Elliesie, and Salim – were involved in and shaped debates on Islamic legal thinking in the context of the Arabic and Islamic Law Association. While Elliesie was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Association and Editor-In-Chief of the bilingual *Journal of Law & Islam / Zeitschrift für Recht & Islam*, Anam and Salim were actively involved in both the association's activities and success of the journal. Anam acted as Managing Editor of the journal and was confirmed as a member of the association's board of trustees. Salim was a member of the editorial team of the journal and coordinator of the association's junior research network, which comprised three working groups and some forty scholars.

Through the work of the research group "Sharia in European Settings", the Department 'Law & Anthropology further promotes an anthropological approach in Islamic studies while maintaining the discipline's academic tradition in Germany and beyond.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Hatem Elliesie *(see profile under project "Conflict Regulation in Germany's Plural Society")*

Beate Anam was a doctoral candidate in the Department 'Law and Anthropology' and a member of the research group "Scharia in genuin europäischen Settings: Konnex muslimischer Lebenspraxis zu islamischer Normativität" (with Hatem Elliesie and Abdelghafar Salim) until July 2022. Before coming to the MPI, Anam studied Education Sciences and Islamic Studies at Leipzig University. In her doctoral thesis, Anam deals with the lived religiosity of Muslim women. At its core is the question of whether indicators of a certain form of interpretation of the Quran that argues for gender inclusiveness (the so-called gender jihad) can be identified in the religious practice of Muslim women. To this end, she conducted qualitative interviews in western Germany (Düsseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia) and eastern Germany (Leipzig, Saxony). The data are being processed through a comparative method.
During the reporting period, Anam co-authored two papers (both with Hatem Elliesie): "Wohnsitz: islamisch" in *Lexikon für Kirchen- und Religionsrecht* (Ferdinand Schöningh, 2021) and "Rechtslinguistik: Sprache, Recht und Translation" in *Rechtsstaatsförderung: Handbuch für Forschung und Praxis* (Kohlhammer, 2021). She also gave two presentations: "The Islamic Headscarf and Beyond: Negotiation Processes of Muslim Women in Germany", in the framework of the Department's European Judicial Training Programme (Barcelona, November 2021); and "Gender (and) Equality through the Eyes of Muslim Women: Experiences from Ethnographic Fieldwork in Western and Eastern Germany", as part of the Department's online workshop "Sharia in Context" (March 2021). Since December 2022, Anam has been a rapporteur for the director at the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Abdelghafar Salim has been a PhD candidate in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since October 2018. Before joining the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Salim taught German to refugees in Leipzig (Germany). This experience inspired him to combine his diverse academic training with his daily contact with refugees. In the second half of 2017, he started working on his doctoral research project, which takes an anthropological approach to the ongoing dynamics between Islamic normativity (as reflected in Islamic legal theory) and the religious practices of Muslim refugees who have arrived in Germany since 2015.
Based on an ethnographic study conducted between 2019 and 2021 in the German states of Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, Salim's research project investigates the daily lives of Muslim refugees in Germany. Particular emphasis is placed on how Muslim refugees deal with their religion as minorities in non-Muslim contexts and the strategies they use to implement and integrate religion in their new social environments. The research also examines the role of social contexts, customs, and traditions in constituting or supporting certain religious beliefs and practices. This allows Salim to reflect on how Muslim refugees negotiate distinct normative orders (customs, Islamic law, and state law) within the complexity of a predominantly non-Muslim society. Salim expects to submit his dissertation in June 2023, after which he intends to embark on a new research project on the negotiation and construction of religious authority among imams in Germany.

The Challenges of Migration, Integration, and Exclusion (WiMi)

Coordinator:
Zeynep Yanaşmayan

Postdoctoral Researcher:
Luc Leboeuf

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction: The WiMi Research Initiative

The summer of 2015, when the number of asylum seekers seeking protection in Europe peaked, has become a landmark period. The images and videos of persons struggling to cross the borders over sea and land are now ingrained in the European collective memory. While the European Union has to a large extent failed to develop a joint answer to the so-called "refugee crisis", Germany has shown an unprecedented example of leadership. Temporarily lifting the requirements of the so-called Dublin agreement, which forms the legal basis of the EU shared asylum system, German Chancellor Angela Merkel decided to open Germany's borders to new arrivals. The political will epitomized in Merkel's "*Wir schaffen das*" pronouncement was matched with the rise of *Wilkommenskultur* at the societal level, with many solidarity networks and neighbourhood help initiatives emerging all over Germany.

In order to keep abreast of the dynamism of the environment, the Max Planck Society called for a cross-institutional, interdisciplinary initiative on migration. "The Challenges of Migration and Integration" (*WiMi*, from the German *Wissenschaftsinitiative Migration*) emerged out of this attempt to bring together the expertise acquired by its various institutes in the field of migration under a joint research programme. WiMi was a three-year research initiative (2017–2020) financed by the Max Planck Society and led by Marie-Claire Foblets (Director of the Department 'Law & Anthropology) and Steven Vertovec (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen). While the project officially ended in 2020 (the last year of the reporting period), its impact continues through its emphasis on *exclusion*, its unique research framework, and the many publications that have resulted from it (and which are still coming out; see below).

This collaborative research programme involved researchers from six Max Planck Institutes:

- Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg)
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Rostock)
- Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy (Munich)
- Max Planck Institute for Human Development (Berlin)
- Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle)
- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Göttingen)

The initiative was coordinated by Zeynep Yanaşmayan, formerly of the Department 'Law & Anthropology', and was accompanied by renowned experts in the field who formed a consultative committee for the research programme.

Research Framework and Achievements

After careful review of the literature and existing projects on migration, WiMi set out to investigate a new conceptual angle by focusing on the *exclusion* of migrants. The extensive mapping carried out prior to the kick-off of WiMi revealed that the two topics most often studied in the field were asylum-seeking migration and the integration of migrants. This emphasis, however, left a lacuna: the practices that have effectively precluded migrants from integrating and the coping mechanisms of migrants who are not given an opportunity to integrate were significantly less visible in the literature. In order to comprehend the complexity of such practices and situations, the WiMi research initiative not only opted to concentrate on the exclusion of migrants, but also developed an ambitious research agenda around the concept of exclusion that will have an impact beyond the case study of Germany.

One of the first significant steps was to design a conceptual framework that drew on the empirical expertise of WiMi researchers as well as insights gleaned from the existing literature. The WiMi research initiative elaborated a multi-dimensional research framework that rested on two main pillars. First, in contrast to most of the existing literature, which deals with exclusion mainly by implication – that is, as the implied flip-side of integration – the WiMi research initiative conceptualized exclusion as one pole of a continuum, with inclusion being the other pole. Since migrants are positioned differently in different spheres of life and at different times, their exclusion is often not absolute, but partial and ambiguous.

Inclusion and exclusion in societal areas are a matter of degree rather than an either/or situation. A typical example of this gradation is irregular migrants, who are legally excluded yet are employed formally or informally and are therefore included in the labour market.

The second pillar of the WiMi conceptual framework was to identify and examine connections and interrelationships between the different societal areas into which migrants are included or not. While the literature often focuses on exclusion as a social or legal situation that migrants find themselves in, the WiMi research initiative sought to shed light on the interconnectedness of and interdependencies between different areas. How does legal exclusion impact socio-economic exclusion? How does socio-economic exclusion impact health conditions? These are some of the crucial questions that the WiMi research initiative engaged with over the three years. In order to best implement the two pillars of the conceptual framework, the WiMi team devised a multi-dimensional approach that analytically separates the exclusion of migrants into six constitutive elements: *actors*, *acts*, *moments*, *representations*, *areas of exclusion*, and *reactions against exclusion*. The multi-dimensional approach suggests that exclusion in specific *areas* (e.g., legal, social, socio-economic) is produced by a variety of state and non-state *actors* (e.g., the EU, federal government, communities) that engage in exclusionary *acts* (e.g., laws, administrative practices, routinized behaviours, discursive strategies) at certain *moments*. Such exclusionary acts are produced and reproduced by *representations* of exclusion (e.g., media depictions, public discourses, collective memories) and contested by *reactions* against exclusion on the part of migrants. The many and varied publications that have emerged from WiMi display how the multi-dimensional framework has been put into practice. Significantly, the main findings that showcase the multifarious nature of migrants' exclusion in all six dimensions are gathered together in the final WiMi academic report, *We Managed – and We Changed in the Process* (Miriam Schader and Constantin Hruschka, eds., Max Planck Society, 2020).

The WiMi research initiative conclusively demonstrated that exclusion is an extremely complex phenomenon, and documenting the various facets and ambiguities of exclusion requires a conceptual framework that is both comprehensive and adaptable. During the running period of the WiMi research initiative (2017–2020) and since, the emphasis on exclusion has grown in significance in both scholarly and public discourses. This is proof positive of the degree to which the contributions of the WiMi research initiative and its pioneering conceptual framework have advanced not only the scholarship on migration, but the policy orientation as well, and continue to bring an innovative, evidence-based voice into the current debates. The short-lived excitement of the *Willkommenskultur*, the discursive shift on refugees, as well as the new restrictive policy measures from various levels of governance are all indicators of the current veer away from the open and liberal approach associated with the *Wir schaffen das!* moment. The findings of the WiMi research initiative serve as testimony of this rapidly fluctuating and dynamic climate.

One crucial way through which WiMi enhanced the synergy between and among participating institutes and researchers and developed common outputs were the regular meetings organized by the coordination team in cooperation with the institutes. Between March 2017 and January 2020 there were 11 such meetings. Moreover, WiMi research coordinator Zeynep Yanaşmayan organized visits to all the participating institutes in March and June 2019 to consolidate and further synthetize the key findings of each project. More formal events included a workshop on the inclusion and exclusion of migrant communities sharing cultural backgrounds similar to their host societies, organized and hosted by the MPI for Demographic Research/Population Europe (20 November 2017), and an international workshop on humanitarian visas and the external dimensions of the EU migration and asylum policy, organized and hosted by the Department 'Law & Anthropology' (17–18 May 2018). The papers from this successful workshop were published in the volume *Humanitarian Admission to Europe: The Law between Promises and Constraints*, edited by WiMi leader Marie-Claire Foblets and WiMi researcher Luc Leboeuf (Nomos/Hart, 2020).

WiMi panels at two major conferences – the 2018 Conference of the Netzwerk Flüchtlingsforschung in Eichstätt and the 2019 annual conference of IMISCOE, the largest migration studies network in Europe – resulted in the special issue "Post-2015 Refugees in Germany: 'Culture of Welcome', Solidarity, or Exclusion?", which was prepared by WiMi coordinator Zeynep Yanaşmayan and has been accepted for publication in the journal *International Migration* (forthcoming, 2023). In addition to authoring the introduction, Yanaşmayan co-authored (with Shahd Seethaler-Wari) her own contribution, "Unfolding Intersecting Forms of Socio-Spatial Exclusion: Accommodation Centres at the Height of the 'Refugee Reception Crisis' in Germany". The special issue also includes an article by Tabea Scharrer, a research associate of the Department, titled "Ambiguities of Exclusion and Inclusion: Balancing Sociabilities Among Somali Forced Migrants in Germany" (co-authored with Markus Höhne, a former researcher at the MPI).

On 23–24 May 2019, an international workshop, "Forced Migration, Exclusion, and Social Class", was jointly organized by three participating institutes of the WiMi initiative: the MPI for Social Anthropology, the MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diver-

sity, and the MPI for Social Law and Social Policy. The organizers – Magdalena Suerbaum from the MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Zeynep Yanaşmayan and Tabea Scharrer from the MPI for Social Anthropology, and Christian Hunkler, previously of the MPI for Social Law and Social Policy – have recently published a special issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (2022) based on the workshop papers.

These joint and individual activities clearly demonstrate that the WiMi research initiative managed to tap into an aspect of the topic of migration that had thus far been insufficiently documented and that has proven to grow in significance ever since, thanks in part to the efforts of WiMi. By using exclusion rather than integration as the main analytical lens through which to read the collected data, the WiMi research initiative has innovatively shaped a more sophisticated understanding of key mechanisms, interdependencies, and interactions among different actors, laws and policies, institutions, and arenas (of exclusion). This focus offered a fresh perspective on a range of pressing issues regarding migration, analysing not necessarily how (well) migrants (should) integrate, but how migrants are partially, intentionally, or inadvertently prevented from integrating. In this way, the Max Planck Society, through the WiMi research initiative and the efforts of the Department 'Law & Anthropology', has provided not only wide-ranging insights into Germany's response to the 2015 "refugee crisis", but also a conceptual perspective that continues to make a significant contribution to a crucial contemporary field of study.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Zeynep Yanaşmayan is the head of the Migration Department at the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM). From 2017 to 2021, she was a Senior Research Fellow in the Department 'Law & Anthropology', where she was Coordinator of the Research Initiative "The Challenges of Migration, Integration and Exclusion" (WiMi). She holds a PhD in Social Sciences from KU Leuven, Belgium. She is an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of political science, sociology, and sociolegal studies, with research interests in citizenship, migration and mobility studies, governance of religious diversity, transnationalism, and diaspora politics. At DeZIM, together with her team, she conducts research on migration governance at the German and European levels, cooperation with transit and origin countries, individual (im)mobility aspirations, and practices of solidarity. She is the author of *The Migration of Highly Educated Turkish Citizens to Europe: From Guest-worker to Global Talent* (Routledge, 2018) and co-editor (with Felix Petersen) of *The Failure of Popular Constitution-Making in Turkey: Regressing to Autocracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). She also recently published a co-edited special issue, "Spatial and Social Im/mobility in Forced Migration: Revisiting Class", in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (2022), which is based on the research she coordinated at the MPI. Another special issue edited by Yanaşmayan, "Post-2015 Refugees in Germany: 'Culture of Welcome', Solidarity or Exclusion?" in the journal *International Migration* (forthcoming, 2023), also largely features the work of members of the WiMi initiative and highlights the framework developed in the initiative.

Luc Leboeuf *(see profile under project "Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime" (VULNER))*

The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration

Group Leader:
Timm Sureau

Postdoctoral Researcher:
Tabea Scharrer

PhD Candidates:
Laura Lambert, Margarita Lipatova, Stefan Millar

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The governance of mobility has become increasingly sophisticated, advancing in the technological, legal, and border enforcement practices of ordering. The European Union is externalizing its migration control to the Mediterranean and to states in Africa, eastern Europe, and the Middle East, as well as to private and international actors. This process involves new forms of technology and cooperation, creating new configurations of exclusion and criminalization. To date, few studies have analysed the technicization of externalization and its impact on local contexts. For this reason, the research group studied these local practices through in-depth, long-term ethnographic fieldwork.

Established by Timm Sureau in 2018 as a four-year PhD research group as part of the International Max Planck Research School on Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment (IMPRS–REMEP), with the possibility of extension by the Department 'Law & Anthropology', the research group continued to engage in lively academic exchanges before and during the pandemic. By the start of the pandemic, all field research had been completed and the group was able to meet online to continue research and finalize papers. In Thesis Advisory Committees, the Director of the Department 'Law & Anthropology', Marie-Claire Foblets, actively supported and formally supervised the PhD candidates, with Tabea Scharrer and Timm Sureau taking on the role of co-advisors, and with regular exchange with the late Keebet von Benda-Beckmann.

The group examined the implementation of exclusionary practices in the control of mobility and the lifeworlds of those affected by them. Exclusionary practices consist of legal, bureaucratic, and technological bordering tactics. They keep migrants out of the EU, detain them, and collect biometric data on them. While also being part of the humanitarian biopolitics of care and control, such practices contribute to the securitization of borders and mobilities. Looking at these multiple modes of governance, the aim was to analyse the complex relations between states and the law (Thelen et al. 2017), agency and bureaucracy, spatio-temporal control mechanisms, and migrants' and locals' hopes and imaginaries of the future, and, in the process, to enrich the discussion of the global condition of excluded populations and their efforts to exert control over criminalization and uncertain futures. The researchers traced how migrants experience the increasing securitization and technicization of mobility control and compared the different ways in which people on the move negotiate, adapt, and respond to disempowering governance tactics in relation to EU externalization in six different sites: Chios Island and mainland camps in Greece (Margarita Lipatova); Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps in Kenya (Stefan Millar); refugee management in Sudan (Timm Sureau); refugee protection in Niger (Laura Lambert); Somali migrants in Germany and return migration from Europe and North America to East Africa (Tabea Scharrer).
Each site represents a unique socio-material and cultural configuration of the EU borderlands. But EU policies are also determined and appropriated by local actors – politicians, bureaucrats, security officers, refugees and migrants – and thus transformed in their local contexts. Four concepts – EU externalization, technicization, lived temporalities (hope, time, future making), and the state – were at the centre of the researchers' interests.

EU Externalization

Since the 1970s, the externalization of borders has become a central pillar of EU migration, development, and foreign policies. At their core, these policies consist of the offshoring and outsourcing of migration control to third states and private actors, and the retention of refugees in regions of origin (Lemberg-Pedersen & Moreno-Lax 2019). Current policies include: the militarization of borders and humanitarian agencies (Garelli & Tazzioli 2017); the channelling of asylum seekers to bureaucratic spaces called 'hotspots' (Heller & Pezzani 2016); the creation of indefinite limbos in intermediate locations (Eule et al. 2019); and the promotion of a (semi-)private migration industry (Andersson 2014). The 2015 Valetta Summit and the subsequent EU Trust Fund for Africa have created closer ties with African states such as Kenya, Sudan, and Niger. EU projects in these countries are often implemented through international or humanitarian agencies and include the formation of governance structures for refugee protection, containment, and migration control, as well as the development of complex databases and surveillance techniques, such as the use of biometrics.

Day labour migrants assemble IKEA's "Better Shelter" huts in the Sahara to house Sudanese refugees who had fled the Libyan civil war. The refugees later criticized them for not being adapted to the heat and dust. Agadez, Niger, 2018.

Technicization

The ethnographic data collected by the group made it possible to observe how the global emergence of migration control and refugee protection reflects an understanding of migration as a problem that needs to be managed by technological means, which the group analysed with the concept of technicization. Technicization (Blumenberg 2015[1963]) in this sense is not only the proliferation of technologies in an increasingly technological world, but also the associated changes in society and in social ways of being in the world. This includes techniques of governance and perceptions of migration. The project looked at the proliferation of technologies at the borders of the EU and beyond, examining how exclusionary practices designed to govern, contain, and manage mobile populations shape lifeworlds, lead to socio-political changes, and influence legal categories and social identifications.

Within the theoretical framework of technicization, the group used three theoretical approaches. First, technologies as "travelling models" (Behrends et al. 2014), that is, the transfer of globally replicable norms and techniques to a local context. This can be widely observed in the field of humanitarian interventions and development projects, where examples of travelling models are refugee camps, emergency response infrastructures, and vulnerability assessment guidelines. Second, the tangible adaptation of technologies such as machines, weapons, border fences, tools, algorithms, and computer programs. These material objects and infrastructures of migration control and refugee management create new ways of thinking and feeling about migration and potential forms of contestation (Harvey et al. 2017). Third, technologies as practices, where "practice" refers to the adaptive performance of people who are subjected to and benefit from these technologies, more specifically, coping mechanisms and how people gain knowledge of their rights and options through the internet or interpersonal networks. This agency is also shaped by the new accessibility of social media (mobile phones and internet), which has been instrumental for displaced populations themselves, who seek personal security in order to organize their lives, hopes, and future plans and to try to manoeuvre themselves into favourable positions (in life, but also, for example, in databases). People on the move also gain knowledge about the advantages and disadvantages of categories such as "refugee", "internally displaced person", or "in need", and about further routes, both physical and imaginary. They also keep in touch, exchange money, and organize charity and aid for families in conflict areas.

Time, Hope, and Future Making

Temporal aspects of migration were important to the projects, allowing the researchers to analyse both how time is a technology of control and ordering, as well as a resource and framework within which people on the move navigate and shape their life projects. In places of "temporal control" (Andersson 2014), such as hotspots, refugee camps, and asylum

offices, states of protracted limbo, waiting, and temporary recognition are created. The multiple temporal forces are designed to slow down, interrupt, and structure migrants' journeys.

Looking at actions of personal improvement also means studying positive efforts to seek wellbeing and highlighting sometimes immaterial and intangible factors that guide people's actions, such as hope. Thus, the research explored the importance of hope as a fundamentally human motivational emotion in crisis situations and its complex relationships with the external host of institutions, networks, and knowledge that come into play. Hope has been theorized by anthropologists as a manifestation of uncertainty that can lead to action (Appadurai 2007; Miyazaki 2004; Zournazi 2002). Hope is an enacting and transformative agent because acting on improbable possibilities rather than probable probabilities avoids the "risk [of] being imprisoned by the present" (Pedersen 2012: 13).

The State

States and their actors were key to understanding the technicization of externalization, as different state institutions and political actors were involved – be it the UNHCR, the EU, (I)NGOs, or national or regional state bureaucracies. In the case of Kenya, for example, the state may appear unified in its aim to keep refugees in camps, yet each institution and actor has its own interests: a policy or project is conceived in Geneva and then implemented in Niger, Greece, or Kenya, becoming entangled in the local political context and enacted by local actors. How this model is enacted can shape how the state is understood. In some cases it has led to humanitarian organizations such as the UNHCR being imagined as "surrogate states" (Slaughter & Crisp 2009), or the nation-state appearing all-encompassing and totalitarian through the use of imported biometric and surveillance technologies. By critically challenging the objectification of the state, the researchers explored how local actors negotiated power through prevailing state symbols and practices in order to access unequally distributed resources. This allowed them to see how institutions and actors used certain technologies to include or exclude others from resources. This is important when considering the technicization of protection, particularly how technologies shape and reshape notions of the legitimate state.

Outcomes

Numerous publications have come out of the research group, which are detailed in the list of the Department's publications. Moreover, Laura Lambert and Stefan Millar were both awarded their doctorates in social anthropology from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Lambert with a thesis titled "Everyday Externalization: The Transformations of Individual Asylum in Niger", and Millar with his thesis, "Encamped States: The State of the Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement". In 2021, the group organized the panel "Future-making in Situations of Containment: Refugees and Migrants' Imaginaries of the Future and Planning vis-à-vis the Border" at the 2021 International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) conference, which has resulted in a set of articles to be published in the journal *Comparative Migration Studies* (forthcoming).

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RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Timm Sureau is a postdoctoral researcher at both the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, where he works on the project "Sentiments of Bureaucracies: Affective Dynamics in the Digital Transformation of German Immigration Management", within the framework of the joint CRC 1171 "Affective Societies". He was a doctoral student in the Department 'Integration and Conflict' at the MPI, receiving his PhD from Martin Luther University in 2017 with a dissertation titled "'The Last Bullet': South Sudan's Emerging State". Sureau then served as Coordinator of the International Max Planck Research School on Retaliation, Mediation and Punishment (IMPRS–REMEP). In his current project, "An Ethnography of Programming: Migration Management and the Digitalization of Legal-Bureaucratic Processes in Germany", he ethnographically traces how German administrative bodies that manage migration are digitizing their tasks and workflows, with a specific focus on the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). This allows him to examine the intricacies at the intersection of sentiments of efficiency, on the one hand, and of due process and procedural justice within bureaucracies on the other. Sureau also initiated and was co-advisor of the working group "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration" (2018–2022).
Due to an unavoidable long-term absence over the last two years, Sureau's analysis is also partly based on data collected by his colleague and co-author Thomas Götzelmann, who continued his fieldwork. Their findings appear in the chapters "Digital Administrative Publics: Affective and Corporate Entanglements in Germany's New Federal Portal" (in *Affective Formation of Publics – Places, Networks, and Media*, Routledge, forthcoming) and "Digital Infrastructuring as Institutional Affect(Ing) in German Migration Management" (co-authored with Olaf Zenker, in *Affect, Power, and Institutions*, Routledge, 2023).

Tabea Scharrer is a lecturer at the Institute of Anthropology at Leipzig University. She has been associated with the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since March 2020 through, among other activities, her leading role in the research group "Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration", the supervision of the group's PhD students, and the writing of a commentary on behalf of the MPI concerning a proposed change in refugee law. Prior to that, she had been a postdoctoral researcher in the Department 'Integration and Conflict' at the MPI for Social Anthropology for 10 years, carrying out three research projects: on Somali migrants' placemaking activities in Kenyan cities; on Somali migrants in Germany; and on return migration from Europe and North America to East Africa, the latter two of which were conducted in the framework of the Department's WiMi project. Before her time at the MPI, she wrote her dissertation on Islamic missionary movements in East Africa and conversion to these movements at the Center for Modern Oriental Studies (Berlin), which she defended in 2011 at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin (published in 2013). In addition to her teaching duties at Leipzig University, Scharrer is currently working on her second monograph, which deals with the relationship between class and migration, i.e., between social and spatial mobility. On the example of transnational Somali migrants, it examines how socioeconomic positioning and class formation take place in the setting of forced migration and the global refugee regime. Apart from the envisaged monograph, Scharrer has co-edited the special issue "Spatial and Social Im/mobility in Forced Migration: Revisiting Class" (*Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2022), based on a workshop organized by the Department as part of the WiMi initiative in 2019, as well as the first German-language handbook on migration and refugee research, *Handbuch "Flucht- und Flüchtlingsforschung"* (Nomos, 2023).

Laura Lambert was a PhD candidate in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' from November 2017 to January 2022. Before joining the MPI, Lambert completed her MA in Social Sciences at Humboldt University Berlin in August 2017. Her PhD research was a part of the research group "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration", which was the last cohort of the International Max Planck Research School "Retaliation, Mediation, and Punishment" (IMPRS-REMEP).
Situated in political anthropology, Lambert's PhD thesis, "Everyday Externalization: The Transformations of Individual Asylum in Niger", examined local actors' negotiations, adaptations, and resistances that reshape European externalization policies from below in a prominent partner state of the European Union. Lambert thereby suggested shifting migration research away from European agendas to state bureaucracies in partner states, which have their own logics, interests, and histories, and their attendant effects on policymaking and implementation. Under the supervision of Marie-Claire Foblets and Olaf Zenker, Lambert successfully defended her PhD thesis (*summa cum laude*) in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in December 2022. Since then, she has remained a research associate of the Department.

Since July 2022, Lambert has been employed as a senior researcher at Arnold Bergstraesser Institute, Freiburg, where she serves as interim head of the research cluster "Patterns of (Forced) Migration". Her research on Niger has been published in the *International Journal of Law in Context* (2022), *Forced Migration Review* (2021), *Anthropology and Development* (2020), and in *Handbuch "Flucht- und Flüchtlingsforschung"* (Nomos, 2023), a German-language handbook on refugee research. She has also been consulted as a legal expert on refugee recognition and protection in Niger by the ERC research project "Refugees are Migrants" (PI: Cathryn Costello).

Margarita Lipatova was a PhD candidate in the research group "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration" in the Department 'Law and Anthropology'. She obtained a BSc in Asian and African Studies at Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia) and an MA in Medical Anthropology and South Asian Studies from the University of Heidelberg (Germany). After serving as a humanitarian worker in the health sector in refugee camps in northern Greece, Lipatova started working on her doctoral project, "Bordering Europe: Resistance and Governance in Greek Refugee Camps". In it she ethnographically examined the workings of the European border regime between Turkey and Greece, addressing the exclusionary practices of mobility control exercised on the external borders of the European Union. Lipatova conducted 12 months of multi-sited fieldwork at three major points along the migration route in the region: Izmir in Aegean Turkey, a migrant transit hub; the Greek island Chios, a main place of arrival; and the Greek mainland, a site of transfer for those marked as "legitimate" asylum seekers. Lipatova followed individual cases of people who were further along the trajectory of Greek migration management and were subsequently transferred to the Greek mainland. Her research therefore provides an encompassing analysis of the larger state-level infrastructures of humanitarian and administrative governance. Through examining the multiple situations emerging out of those interactions at key waypoints along the eastern Mediterranean route, Lipatova contributes to ongoing critical discussions on the application of (dis)empowering technologies in border spaces.

Stefan Millar was a doctoral candidate in the Department 'Law and Anthropology' from 2017 to 2022, where he was a member of the working group "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration". He received his doctorate from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in July 2022 (*summa cum laude*) with a thesis entitled "Encamped States: The State of the Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement". Prior to coming the Department, Millar was a master's student at Tampere University, Finland. Currently, he is a postdoctoral researcher at Helsinki University (Finland) within the Centre of Excellence in Care and Ageing. He conducts research on the cultural dynamics of ageing within the Finnish and Canadian welfare states, with a specific focus on how immigrants from East Africa transform and adapt their concepts of ageing and elderhood into the contexts of Finland and Canada, respectively.

Historical Anthropology of Colonialism: Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past

Head of Research Group: Dittmar Schorkowitz

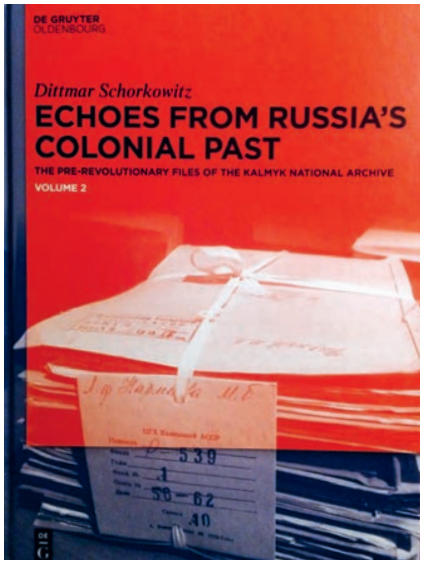
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The period under review saw the completion of a major project, "Historical Anthropology of Colonialism: Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past", which was headed by Dittmar Schorkowitz. The project, which combined comparative and fundamental research perspectives, was initially hosted by the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia' and was transferred over to the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in 2018. Within the framework of the project and the International Max Planck Research School "Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia" (IMPRS–ANARCHIE), Schorkowitz supervised two PhD students. One, Elisa Kohl-Garrity, defended her doctoral project, "The Weight of Respect: *Khündlekh Yos* – Frames of Reference, Governmental Agendas and Ethical Formations in Modern Mongolia", and was awarded her PhD in November 2019. Elzyata Kuberlinova defended her project, "Religion and Empire: The Kalmyk Sangha in Late Imperial Russia" in June 2021.

The five-year project is now complete with Schorkowitz's retirement in 2022 and the publication of his magnum opus, a three-volume edition bearing the title *Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past: The Pre-revolutionary Files of the Kalmyk National Archive* (de Gruyter, 2023). This publication focused on fundamental research, engaging exclusively with archival documentation. Covering much of the period from the early seventeenth century to the contemporary era, the Kalmyk National Archive has particularly rich holdings from the pre-revolutionary period, which makes it an outstanding source for historical studies on Russia's "internal colonialism" at the empire's southern frontiers.

Unfortunately, most of this documentation was lost after the revolution and the civil war. Most of the archive's holdings either disappeared during the Second World War or were deliberately destroyed during the subsequent deportation of the Kalmyk people in 1942. Prior to this, the archival collection still numbered about 70,000 complete files. We know this because information about the pre-revolutionary holdings is well-documented in the inventories contained in the archive's primary record books and inspection lists. These were created mainly in the late 1930s and early 1940s and still contained the titles of all holdings, with a special mark next to those that had been lost over time. These old inventories were revised in the late 1990s and became the subject of an updated edition. Unfortunately, in this case, too, all the lost documents were deleted from the new archival inventories. These previous records, which, given the loss of the documents themselves, provided the only historical record of much of Kalmyk and Russian imperial history, have now disappeared.

However, in the mid-1990s, Schorkowitz managed to make copies of the primary inventories, which were at that time in a deplorable state. During his archival research in recent years, he began to work with these old archival books in order to describe, inventory, and analyse this particular "colonial archive". The results of this work are presented in the three-volume publication mentioned above. Thus, we have a description of the metadata, including the titles of those documents that were either subjected to the horrendous waste campaign of the Soviet era or were destroyed to erase inconvenient historical truths. In addition to such echoes from the distant and now inaccessible past, Schorkowitz's publication presents an up-to-date inventory of pre-revolutionary documents stored to this day in the Kalmyk National Archive.



Volume 2 of Dittmar Schorkowitz's 3-volume set, Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past.

RESEARCHER'S PROFILE

Trained in anthropology and history, **Dittmar Schorkowitz** has specialized in ethno-historical research since 1986, focusing on social, political, and cultural relations between state, empire, and nationalities in Eastern Europe and Asia from medieval to current times. Before Schorkowitz came to the MPI in 2009, he launched a series of predominantly DFG-financed projects at the universities of Berlin, Leipzig, and Greifswald, where he also taught and supervised students. Following a short-term professorship at Greifswald University, Schorkowitz joined the Department 'Socialist and Postsocialist Eurasia' (later renamed 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') as leader of the research group "Historical Anthropology in Eurasia", which comprised doctoral students, postdocs, and external associates. This research resulted in, among other publications, the volumes *Managing Frontiers in Qing China. The Lifanyuan and Libu Revisited Ming Qing* (Brill, 2017) and *"… Daß die Inorodcy niemand rettet und das Heil bei ihnen selbst liegt …". Quellen und Beiträge zur historischen Ethnologie von Burjaten und Kalmücken* (Harrassowitz, 2018).
From 2018 until his retirement in 2022, Schorkowitz was with the Department 'Law & Anthropology', where he continued working on a five-year project, "Historical Anthropology of Colonialism". The underlying approaches of the abovementioned two volumes, i.e., the synchronic-diachronic comparative analysis of colonial-like institutions and archival research, paved the way for another publication that was analytical and discursive in format: *Shifting Forms of Continental Colonialism: Unfinished Struggles and Tensions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). Finally, and as the culmination of his decades-long engagement in archive-based ethno-historical research, a three-volume edition recently appeared bearing the title *Echoes from Russia's Colonial Past: The Pre-revolutionary Files of the Kalmyk National Archive* (de Gruyter, 2023). This publication deals with the historical anthropology of the Russian Empire's "colonial" past. More specifically, it is about the pre-revolutionary archival holdings of the Kalmyk National Archive, which are being presented to an academic public for the first time in their entirety, analysed and inventoried.

RESEARCH GROUPS WITH THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime (VULNER)

Head of Research Group and Coordinator:
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

VULNER is a collaborative research project that was funded by the EU under the Horizon 2020 work programme (€3,000,000) from February 2020 to June 2023.[5] It involves an international consortium of nine research institutions across Europe, Canada, and the Middle East, and is coordinated from the Department 'Law & Anthropology'.

Recognizing that legal and policy instruments at the global and European levels increasingly emphasize the importance of addressing the specific needs of vulnerable migrants, the project asks what it means to be "vulnerable". The project aims to investigate this question through field studies in refugee settlements in Europe (Belgium, Germany, Italy, and Norway), Africa (Uganda), the Middle East (Lebanon), and North America (Canada) and, ultimately, to reach a better understanding of the state regulations and practices that aim to address the vulnerabilities of refugees and other migrants seeking protection, and how these people experience their vulnerabilities.

To achieve this goal, all project partners have adopted a two-fold methodology that confronts (1) the study of legal norms and their operationalization by state actors on the ground with (2) the analysis of migrants' experiences of their main life challenges – including how these experiences are shaped, and sometimes even produced, through interactions with state actors and as a result of the legal architecture of mobility regimes. Such a field-level approach, which analyses migration law in its operational dimensions and then confronts it with migrants' experiences, allows us to develop grounded, critical thinking on the promises, challenges, and pitfalls of mobilizing "vulnerability" as a tool for asylum and migration governance.

Coordinating an International Research Consortium to Produce Policy-Relevant Research Findings

The Horizon Europe programme aims to fund research consortia that produce policy-relevant research, the findings of which can inform policymakers and assist them in developing evidence-based policies. VULNER has, therefore, been structured as a *collaborative* project. The common research tools and instruments that guide the data collection and analysis, as well as templates for project publications and other tools aimed at guaranteeing the coherence of the project's outputs, are established by the project coordinator, Luc Leboeuf, in close collaboration with the leading partners involved: Cathrine Brun (Center for Lebanese Studies), Winfried Kluth (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Hilde Liden (Norwegian Institute for Social Research), Delphine Nakache (University of Ottawa), Sophie Nakueira (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), and Sylvie Sarolea (Catholic University of Louvain). The VULNER research teams also involve lawyers, sociologists, and social anthropologists.

The objective of the common research tools is to guarantee methodological and theoretical coher-

[5] The Canadian partners of the VULNER project are funded through matching funding from the Canadian Research Council (€150,000). The Canadian research team is led by Delphine Nakache (University of Ottawa), and also includes Dagmar Soennecken (York University), François Crépeau (McGill University), Anna Purkey (University of Waterloo), and Christiana Sagay (University of Ottawa).

The VULNER kick-off workshop at the MPI for Social Anthropology in February 2020.

ence, while still granting the partners enough leeway to develop their own conceptual analyses within the project's overall theoretical framework. They also create the conditions for vivid conceptual debates and exchanges within the VULNER consortium, as the researchers address a wide range of very different legal and policy contexts (from asylum processes in the Western countries to access to humanitarian aid and resettlement in first countries of asylum in the Middle East and Africa).

Studying Fuzzy Legal Concepts and their Operationalization by Street-Level Bureaucracy

The development of human rights law goes hand in hand with the proliferation of "fuzzy" legal concepts that leave a (relatively) wide margin of appreciation to state actors, including the judges and street-level bureaucrats who ultimately implement them in concrete, individual cases. "Vulnerability" has not escaped that trend. It is increasingly mobilized in UN and EU legal and policy discourses on asylum and migration, which often call for specific protection measures for the most vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. But the legal definition of "vulnerability" and its consequences are still unclear. On the one hand, there is an obligation under EU law to address the "specific needs" of the most vulnerable asylum seekers, such as children, when granting them access to reception services and organizing asylum processes. This obligation is implemented in varying ways by the national administrations of the EU Member States. On the other hand, "vulnerability" is increasingly mobilized by national and international courts, such as the European Court of Human Rights, to underpin and justify their decisions. However, without a generally accepted definition and consistent use of the concept, the precise consequences of "vulnerability" and its role in the legal reasoning remain underdetermined.

The VULNER project seeks to enhance knowledge of the concrete, on-the-ground consequences of these policy and legal developments at the EU and global levels. It therefore combines analysis of the laws and regulations that have been adopted to implement EU and international commitments in each of the countries under study with empirical documentation through ethnographic fieldwork of the practices state actors engage in to operationalize these norms – including how and to what extent they adapt their practices to cater for the specific needs of those who are in the most vulnerable positions, and the practical obstacles they identify when doing so.

Understanding Migrants' Experiences and How They are Shaped by State Norms and Practices

In addition to documenting – and questioning – the operationalization of "vulnerability" through state practices on the ground, VULNER researchers conduct ethnographic fieldwork to observe and analyse migrants' own experiences of their vulnerabilities: what are the main life challenges they identify when seeking access to a protection status (such as refugee status)? One objective is to reach a better understanding of the determinants of migrants' positions of vulnerability, how they intersect and interact, and how they evolve over time – while duly considering and recognizing migrants' agency, including their ability to mobilize and navigate the vulnerability categories as established in laws and in more or less formalized bureaucratic practices. Another objective is to identify mismatches between legal and bureaucratic understandings of migrants' vulnerabilities and their actual experiences.

For this reason, the analytical focus lies on how experiences of vulnerabilities may vary depending on migrants' personal characteristics (such as age, health, or gender) and life circumstances (such as the events and persecutions experienced before and during the flight); interactions with state actors as part of the relevant processes of obtaining protection and access to protection services (including as part of the implementation of norms and regulations that are aimed at addressing migrants' vulnerabilities);

and broader structural factors that relate to how states regulate migration and refugee movements.

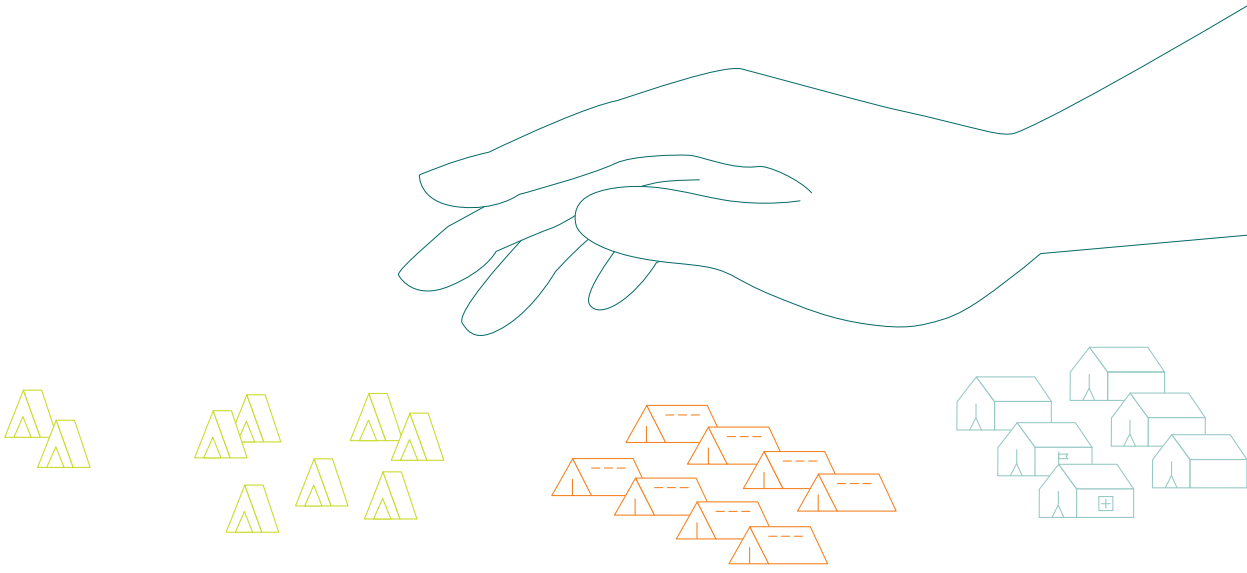
Reflecting Critically on Current Trends in Migration and Asylum Governance at the EU and Global Levels

The VULNER outputs are, not surprisingly, highly diverse, given the great variety of fields involved in the research. They include 12 scientific articles, 14 research reports, 16 policy briefs, and 14 scientific blog posts, which can be found on the VULNER website (www.vulner.eu). These outputs reveal some common trends that highlight the promises, challenges, and pitfalls of relying on "vulnerability" as a tool of asylum and migration governance. For one thing, they show how "vulnerability" is transforming as it gets juridified. "Vulnerability" has a long history as a conceptual tool used to advocate in favour of the ethics of care, that is, states' moral obligations to set up welfare provisions for the weakest members of society. It is now evolving from an analytical concept that serves to reach a better understanding of situated human experience into a legal and bureaucratic label with exclusionary effects.

Overall, the VULNER findings show that the exclusionary effects of the "vulnerability" label often rest on stereotyped understandings of migrants' experiences that fail to account for how migrants exercise agency in their attempts to overcome obstacles to their mobility. This ultimately fuels a "vulnerability competition", as migrants are required to "perform" their vulnerabilities with a view to obtaining access to protection. Moreover, vulnerabilities beyond those that arise from personal characteristics (such as age, gender, or health status) often remain overlooked. Little attention is paid to those experiences of vulnerability resulting from complex intersecting factors that are intrinsically linked to legal processes (such as the prolonged uncertainty associated with pending decisions on applications to obtain protection) and broader mobility constraints.

The "vulnerability" label thus needs to be questioned from a critical perspective, one that also considers how it reflects the current paradoxes and tensions in asylum and migration governance. These include increased reliance on humanitarian concepts such as "vulnerability" to legitimize the excluding effects that are inherent in asylum and migration policy, despite the fact that such concepts have been shown to fuel condescending attitudes towards the behaviour of migrants, whose experiences are then framed in terms of pity and deservingness. Such a framing blurs legal and societal debates by diverting the focus away from identifying *legal rights* (who should be entitled to what?) and towards patronizing and victimizing discourses (who is enough of a victim to deserve protection?), thereby ultimately obscuring migrants' coping strategies and abilities to navigate obstacles to their mobility.

With a view to sustaining critical thinking on the "vulnerability" label and its practical effects on the ground, a dedicated series of research reports has been established by the project coordinator. It presents the intermediary research results of each of the research teams involved in the VULNER project. Over the course of the project, ten scientific workshops and events have also been organized by the project coordinator to reflect on how to address methodological issues that are linked to combining legal and socio-anthropological research methods, and on ethical issues that result from conducting ethnographic fieldwork among vulnerable persons and groups. Other events were aimed at reflecting on the relevance of the project's findings for contemporary policy developments, such as how they may inform the EU's response to people fleeing the war in Ukraine.



In addition to research reports, scientific blog posts, and policy briefs, the VULNER team in Halle published a number of scientific articles. They delve into the juridification of vulnerability through an analysis of EU asylum law and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, combined with the results of interviews in EU member states (Luc Leboeuf, "The Juridification of 'Vulnerability' through EU Asylum Law: The Quest for Bridging the Gap between the Law and Asylum Applicants' Experiences", *LAWS*, 2022), discuss how to design research projects that combine legal and anthropological research methods (Luc Leboeuf, "Lost in Translation? The Promises and Challenges of Integrating Empirical Knowledge on Migrants' Vulnerabilities into Legal Reasoning", *German Law Journal*, 2022), and unveil the emotional dimensions inherent in the operationalization of "vulnerability" by street-level bureaucrats (Sophie Nakueira and Sophie Andreetta, "The Governance of Vulnerable Migrants: Procedure, Resources and Affect in Asylum Reception", *Citizenship Studies*, 2022).

A book with the provisional title *Between Protection and Harm: Contested Vulnerabilities in Asylum Laws and Bureaucracies* will be published by Springer in the International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) Research Series. Co-edited by Leboeuf and the leaders of the VULNER research teams, the book brings together contributions from VULNER researchers who reflect on how the project's final results allow them to reach a better understanding of the multiple perspectives and dimensions of migrants' "vulnerability" – the institutional (the laws and regulations), the bureaucratic (the practices of street-level bureaucrats, including aid and social workers), and the individual (the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers) – while emphasizing how they relate to and feed into each other. The proposal received an award for the best book proposal submitted to the IMISCOE Research Series in 2022.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Luc Leboeuf is the head of the research group VULNER, which is hosted by the Department 'Law & Anthropology', and the Coordinator of the VULNER project. He is also a guest professor in the Law Faculty at the Catholic University of Louvain, where he teaches classes in EU law and migration law. Before joining the department in 2017, Leboeuf taught and researched migration law at the Universities of Louvain and Antwerp, and practised at the Bar of the Walloon Brabant.
The VULNER project is funded by the EU under the Horizon 2020 work programme and involves nine research institutions across Europe, Canada, and the Middle East (www.vulner.eu). As Project Coordinator, Leboeuf is in charge of managing the VULNER consortium and overseeing the implementation of the research tasks by the VULNER partners. The objective of the VULNER project is to study how the concept of "vulnerability" guides the development and operationalization of migration and asylum laws in the selected field sites across Europe, Africa, Canada, and Lebanon, and how migrants' experiences of their vulnerabilities are shaped as a result. Leboeuf's research focuses on the conceptual transformations of vulnerability as it gets juridified through international human rights law and EU asylum law, including its promises, challenges, and pitfalls, in supporting forms of migration and asylum governance that are better connected to migrants' experiences.
Before the start of the VULNER project in 2020, Leboeuf was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department. He took part in the WiMi research project, the objective of which was to analyse and question the dynamics of migrant immigration policies through a focus on their implied exclusive dimensions. For his part, Leboeuf investigated the external dimensions of EU migration law and how they give rise to exclusive state practices that are of an increasingly informal nature and therefore escape judicial control.

Sophie Nakueira is a Senior Research Fellow heading up the Africa component of the EU Horizon 2020 research project "Vulnerabilities under the Global Protection Regime" (VULNER), which she joined in 2020. Before coming the Department 'Law & Anthropology', she completed her PhD in Public Law at the University of Cape Town. She conducts ethnographic research to understand how the law evaluates, shapes, addresses, and produces vulnerabilities among refugees in Uganda and South Africa. Nakueira has published several articles based on her empirical findings on refugees' experiences of vulnerabilities, highlighting the laws' limitations when it comes to addressing the realities in the countries under study. She has also published reports and policy briefs commissioned by the European Union. Nakueira has been invited by departments of law, criminology, and anthropology at various universities to lecture on her current research. Her findings have raised interesting questions in these disciplines, including what role law should play in addressing practical problems in times of increasing uncertainty and displacement, and whether it is even possible for the law to do so in developing countries, where laws and policies often conform to international norms and standards, but issues such as corruption, limited political will, and administrative hurdles effectively render the law toothless. Her future plans are to work with humanitarian organizations and to continue engaging in topical research questions that contribute to resolving contemporary problems.

Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond

Principal Investigator: Luisa Piart

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Volkswagen Foundation issued a call "Corona Crisis and Beyond – Perspectives for Science, Scholarship and Society" targeting postdoctoral researchers and professors from all disciplines whose research could contribute to addressing the crisis and its societal challenges. Similar to many anthropologists, Luisa Piart's own ethnographic fieldwork was disrupted by border closures and travel restrictions. More importantly, the pandemic upended the work of the nearly two million seafarers who are at the core of Piart's postdoctoral research, which is also her habilitation project. Being awarded 12-month, third-party competitive grant from the Volkswagen Foundation (July 2021–June 2022) provided her with the unique opportunity to pursue and redefine her habilitation in this entirely new context. With a project entitled "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond", Piart was able to resume fieldwork, conducting seven months of participant observation in German ports with seafarers and actors from a variety of maritime institutions to investigate the impact of the pandemic on maritime labour.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a global crisis that has had an impact on all aspects of life. In the maritime sector, it severely disrupted the functioning of international shipping. Overnight, seafarers became "essential workers" whose efforts are key in the battle against the pandemic. Their labour is crucial for the maintenance of global supply chains and the delivery of much-needed medicine, fossil fuels, food, and other essential goods from one end of the world to the other. Yet seafarers themselves faced a humanitarian crisis. While the world was in lockdown, they were sailing the oceans. They were not, however, free to reroute their ships and sail home. The unprecedented suspension of air traffic worldwide and border shutdowns introduced in March 2020 prevented crew changeovers. In normal circumstances, every month some 100,000 seafarers are supposed to end or start their shifts on board ships in order to comply with relevant international maritime regulations designed to protect their health, safety, and welfare. At the peak of the crisis in 2020, up to 400,000 seafarers were trapped on board, working beyond their tours of duty because of travel restrictions. Piart's research project investigated ethnographically the immediate and long-term consequences of the pandemic for seafarers, who are the hidden heroes of the crisis.

As of March 2023, more than 761 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed globally by the World Health Organization. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, much of the daily news revolved around reports and statistics of new cases, deaths, and vaccinations (starting in 2021). To this day, there are no figures on seafarers infected by, deceased from, or vaccinated against the coronavirus. While cases of seafarers working on board cruise ships affected by COVID-19 did make headlines, seafarers do not appear as a category in national statistics. This illustrates a rather gruesome adage about seafarers: "There are three types of men on earth: the living, the dead, and those who are at sea." While the saying is often (wrongly) attributed to Plato or Cicero, the truth of the typology today stems from the modern vision of oceans as a place beyond the reach of law and politics, a perception that is related to a rigid distinction between land and sea and a territorial understanding of sovereignty. In his book *Mare Liberum*, published in 1609, the Dutch jurist Hugo Grotius is known to have introduced the idea that the high seas were the "free sea" – a common space beyond national and imperial claims to sovereignty.

How did seafarers live, die, and survive the pandemic on the high seas? Piart's research project engaged with the social, political, legal, and economic construction of seafarers as a category of workers in limbo. It questioned how the invisibilization and casualization of the maritime workforce have been dramatically reshaped by the current pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, questions have arisen concerning the application of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). Adopted in 2006 by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the MLC sets minimum labour standards and safeguards the fundamental rights of seafarers through a complex regime of inspections. Since it entered into force in 2013, it has been the main legal instrument governing seafarers' rights, and its implementation is at the core of the empirical investigation Piart is undertaking for her habilitation. In April 2020, the ILO declared that restrictions imposed to contain the pandemic constitute a case of "force majeure", which can excuse non-compliance with the MLC.

Authorities instead were encouraged to adopt a pragmatic and harmonized approach regarding the MLC at this critical time. Seafarers' contracts on board were extended beyond the initial regulated period, labour inspections were disrupted, shore leaves from ships are still rare, and emergency medical support (related or unrelated to COVID) has often been refused to seafarers. In order to learn from stakeholders of the shipping industry, Piart took part in the Global Forum on the MLC (29 September – 1 October 2021). The three-day event organized by the International Learning Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) was an opportunity to learn about current developments and address labour issues during the pandemic. Following the start of the pandemic, global trade recovered more quickly than expected, and a new maritime labour governance started to emerge: while conference participants expressed solidarity with seafarers and their plight, experts also reported the introduction of accelerated digital trade facilitation procedures and remote ship surveying, factors that contributed to the invisibilization of seafarers and worsened the crisis they were facing.

Ocean-going vessels sail between and beyond national jurisdictions and are obliged to take on a state's nationality and fly its flag. In public international law, "flag states" are thus responsible for ensuring that seafarers' rights are respected. For many years, the leading flag states in the shipping industry have been Panama, Liberia, and the Marshall Islands. These states have provided very little information on COVID-19 cases on board vessels flying their flags. These are indeed "flags of convenience", flown by ships that do not have good records of achieving workers' rights or improving working conditions onboard. The spread of flags of convenience in the shipping industry from the 1970s onwards led to important boycott campaigns and trade union actions. Seafarers have been extremely well organized throughout the 20th century and figure as an exception in world labour history: their international union (the ITF) has a worldwide network of inspectors. In order to understand the impact of the pandemic on seafarers in terms of labour rights violations, labour union strategies, and worker solidarity, Piart made a point of working closely with ITF inspectors in Germany (affiliated with the transport division of the trade union Verdi) during her fieldwork. In December 2021, she returned to Hamburg and conducted fieldwork there, as well as in other German ports (Rostock, Bremerhaven, and Brunsbüttel).

Measures to overcome the pandemic protect certain people while putting seafarers at risk and restricting their fundamental rights. Lockdowns, travel restrictions, and port denials persisted during Piart's seven-month fieldwork, which lasted until the end of June 2022. Most audit and inspection procedures ensuring that labour standards are fulfilled were still suspended on board the commercial vessels of the shipping industry in German ports. This was an unprecedented situation. German ports and German shipowners have played a crucial role in the management of the COVID crisis in the Federal Republic. Shipowners delivered masks, medical supplies, and commodities during lockdown. While the country suffered no shortages, and profit in the shipping industry skyrocketed, cases of crew abandonment, piracy, and armed robbery of ships reached unprecedented levels. The main aim of this research project was to analyse how the COVID crisis contributed to making maritime labour increasingly remote, digital, precarious, and invisible, while at the same time smoothing the way for and securing supply chains. Understanding these processes is not only a matter of analysing government policies, employment subsidies, COVID stimulus packages, and statistics on maritime trade; it is also a matter of studying the everyday experiences and subjective motivations of the people who actually keep supply chains moving on the oceans and through ports. The methods of this project were therefore ethnographic, qualitative, and exploratory.

Given restricted access to ships and the lack of regular ship inspections from institutions responsible for seafarers' rights, Piart was fortunate to be able to join port-based social workers during their ship visits. In German ports, social workers from Christian organizations were granted an exception to visit seafarers on board in order to provide spiritual guidance (*Seelsorge*).[6] These short visits were often the only contact seafarers had with the outside world for months. Many seafarers likened their experience to being in a prison. As a well-established institution in the port, the German Seamen's Mission was able to expand the range of actions that it had started during the pandemic. Two such actions were of particular interest for Piart's research. First, the German Seamen's Mission, working with the German Port Health Authorities, organized an important vaccination campaign for seafarers. While German seafarers and all port workers had priority access to vaccinations, in the summer of 2021 some states in northern Germany with major ports decided to grant free vaccinations to foreign seafarers as well, many of whom still had unequal access to vaccinations in their own countries. Second, together with other maritime institutions, the German Seamen's Mission provided free internet access to seafarers on board through the distribution of Wi-Fi routers, paid for by Verdi, the ITF, and the German Shipowners Association (Verband Deutscher Reeder, VDR). These institutions usually find themselves on opposite sides of many issues, but they cooperated with each other under these unusual circumstances.

[6] Port-based social workers support seafarers regardless of religious belief, nationality, or ethnicity.

Luisa Piart aboard a container ship with an Indian seafarer. As part of her field-work activities, Piart volunteered with the German Seamen's Mission.

Piart's research project focused on a new category of labour that emerged with the global COVID-19 crisis, that which is deemed "essential". Seafarers are key workers on the frontlines of the pandemic. In contrast to essential workers in sectors such as health care, food service, and waste removal, however, seafarers work across borders and jurisdictions. While at sea, they are far from public sight. For Piart, ethnographic research is a powerful mode of knowledge production that opens the door to important lessons that seafarers are poised to teach about the world of work and how it has been upended by the global COVID-19 pandemic. In order to protect lives and safeguard the future, governments imposed unprecedented measures that impacted societies at large. These decisions have nation-states as their horizon of solidarity, yet the virus respects no borders. Seafarers, who keep global trade moving, shouldered the fight against the pandemic.

The political, social, and economic fallout of the pandemic for seafarers was uncharted territory that this project investigated empirically. Since February 2022, the war in Ukraine has been another major blow to seafarers and maritime labour rights. Piart's ethnographic research offers insights into the work of seafarers in this critical context. By producing theoretically and empirically informed anthropological knowledge on the struggles of seafarers, she aims to reduce the "sea blindness" that exists in terrestrial societies that are highly dependent on maritime labour. Thanks to this third-party-funded project hosted by the Department 'Law and Anthropology', Piart has been able to make an important contribution to establishing a new research field in maritime anthropology, at the fluid boundaries of legal and economic anthropology and the ethnographic study of labour, supply chains, and digitalization. Piart has presented the results of her research at numerous conferences and is preparing several articles based on her research. She has also accepted a second postdoctoral position with the Department 'Law & Anthropology' which is designed to allow her to complete her habilitation.

RESEARCHER'S PROFILE

Luisa Piart has been a postdoctoral research fellow with a joint appointment in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' at the MPI and in the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg since February 2019. Her scientific interests are in the fields of economic and legal anthropology, and include industrial labour relations and workers' rights, the study of global markets, infrastructures, and international organizations. Before relocating to Halle, she received grants from and held positions in research institutions and universities in Turkey (IFEA Istanbul), Uzbekistan (IFEAC Tashkent), and across Europe, including in Germany (Leipzig and Berlin), Austria (Vienna), and Switzerland (Bern and Fribourg). After graduating with degrees in history and geography from Paris (Sorbonne) and in migration studies from Poitiers (Migrinter – CNRS), she earned a binational PhD (*cotutelle de thèse*) in social anthropology from the University of Vienna and the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS Paris). Piart's dissertation investigated the role of small entrepreneurs and their fluctuating importance in Istanbul's garment industry. She explored the organization of the industry, as well as the careers, commercial practices, and entrepreneurial success of intermediaries in a context of deep economic restructuring. Her current research project in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' focuses on seafarers, the global shipping industry, and the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (2006) and its implementation regime. For the 2021–2022 period she was awarded a 12-month grant from the Volkswagen Foundation to investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on seafarers in northern Germany.

Sentiments of Bureaucracies: Affective Dynamics in the Digital Transformation of German Immigration Management

Principal Investigators:
Larissa Vetters,
Olaf Zenker

Postdoctoral Researcher:
Timm Sureau

PhD Candidate:
Thomas Götzelmann

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bureaucratic Sentiments as Analytics

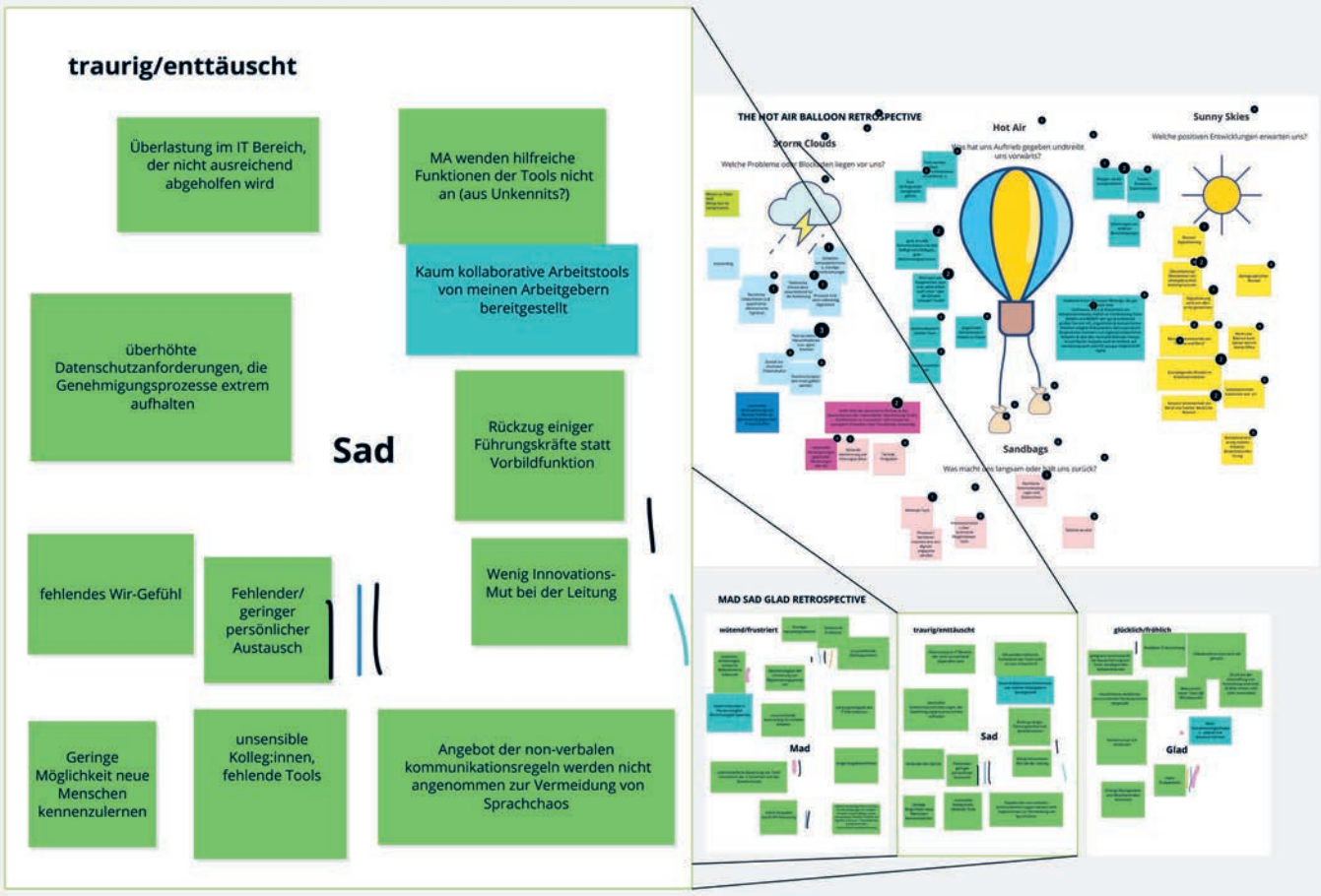
Jointly headed by Larissa Vetters and Olaf Zenker (a research partner based at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and a member of the Department's Consultative Committee), this research group is part of the DFG-funded, Berlin-based Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) 1171: *Affective Societies – Dynamics of Social Coexistence in Mobile Worlds*. Since its inception in 2015, researchers of the CRC from ten disciplines across the social sciences and the humanities have been investigating the respective roles of affect and emotion in social cohesion, be it in the arts, in politics, with regard to migration, or dealing with new technologies. An overarching aim during the CRC's second funding period (2019–2023) is to explore how societal transformations not only produce new affective dynamics, but are also brought about by the institutionalization of affective regimes. The subproject "Sentiments of Bureaucracies" contributes to this goal by ethnographically tracing whether and how bureaucratic sentiments change when digital technologies are introduced, and how specific sentiments might in turn also be mobilized by various actors to either support or reject the digitalization of immigration governance.

Building on research conducted during the CRC's first term by Jonas Bens and Olaf Zenker, the guiding concept of "bureaucratic sentiments" denotes relatively stable normative regimes of meaning that are capable of structuring decision-making processes over longer periods of time and in different locations. As discursive regimes, bureaucratic sentiments offer conceptualizations, evaluations, and normative expectations, if not prescriptions, of how bureaucracies should work. But these sentiments are also affectively charged and emotionally grounded, and simultaneously animate diverse affective and emotional responses, depending on how various practices within bureaucracies conform to or deviate from the sentiment. This conceptualization allows for the reformulation of standard notions in administrative sciences – such as "bureaucratic ethos" and "guiding images of good governance" – and prevalent value orientations – such as legalism and Weberian bureaucracy, on one hand, or efficiency and New Public Management on the other – in a manner that better incorporates their affective and emotional dimension.

Digital Transformations of Germany's Immigration Management in an Ethnographic Key

The project team, consisting of Vetters and Zenker, postdoctoral researcher Timm Sureau and, later, PhD candidate Thomas Götzelmann, started exploratory fieldwork in 2020. They attended central events on the digital transformation of the public sector convened by public and private stakeholders in order to map the field of digitalization initiatives, consulting firms, and policy forums at the federal, state, and municipal levels; initiated contact with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, henceforth BAMF) as well as municipal immigration offices; and organized a workshop on asylum adjudication at an administrative court. Sureau and Götzelmann eventually decided to focus on conducting ethnographic observations of select digitalization initiatives at BAMF. Interrupted by repeated pandemic lockdowns and a prolonged period of absence during which Sureau was replaced by Götzelmann, they visited BAMF's headquarters in Nuremberg for several months, participated in digital meeting rooms from 2020 to 2022, conducted interviews, followed developer teams, and joined project management meetings as well as a wide variety of other meetings and workshops within BAMF's IT department.

BAMF is a federal agency commissioned to process asylum applications and to coordinate and manage integration policies across federal, state, and municipal levels. During the so-called refugee crisis of 2015/16, shortcomings in the administrative capacity of BAMF led to political pressure for more efficient asylum procedures and calls to restructure and systematically digitalize workflows at BAMF. Its IT unit became a growing, well-funded, and fully-fledged department in its own right. With the beginning of fieldwork in BAMF's IT department, the researchers encountered BAMF's new normal: a multi-award-winning federal IT department presenting itself as a trailblazer of Germany's governmental digital transformation. This new normal soon revealed itself to be a complex mixture of old and new, encompassing not only new IT hardware and software, but also new staff, management techniques, and networks of cooperation that sat alongside or gradually replaced



The "mad–sad–glad" retrospective is a standard tool of agile project management and digital teamwork. Depicted are excerpts from the collaborative whiteboard on which public servants shared their experiences of remote work during the pandemic. The online work-shop was organized by the "Sentiments of Bureaucracy" research group and hosted by the NExT-Network, a platform for exchange among experts on digital transformation in German public administration.

older, more classically bureaucratic management techniques and lines of command. The outbreak of COVID added another level of complexity to this picture, with periodic shifts to remote work for BAMF employees and further ad hoc digitalization of work routines.

Zooming in and Making Sense of the Micro-Dynamics of Digital Infrastructuring

During field research, the team originally intended to trace how digitalized bureaucratic sentiments affect the outcome of decision-making processes in concrete interactions between bureaucrats and migrants. However, data protection and ethical considerations as well as pandemic restrictions limited access to such interactions and, although BAMF is making some services for migrants accessible online through a central governmental portal, such fully digitalized interactions are still in their infancy. The team thus revised its original aim and focused instead on IT development efforts. These tend to be less outward-oriented – that is, towards migrant applicants – and more focused on the "inside" of bureaucracy: they target the intra- and inter-bureaucratic workflows, and bureaucratic sentiments become sedimented and successively black-boxed within the programming of these digitalized infrastructures. In the chapter "Digital Infrastructuring as Institutional Affect(ing) in German Migration Management" (in *Affect, Power, and Institutions*, Routledge, 2023), Zenker, Sureau, and Götzelmann develop this central finding. They identify two broad sentiments that play a crucial role. The first, "legalism", is a highly esteemed orientation towards following legal rules and ensuring that each case is processed under the rule of law, even if it is not the most efficient and cost-effective way to conduct bureaucratic work. In contrast, the sentiment of "efficiency" stresses efficient and cost-effective forms of bureaucratic processing and decision-making. This second sentiment became an increasingly dominant mode of

bureaucratic operations under the label "New Public Management" towards the end of the last century. This sentiment of "efficiency" dovetailed not only with increased emphasis on speed and quality of case determinations during the so-called refugee crisis of 2015/16, but also with the values and orientations characteristic of the private-sector IT companies increasingly hired for BAMF programming. More specifically, a sentiment of "efficiency" profoundly animates the very process of agile software development through which this coding is done, ultimately inscribing this normative regime at a deeper level of infrastructuralization. It sits next to and is combined with sentiments of legalism inscribed in older project management techniques for public bureaucracies, such as the original V-Modell XT – a more hierarchically structured and less agile model. The resulting material semiotics of state institutions are permeated by and shape the varied manifestations of bureaucratic sentiments. Digital infrastructuring thus directly translates into institutional affect(ing) in three closely related ways. First, it stabilizes – and thereby institutionalizes – affective registers within bureaucracy's accumulating layers of materiality. Second, it simultaneously black-boxes and thus makes these registers' contingency invisible. And third, in fulfilling these functions, it powerfully affects state officials and their clients in an impersonal manner, as an institution.

Looking outwards from BAMF and Tracing Affective Dynamics in Social Transformations

In a number of complementary publications, the team members have explored the usefulness of applying the sentiment analytics beyond a narrow focus on notions such as legalism and efficiency, with an eye towards broader societal transformations and a more varied set of actors in the field of immigration management.

In a contribution to the volume *Contested Diversity: Affective Dynamics of Institutional Diversification* (2021, in German), Vetters and Zenker situated current German diversity policies and the ongoing institutionalization of diversity in the personnel management of public administrations in the context of larger debates about the pluralization of society, on the one hand, and the transformation of the civil service on the other. They argued that public administration participates in the production of social "diversity" through its processes of data collection as well as through legal, administrative, and statistical classification and categorization. By making social reality manageable along the lines of such categories, future forms of interaction are simultaneously prefigured and incentives are created to make use of existing categorizations of "diversity". Relating the efficacy of past categorizations to current digital data processing and classification practices makes visible these diverse, sometimes contradictory, often less than smooth, and always affectively grounded processes of transformation and domestication.

In another line of enquiry, Vetters (2022) combined ethnographic data on asylum appeals in administrative courts from previous research with newly collected data, analysing it in light of the conceptual framework of sentiments and examining in greater detail sentiments of procedural justice among judges. Rather than looking at the impact of digitalization per se, she delved into the meanings and affects associated with legal rules and concepts that are meant to guarantee a fair procedure and due process. She shows that judges' situated and contingent sentiments of procedural justice not only emerge as a response to the emotional strains of asylum adjudication, but also feed on the legal regulation of procedures and established legal concepts that can be mobilized as guiding notions. This article appeared in a special issue of *Citizenship Studies* (co-edited by Vetters and colleagues Sophie Andreetta and Zeynep Yanaşmayan, 2022).

Forthcoming publications by Sureau and Götzelmann further explore the role of private-sector IT companies in the digitalization of immigration management. Looking at programming work conducted within BAMF by teams consisting of BAMF employees and external programmers for the new Federal Portal, a web-based, self-service platform for (non-)citizens to apply for governmental services across all state levels as mandated by the Online Access Act, they coin the term "digital administrative publics" (Sureau, Götzelmann, forthcoming). In their chapter "Digital Administrative Publics: Affective and Corporate Entanglements in Germany's New Federal Portal" (in *Affective Formation of Publics – Places, Networks, and Media*, Routledge, forthcoming), they show how these digital administrative publics in-the-making are shaped by programmers and designers. Project team members from within BAMF and private contractors hired to work alongside BAMF employees bring with them to these debates and decisions their own implicit understandings of standard bureaucratic procedure, of customer-oriented one-stop shops in which services are offered according to user-centred life situations and algorithmically pre-structured pathways that nudge users through clickable forms, as well as of citizens and non-citizens, customers and applicants. Through their seemingly incidental decision-making processes, a qualitatively different way of accessing public services is created by merging, altering, prioritizing, and deprioritizing corporate and bureaucratic sentiments into a supposedly easy and efficient bureaucratic encounter.

By paying closer analytical attention to the necessity of constant maintenance and updating of IT infrastructures that heavily rely on private IT companies, Sureau aims to further consolidate and nuance this finding of an entanglement of bureaucratic and corporate sentiments in the infrastructurization of state-

hood through digitization. In a forthcoming publication, he asks whether corporate sentiments and bureaucratic sentiments combine in a new affective arrangement that privileges the necessity and urgency of digitalizing bureaucratic work environments per se, thereby forming a new sentiment in its own right.

Despite pandemic-related challenges and a difficult staffing situation, the work of the project group, when viewed as a whole, has laid the empirical and conceptual groundwork for establishing an interface between affect studies, digitalization research, and anthropological studies on law, state, and bureaucracy. This will facilitate future investigations into the emotional and affective dimensions of new modes of governance and their implications for negotiating citizenship rights and the politics of belonging under conditions of globalization in an ethnographic mode.

RESEARCHERS' PROFILES

Larissa Vetters has been a Senior Researcher in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' since 2018, with a research focus on the anthropology of law, the state, and bureaucracy. She holds a PhD in Administrative Sciences from the German University of Administrative Sciences (Speyer) and studied sociocultural anthropology and history in Tübingen and Athens. She first joined the Project Group 'Legal Pluralism' at the MPI in 2009 as coordinator of the project "Local State and Social Security in Rural Hungary, Romania and Serbia" (led by Tatjana Thelen and Keebet von Benda-Beckmann), and later held appointments at the Institute of Social Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (2011–2013) and the Law & Society Institute at the Law Faculty of Humboldt University in Berlin (2015–2018).
While her earlier PhD work focused on processes of external state building and administrative reform in post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina, she has now turned towards conducting research in Germany on migrants' encounters with administrative law, exploring transformative dynamics in German immigration and asylum law through an ethnographic lens. Most recently, within the framework of the "Collaborative Research Cluster 1171 – Affective Societies", she has been the co-PI (with Olaf Zenker, MLU Halle-Wittenberg) of a four-year project on bureaucratic sentiments and the digitalization of German immigration management. She has also recently co-edited (with Sophie Andreetta and Zeynep Yanaşmayan) a special issue of *Citizenship Studies* entitled "The Making of Procedural Justice: Enacting the State and (Non)Citizenship" (2022, 26/7).
Her research on immigration law and with judges also feeds into the Department's judicial training activities and provides a window for broader reflections on diversity, procedural justice, and legal reasoning in contemporary European judicial settings.

Timm Sureau *(see profile under project "The Technicisation of Exclusionary Practices in the Context of Migration")*

Thomas Götzelmann is a PhD candidate in social and cultural anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), where he also works as a research assistant and teaches anthropology. He joined the Department 'Law & Anthropology' in March 2021 as a researcher on the project *Sentiments of Bureaucracies: Affective Dynamics in the Digital Transformation of German Immigration Management*. Before joining the Department, Götzelmann completed his MA in social and cultural anthropology, also at MLU, with a focus on sentiments of justice among lawyers in anglophone Cameroon.
During his time at the Department he conducted field research in the IT department of Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), examining the digital transformation of Germany's migration management by tracing and documenting the affective dynamics of digitalization as manifested in the interactions between software/hardware, public servants, and companies. The emphasis is on the changing *sentiments of bureaucracies*, that is, the affective-emotional attitudes of public servants towards bureaucracy. One of his central findings is that bureaucratic sentiments and practices are being reorganized around the software development term "agility", a concept akin to "flexibility" and a quality that many public servants praise as a way of overcoming their own, negatively perceived, "bureaucratic" tendencies.
During his time at the Department, Götzelmann also drafted versions of the book chapters "Digital Infrastructuring as Institutional Affect(Ing) in German Migration Management" (co-authored with Olaf Zenker and Timm Sureau, in *Affect, Power, and Institutions*, Millicent Churcher, Sandra Calkins, Jandra Böttger, and Jan Slaby, eds., Routledge, 2023) and "Digital Administrative Publics: Affective and Corporate Entanglements in Germany's New Federal Portal" (with Timm Sureau, in *Affective Formation of Publics – Places, Networks, and Media*, M. Lünenborg and B. Röttger-Rössler, eds., Routledge, forthcoming).
Since leaving the Department in March 2022, he has focused his efforts on completing his PhD thesis.

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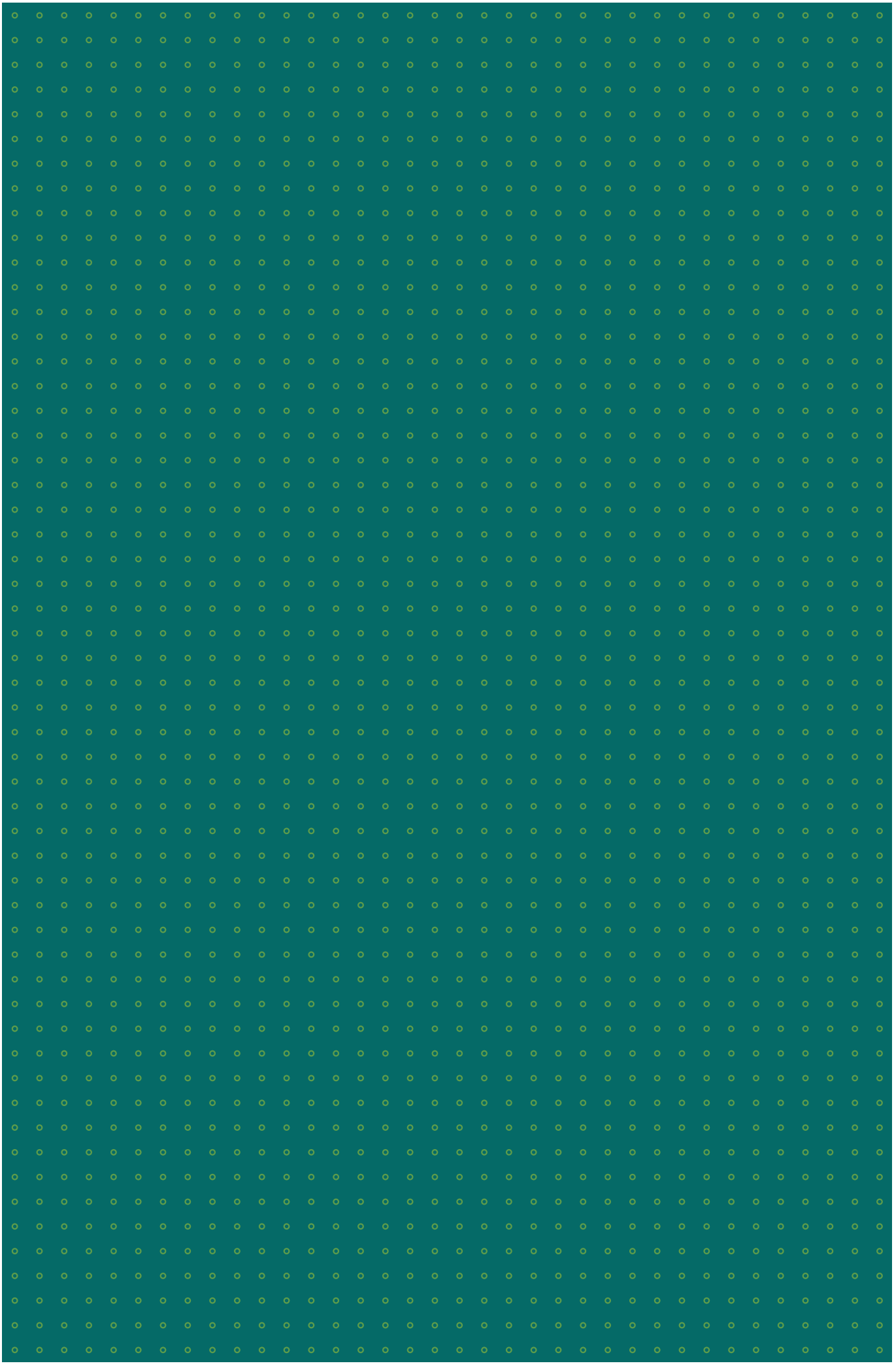

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

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INTRODUCTION

Director of Department:
URSULA RAO

The Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' was founded in September 2020, and during this time has had a stable number of 15 to 20 full-time employed members. Due to the pandemic situation, onboarding primarily took place digitally in the first year, during which scholars focused on writing journal articles and were asked to work in subgroups – both thematic ("Political Assembly", "Lived Utopias", "Science and Universality") and regional (Halle, Leipzig, Berlin – depending on residency). The regional groups allowed for face-to-face meetings, even under the conditions of the pandemic. Through these meetings, members got to know each other, build support networks and identify overlaps in interests, which then contributed to developing a thematic line for the Department. When, in September 2021, our first annual retreat brought the Department together at a conference venue in Berlin for the first time, the overall vision and the results of our decentral conversations had already laid the foundations for building a strong, coherent programme.

The programme is both fixed and malleable. It is fixed in terms of the overarching goal of developing a new optic for the analysis of politics beyond "dark anthropology", one that shows how people engage productively with utopian and dystopian imaginings, express their longings for a different world, and critique or resist the status quo. The programme is malleable because the visions of our researchers matter, and their research results help us to continually adjust and flesh out our arguments, sharpen our focus, and inspire new ideas and lines of inquiry. In March 2022, normal routines could resume for fieldwork and regular hybrid and in-person meetings of the Department in Halle, further strengthening social and intellectual bonds within the Department.

The following departmental report is divided into two parts. The first part summarizes the research undertaken by the team headed by Ursula Rao, describing the programme and the contributions individual projects have made to the Department's overall aims, as well as introducing further contributions made by associated projects. This section also describes the Department's style of working together, academic output, outreach activities, and guest programme. Part two contains the reports of the two research groups attached to the Department: first, the group "Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast of West Africa", which is headed by Jacqueline Knörr; second, a new African Partner Group that is working on "Urban Sprawl and Flexible Regional Borders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia" and is headed by Ameyu Roro Godesso (Jimma University, Ethiopia).

PART 1: DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH PROFILE AND ACTIVITIES

Politics in the Minor

How do people act meaningfully and ethically in a world that is not of their making, and in which they confront the ruins of the past, tenacious structural violence, and mounting future challenges? Using their faculty to reflect and critique, people express their discontent with living on a wounded planet and in an unjust world. Some seek repair and dream of improvement, while others celebrate the fractures and seek to accommodate themselves in spaces of between-ness. Members of the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' rely on the methodologies of anthropology to understand what people hope for and how they struggle to achieve their goals. To this end, the group headed by Ursula Rao pays attention to the minor acts that organize everyday life, which include the actions and reflections of individual interlocutors, and the activities of small collectives, quotidian bureaucracies, or minor social movements. From there, the group traces the broader resonances such ordinary acts have in the world.

This study of the politics in the minor aims to understand how, from within the everyday, political projects emerge, social cooperation is achieved, and emerging social realities are framed. What are the cumulative effects of minor acts of care, critique, and resilience? What are emergent visions of order and control? Which new forms of togetherness spring from them, and how do they prefigure specific socio-political configurations?

The study of politics in the minor abstains from formulating a grand theory of the political and moves beyond the important but also banal observation that "everything is political". On the one hand, demarcating a space of the political is always in danger of generating a reductionist view of politics as instrumental rationality or only involving activities pertaining to political institutions. On the other hand, a broad study of multiple intertwined power relations must relinquish any specific notion of politics, because *everything* is political. Instead, a politics in the minor takes as its starting point the human capacity to aspire, and the multiple projects born from attempts to surmount typical limitations of the imagination, challenge seemingly unmovable givens, and confront material constraints. What happens when people develop radically different views of the future, when they try out new forms of organization, when disruptive technologies ought to alter social processes, and when critique of the status quo breaks down old barriers?

In this endeavour, the Department's work builds on at least three disciplinary traditions that have generated a rich resource of knowledge about political subjecthood: studies of social coordination and the making of institutions, Foucauldian-inspired analysis of the impact of governance on subject-formation, and in-depth studies of resistance and its role in social reform. From the 1940s onwards, an interest in the comparative study of political institutions motivated British scholars to establish the subfield of political anthropology. The detailed description of "offices, rights, duties and rules" (Vincent 1996: 649), especially of African social systems, provided an understanding of the mechanisms that organized action and stabilized particular political forms. Yet, the narrow focus on function, integration, and stability also prevented deeper comprehension of the actual processes of exercising power. This was remedied by a new generation of scholars, for example, Boissevain and Mitchell (1973) and Turner (1969), who shifted the focus to individual agency, political strategy, and decision-making. From its structuralist beginning, the anthropological study of political institutions has thus evolved to focus on iterative

practices within institutional settings – such as rule-making and breaking – and their importance for social reproduction.

The booming fields of anthropology of the state, bureaucracy, and policy attest to the ongoing value of anthropological perspectives. With an eye for complexity, and acknowledging the blurriness of social boundaries, anthropologists provide nuanced accounts of the fractured nature of states, the contradictory effects of policy processes, and the multiple negotiations that shape bureaucratic regimes. Moreover, the study of the power–knowledge nexus illustrates the influence of classificatory regimes that create specific subject positions and shape everyday life. Adopting a Foucauldian optic, anthropologists examine the productivity of disciplinary action, and, for example, draw attention to the altered face of biopolitics in neoliberal regimes, or the significance of the digital revolution for governing populations.

This focus on the impact of the play of hegemony and dominance is complemented by studies of alternative power centres and the engagement with the subversive actions of people who struggle for recognition and voice from a position at the margins. Such people participate in the "contestation over the form and distribution of authority and accountability" from a different location and by different means (Greenhouse 2018: 2). In her famous article "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Gayatri Spivak (1988) questions the legibility of alternative rationalities which are routinely edited out of hegemonic discourses. Against this reading, which assumes that domination as achieved through mainstreaming what counts as legitimate knowledge, historians and anthropologists gather evidence from innumerable case studies of dissent in action, starting from historical studies on farmers' violent revolts against colonial exploitation, to feminist critiques of male domination, or the making of counter-publics in media-saturated modern societies. Along with the study of direct action, anthropologists consider forms of refusal and avoidance, such as the refusal to adapt to the power regimes of settler colonialism or postcolonial racism, the refusal to partake in the extractive logic of the capitalist order, or the refusal to subscribe to scientific knowledge. Jonathan Spencer (1997) warns that in this murky field of power struggles, boundaries between the political and non-political are fuzzy since all negotiations suffer from "horizontal" and "vertical" uncertainty. Politics seeps into every domain of life, dissolving the boundaries between conceptually distinct social spheres. Similarly, there is no guarantee that the effects of an action will travel up and down the hierarchy to create an integrated political sphere. In reaction to this uncertainty, scholars consider locally relevant definitions of the political as powerful tools in social contests.

A politics of the minor does not require a boundary between the political and the everyday but rather studies the political as it emerges from within the ordinary. More than just focusing on critical moments, we study what they make visible and what emerges from them. We thus follow the making of new humble projects of care for the planet, the capacity to invent and learn from failure, the ability to hold out in toxic environments, the erosive effects of persistent critique, and the ability to refuse a position of subordination. These studies of the survival of vitality, alternative politics, and the futures they prefigure take human being as their starting point. But they also acknowledge the world is larger and more complex than human perception can grasp. Thus, more-than-human actors must also enter the analysis, in several senses.

First, humans exist in relationship to their surroundings. Like all living entities, human bodies are permeable and evolve malleably within complex ecologies. Even when the activities of caring and rebelling, nurturing and reshaping, are directed toward the creation of specific forms of sociality, they will always carry resonances of planetary processes and local ecologies. While these resonances might be poorly understood, an attentive anthropology will seek to trace the forces people reckon with, people's reflections on their own role in the world, and their situatedness within techno-social realities and complex ecologies.

Second, human life unfolds within the framework of a long history. Events of the remembered past, as well as long-forgotten processes, cast their shadows on the road ahead. We are thrown into a world shaped by decisions taken in the past, and framed by technologies, systems, and relations that have evolved over long periods of time and whose effects are inscribed into the texture of daily life. Path dependencies provide the framework in which future projects can unfold. Moreover, today's developments will set the parameters for the time to come, even if it is difficult to say what their consequences will be.

Third, human cognition is limited. The current mounting crises have heightened the awareness that humans have but a rudimentary understanding of planetary processes and are unable to produce a holistic view of the universe. All actions and their consequences are full of mysteries, even those that humans apparently master, such as building cities, programming computers, producing energy, or even gardening.

A study of politics in the minor is attentive to the multiple projects of ethical self-making. How do people act competently and responsibly in a bewilderingly complex world? How do they adjust to a world of uncertainty and relate to what is latent, and what is still unknown or unfamiliar? Researchers in the Department study political action that may include, among other things, strategic action or strategic ignorance, attempts to scale up or the belief

that small is beautiful, and investment in science or the search for alternative channels of generating knowledge or influencing the path of planetary life.

In order to give structure to the Department and facilitate transversal thinking, all projects are centrally concerned with the role of bodies, technologies, and ecologies. On the one hand, each project can stand alone and produce a unique contribution to knowledge. On the other hand, shared theorizing contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between bodily experiences, technological departures, and ecological entanglements. In the following, these projects are presented in two sections, focusing on bodies and ecologies respectively, and paying specific attention to how they have contributed to our ongoing debates on care and control, two terms that have oriented discussions in the first three years of the Department's existence. Thereby, we hope to provide not just an overview of the Department's members and their work but some insights into synergies emerging out of departmental debates.

BODIES

The embodiment paradigm has firmly anchored the body in anthropological thinking. Csordas and Harwood's (1994) seminal article sums up the perspective of the embodiment paradigm by stating that the body is the ground of all human action and experience. This commitment to discarding the body-mind dichotomy for good harks back to a series of important innovations in the history of anthropology and sociology, among them the contributions of the French scholars Marcel Mauss and Pierre Bourdieu.

While Mauss's (1973) study of techniques of the body drew attention to the processes of skilling and how they organize the habituated presence of a person in the world, Bourdieu (1980) built a social theory on this finding, showing how the body's ability to spontaneously produce regulated improvisations reproduces social fields and dynamic structures while at the same time allowing for social change and variation.

Further developed by the next generation of researchers, embodiment was theorized as a process of negotiating the bodily self within a socio-material context that assembles and makes sense of the person. This literature has spawned a plethora of concepts, and bodies, such as the skilled and the disciplined body, the gendered and the racialized body, and the other-abled body. All such conceptions elucidate the embodied nature of all processes of world-making and social reproduction. They have also fuelled doubts about the image of perfectly adapted humans whose trained bodies are a perfect fit for the social setups within which they exist. Instead, feminist or queer studies and postcolonial critiques foreground the experiences of fragmentation and alienation that disturb the unselfconscious reproduction of the social and fuel struggles for freedom, emancipation, and ethical self-fashioning. In particular, violence inflicted by capitalist modernity and colonialism has dislocated the self and produced pathologies that question assumptions about unproblematic, organic body-persons. People seek healing (e.g. in ritual) and learn that all attempts at remedy are fragile achievements.

A medical geneticist demonstrating the Florescent in-situ Hybridisation (FISH) test used for the detection and diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities. Hyderabad, Telangana, 2022.

From this insight emerges a new programme for the anthropology of the body, as formulated most clearly by Wolputte (2004: 264):

"Therefore, the anthropology of the body focuses no longer on the abstract or ideali(ized) body, but on those moments during which the body and bodiliness are questioned and lose their self-evidence and on the experience or threat of finiteness, limitation, transience, and vulnerability."

The Department takes up this task by focusing, first, on how bodies are refracted through new technologies and techniques of care that promote healing or new forms of alienation, or both at the same time, and second, through a study of the impact of new technologies of rule on the embodiment of subjecthood.

Bodies Refracted through Technologies of Care

Researchers in the Department study the play of power in projects of care that confront the fragmented body, and they analyse biosocial becoming that is mediated by (new) technologies and techniques of care. State agencies and other institutions have long used concerns about health and disease to govern and control populations – as decades of research on medicalization have shown. We are specifically concerned with actions that move beyond targeted biomedical interventions to promote health and well-being – closely related, even overlapping concepts that can involve everything from bodily care (nutrition, activity, sleep) to mental health and happiness. The ever-present struggles for well-being have broadened the scope of political action and opened up the field of health politics to a whole range of previously uninvolved actors; they have also begun to re-configure the future status of biomedicine. Today, biomedicine is probably more widespread and hegemonic than ever. Yet, its boundaries are also porous in the direction of psychology, neuroscience, algorithm management, and big data. And questions of well-being are intimately linked to attempts to achieve economic efficiency and improve governance. Our projects focus on efforts to increase well-being in Asia, Africa, and Europe, and they analyse the social effects of a series of activities, namely genetic sequencing (Bhan), care for disabled (Zoanni), AI for mental health (Lang), and sleep tracking and psychotherapy (Vorhölter).

Projects

Samiksha Bhan's (October 2020 –) doctoral project shows how genetics and its accompanied technologies are shifting, re-configuring, and mediating experiences of disease and the politics of health in India. Bhan seeks to underline how molecular diagnostic technologies have opened up possibilities to access biomedical facilities for the poor and marginalized, while also having disruptive effects on how they think about their bodies, the health of their families, and their communities. Her research centres on ethnographic accounts of how genome scientists, clinicians, NGOs, and patient communities build and navigate programmes, infrastructures, and intimate networks of care around inherited blood diseases, which have gained prominence in Indian and global health policy as the most widespread genetic disorders in the world. As genome scientists and doctors strive to leave behind the shadow of eugenics and expand access to genetic diagnosis to regions and populations considered vulnerable, they become important actors who reclassify situated bodies and social groups into at-risk populations. In her research, Bhan shows how these classificatory practices, while leading to new forms of exclusion, are also mobilized by patients, who fuse them with their social identities to demand recognition and care from the state, in the process bringing new subjectivities and socialities into existence.

As a postdoctoral researcher, **Tyler Zoanni** (September 2020 – September 2022) explored the lives and worlds of people with cognitive disabilities in Uganda, focusing in particular on the role of Christian institutions which play a central role in disability care and advocacy. His work shows how an interactive web of people, cultural expectations, historical changes, official discourses, and institutional resources collectively contribute to the manifestation of certain forms of human difference as unusual, and as disabilities. By zooming in on individual experiences of disability, he reflects on how care manifests as a precarious achievement delivered by committed individuals, and asks the related question of why Uganda's internationally celebrated disability laws, progressive policies, and vocal activist movement have not significantly changed the lives of most disabled Ugandans. In 2022, Zoanni was awarded the Young Author Prize of the European Society for Disability Research.

Heisenberg Fellow **Claudia Lang** (July 2020 –) explores the expanding search to find new ways to deal with mental stress and personal distress. To this end, she studies how psychologists and technologists in India harness artificial intelligence and digital technologies to respond to emotional challenges, and how people engage these technologies as minor forms of repair that help them to endure amidst hardship. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), and Lang, an employee of Leipzig University, is a research partner of the Department, contributing directly to its overall aims, in particular by attending to the multiple, often unexpected, or minor social consequences of digital mental health technologies. Mental health and well-being have emerged as issues of concern and targets of intervention in global health. Simultaneously, the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated disruption of everyday life have not only exacerbated the global mental health crisis but also normalized digital

The market for sleep technology (here: nicely displayed diagnostic devices for home-based poly-somnography) is booming. The photo was taken at the Annual Conference of the German Society for Sleep Science and Sleep Medicine, November 2022.

mental health technologies, such as online counselling interfaces and mental health apps that provide automated responses to distressed clients. These technologies move mental health out of the clinic and into everyone's pockets, while mood-tracking apps and digital phenotyping have transformed the traces of our everyday lives into potential symptoms of mental pathology. The designers and programmers of these devices, apps, and web interfaces must identify states of stress and define pathways to well-being, and thus they make multiple assumptions about the contexts or the forms of life in which these aids are put to use. They produce streamlined understanding of health and illness and literally encode the global psyche, thus rendering it portable. The project attends both to techno-scientific aspirations of digital innovation in mental health and to critiques of digital surveillance and data security, analysing their local and everyday effects.

Julia Vorhölter's (October 2020 –) postdoctoral project also engages with coping mechanisms by exploring the frontiers of the global mental health movement in Uganda. The work was submitted to Leipzig University for her habilitation, and in 2022 Vorhölter received the title *Privatdozentin* (PD). In a series of published journal articles, she demonstrates why, how, and with what effects psychotherapeutic discourses and practices have started to proliferate in Uganda since the late 1990s, who can and who wants to access them, and how the rise of psychotherapy both reflects and contributes to changing imaginations and experiences of suffering and well-being under capitalist modernity. Drawing on fieldwork among therapists, Vorhölter examines psychotherapy from three different angles: as a form of meaning-making and care, a form of knowledge-making and governance, and a form of class-making. This multimodal method challenges approaches that either simply dismiss psychotherapy as a neoliberal form of (self-)governance, view psychotherapy as un-African, or ignore the growing socio-economic diversity within African countries when thinking about mental health care. Vorhölter demonstrates that the growing popularization of therapy in Uganda reflects a desire – among health professionals and clients – to co-create and experience new techniques of healing, (self-)care, and critique.

In her new project, Vorhölter has shifted her research to central Europe and engages with people who seek help to sleep better, and, when they approach medical professions, receive help along narrowly defined parameters generated by a treatment regime biased towards technological approaches. Based on fieldwork in German sleep labs, Vorhölter studies how knowledge on (disordered) sleep is produced, how this knowledge is applied in diagnosis and therapy, and how it is related to subjective experiences of sleep and sleeplessness. By narrowing in on a study of medical technologies for measuring and (supposedly) improving sleep, Vorhölter draws attention to the dilemmas of sleep knowledge production and sleep-care at the interface of body, mind, and machine.

The first results and successes of some of the aforementioned studies are presented in "Health Governance in Transition", in the Highlights volume of this report.

Bodies Refracted through Technologies of Rule

A second set of projects concentrating on how bodies are refracted through technology focuses less on care and more centrally on the exercise of power, asking how people relate to new technologies of rule that are installed by governments to render governable migrants and citizens. As such, these studies expand critical scholarship on governmentality and biopolitics (Foucault 2003 [1997]). In a Foucauldian

optic, governance is understood as an activity of making life through incentivizing individuals to follow regimented disciplines that are considered to benefit them as well as improve the population as a whole. Biopolitics operates through a process of subjectification, through which people are socialized into a regime of truth that shapes their behaviour and fosters a strict self-discipline that aligns with dominant values. This optic has also been popular in studies of neoliberal statecraft (Rose 1996), which Wendy Brown (2006: 694) characterizes as having fostered a political culture that "figures citizens exhaustively as rational economic actors in every sphere of life".

Anthropological literature that has taken up this perspective often focuses on the exercise of power to generate more nuanced understanding of the often-complex arrangements on the ground. Research in this Department contributes to these debates and complicates prevalent notions of governance by attending to multiple arrangements that nurture doubt about the apparent homogenizing effects of innovations. For example, our research examines the various uses of disruptive technologies and illustrates how actors harness technocratic projects and scientific ventures towards their own goals. Such diverse appropriations have the power to erode hegemonic truths and allow alternative agreements to prevail in the interstices of a more general drift towards treating questions of justice and well-being as technical matters. Alternative arrangements and political experiments do not necessarily lead to "better" outcomes. What technology does and what it means will remain contested, and evaluation of the evolving effects is contingent on collective convictions, social positionalities, personal inclinations, and power relations.

Attention to the micro-politics that accommodate technocratic rule or are inherent to scientific undertakings moves the debate beyond standard dichotomies of power and resistance, surveillance and inclusion, truth and conspiracy. These categories have exhausted their critical purchase because they do not explain how new battles over knowledge and values emerge from within dominant systems of rule. An attention to dissidence, omission, and obstruction reveals the wounds, injustices, and absurdities of all attempts at universalizing, which invariably fail to deliver justice and well-being – sometimes against their state's official goals – not least because they disregard multiplicity and only satisfy select needs.

Projects

Romm Lewkowicz's (October 2021–) postdoctoral book project *Documenting the Undocumented*, is a critical ethnography of the biometric governance of asylum seekers and illegal migrants in the European Union, an emerging apparatus for the policing of border-free Europe. The book explores how illegalized migrants became a laboratory for testing and integrating documentation technologies, and how a growing reliance on biometrics emerged in tandem with the postwar eradication of Europe's internal frontiers. At the centre of these processes is the pan-European Eurodac database for the biometric documentation and regulation of Europe's paperless migrants. Lewkowicz's project explores Eurodac's ambitions to modify the experience and performance of migration, by eradicating documents from border management and transforming the migrant body into both an identity paper and a carrier of borders. Moving between Brussels, Izmir (a smuggling and counterfeit paper hub), the Greek island of Chios (a biometric registration "hotspot"), and Berlin, this multi-sited ethnography deciphers the challenge of defining the contours of a biometric governance apparatus comprising an assemblage of policy decisions, electronic databases, operational sites, offshore processing locations, a visual regulation regime, and encoded bodies on the move. The project discerns the tangible, traceable, transnational connections in which contemporary surveillance technologies and governance systems are

Writing workshop for "Ticketless Travellers", with the community writers at the MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle. August 2022.

Jovan Maud interviews Romm Lewkowicz about his book project, "Documenting the Undocumented", for the MPI's "Talk On!" book chat series.

operated, negotiated, and subverted through the minor, everyday practices of migrants. Despite policy promises that biometrics would solidify the migrant body as an anchor of truth, the project shows how biometric governance *destabilizes* distinctions between bodies, papers, and biometric representations. To understand why this is the case, the project advances a new theory of embodiment, illustrating how biometric papers and images are phenomenologically bound up with a regime of practice and bodily schema.

Ursula Rao's work on the digitization of Indian welfare programmes raises similar questions of embodiment. How can a living organism be transformed into a quasi-fixed document-like thing that the government then uses to manage citizens and organize welfare programmes? What new identities emerge when people struggle to become machine readable and thus recognized as citizens with rights? The project is situated in India and follows the application of fingerprinting in multiple field sites, taking note of the development ambitions of the government and the struggles of poor people to be seen and recognized by the government. Officers, intermediaries, and citizens quickly learn that currently available biometric technology is extremely error-prone and creates a plethora of biometric misfits. In order to function, the biometrically organized administration must deal with such exceptions. Sometimes these are granted generously; other times, the unbiometrifiability of a large number of people is silently welcomed because it helps reduce costs. The project explores the situational use of technology as well as its flaws, and draws conclusions about the consequences of the application of biometric filters for remaking subject positions.

A second strand of **Tyler Zoanni**'s (September 2020 – September 2022) postdoctoral research focuses on the intersection between demography and democracy within the African Union, and the entanglements of race, sexuality, religion, reproduction, and family life at the forefront of political contestation, imagination, and improvisation. Zoanni's work here has two components: one historical, the other contemporary. Both components bring together current debates within feminist STS and biopolitics – about the making of populations, demographic ways of knowing, reproductive practice, and the politics of counting – with a classical anthropological concern for value, personhood, kinship, and relatedness. In one project, Zoanni examines how African states and families are experiencing, conceptualizing, and attempting to manage rapid population growth. The research is multi-sited but grounded in East Africa, has resulted in accepted publications (e.g., a special collection in *Science, Technology and Human Values*; an article in *Africa*), and will culminate in a book. In a second, historical, study, Zoanni examines how, in a few short decades, the Indian Ocean island-state of Mauritius went from the threat of massive overpopulation in the mid-20th century to becoming a so-called economic, political, and social miracle. Here, the research focuses on multiple generations of families whose members lived through these changes, including the experts who engineered them – family-planning and public health officials, economists and demographers, bankers, policy-makers, and transnational actors.

Summary: Care and Control

The projects summarized above consider the consequences of recent paradigm shifts in science and the introduction of breakthrough technologies that raise fundamental questions about what it means to be human. Proponents boast that new methods will bring an increase in well-being or will improve the objectivity and efficiency of the management of collectives. Against this view, techno-pessimists sound the alarm, blaming the same innovations for the expansion of the capitalist project and the identification of new forms of primitive accumulation at the frontiers of life. They warn of the surveillance state and totalitarian control. With these debates in

mind, members of the Department are examining the actual consequences of new technologies. What socio-technological entities emerge when people and collectives appropriate technologies developed in laboratories and use them to solve real-world problems? What are the intentions behind the introduction of new technologies and what are the effects of their application? How do stakeholders enlist the technologies into their projects?

The conceptual pair of "care" and "control" is a useful heuristic for engaging with these debates, because the doubling allows us to grasp the complexity of real socio-technical relations that are always experienced, depending on one's point of view, as simultaneously liberating and constraining, emancipatory and coercive. Care refers to a commitment to nurture that may take various forms – for example, human reproductive activities, making of relations in a more-than-human world, and responding to socio-technical interdependencies. In relations of care, humans remain open to emerging forms and needs, and they acknowledge the interdependency of life and the ultimate indeterminacy of the future. Meanwhile, control can be repression, yet it very often takes the form of confident interventions intended to create order. Such interventions are driven by the desire to minimize precarity and secure life, but since they target specific populations or states, they are usually exclusive, and also discriminatory. Care and control may seem like rivals, and their distinction describes a fault line of differentiation between those things and beings that experience care and those that are monitored, neglected, or left to die. Yet in political projects, care and control are inextricably linked, as attempts at control are always experiments. The political projects summarized above consider sites of transformation and radical critique that are driven, very often, by attempts to care and control, and we focus on innovation in relation to durable structures, affective orientations, and the indistinct boundaries between reason and belief. Thereby, we open up for analysis the processes by which humans remake the world while themselves being remade along the way.

From this perspective, genetic testing appears as a medium for the continuation of eugenic projects that perpetuate regimes of structural violence, for example, by solidifying the idea that a tribal population embodies the other of the modern nation. However, these same technologies also become focal points for new forms of activism that use the objectified knowledge of the laboratory report to advocate for the right to special care for those people who must live with genetic defects. A similar concern animates the use of biometric technologies for the management of redistributive projects. The inclusion of undocumented populations in a nationwide biometric database is a precondition for an expansion of the welfare state into hitherto neglected territories. At the same time, the routing of all forms of state care through one database provides opportunities for unprecedented forms of control; more worryingly, it excludes those people whose bodies resist biometric captures from all forms of care. In everyday life, the relationship between the caring and controlling sides of these techno-interventions are constantly negotiated, producing ever new projects of politics in the minor that provoke prevailing ideals and systems and produce new dysfunctionality or other functionalities, which can be liberating or frightening.

Other common lines of theory concern the ways in which new techno-regimes mediate the relationship between self-care and neoliberal forms of accountability, or an inclusive humanitarianism and the exclusion of populations labelled as outsiders. By paying attention to how technologies of domination are appropriated by people who are seeking to become visible to state apparatuses and attract care, we move beyond the dyad of domination and resistance. To this end, the Department draws attention to how the very tools of subjectification are used for alternative activism, to stage counterclaims, or to hold accountable those in power. Such research explores the plurality of techno-regimes, processes of co-constitution, and the social effects of dynamic policy more broadly.

ECOLOGIES

A second group of researchers in the Department go beyond human concerns and locate issues of care and power within more-than-human entanglements. People often experience their world as already broken, exposed to forms of slow violence, or subject to new uncertainties. They live in the ruins of empire, see traditional forms of livelihood disappear, and are challenged by ecological disasters. Research in this section is concerned with projects that seek to create a more liveable future on a damaged planet or mobilize for a fundamental shift in collective orientation. Such projects may be guided by dystopian fears or utopian hopes. Some, for example, see new technologies as the path to a more prosperous and equitable future in which suffering and inequality are reduced through advances in the life sciences and digital communications. Others ring alarm bells and see the end of life as we know it being brought about by climate change, pandemics, or other disasters. Regardless of the specific vision of the future, the activities designed to bring it about face a conflict: they seek solutions in the here and now to problems that far exceed human agency and extend beyond the lifespan of a single generation.

The projects summarized in this section reflect on how humans today shape the present with a view to bringing about desired futures (or avoiding undesired ones). Fascinated by the way massive concerns regarding human security and survival meet a newly gained confidence in the manageability of

complexity, we pay attention to the mechanisms that hold in an unsteady equilibrium the contradictory trends of planning and breakdown, inclusive humanitarianism and exclusive racism, or utopian notions of progress and surrender to future angst. Here again, the notions of care and control provide an anchor for theorizing and allow us to develop synergies between individual projects.

Caring for Bodies and Ecologies in the Anthropocene

One set of project studies prefigurative politics, or how concrete futures are conjured up through specific arrangements, technologies, embodiments, and everyday practices within specific landscapes that have been transformed, or that people seek to transform through their agency. From a variety of empirical angles, we document how utopian projects of more-than-human and human actors anticipate and realize change, or how people try to create what seem to be the best possible lives in damaged environments. We attend to situated experiments, how they implement participants' aspirations, seed futures, and counteract dystopias and nightmares.

Projects

With a focus on attempts to heal self and society, the doctoral candidate **Hynek Bečka** (February 2022 –) follows networks of (con)spiritual activists and their political ambitions in the Czech Republic. Describing themselves as "awoken", these activists seek to establish alternative sociality despite what they experience as the ever-present oppression of "the System". They do so through various means – ritual healing, use of cryptocurrencies, permaculture gardening, formation of semi-secret cells, or living off-grid. Spiritual activists attune to the hidden structures of the universe, seeking out support from many esoteric forces, and attempting to forge less exploitative relationships with animals, plants, spirits, the soil, or the Earth itself. They experiment with alternative modes of government or economy. Weaving together everyday lives with overarching narratives of change, resistance, and revolution, they hope that their minor acts of refusal and alternative living might be scaled-up and eventually jumpstart worldwide spiritual and social transformation. But even as new forms of sociality open up, others become impossible. The natural order, which spiritual activists experience and prefigure in quotidian moments of their alternative lives, is also entangled with nationalism, or gender and racial hierarchies.

Poster for "Buddhism in the Anthropocene" workshop, July 2022.

Arne Harms' (January 2021 –) habilitation project engages with environmental activists in present-day Germany and studies how they react to interlocking environmental crises by problematizing their everyday conduct. Alongside calls for structural changes, people also increasingly experiment with forms of the political that simultaneously target inner and outer transformation. Climate activists (understood broadly) redeploy meditation practices, collective grieving, or communal gardening as modes of political action apt to confront dystopian futures marked by spiralling environmental degradations and injustices. Harms traces how activists join meditation gatherings, for instance, as attempts to facilitate societal shifts by employing contemplation as an ethical practice that has repercussions far beyond meditators' minds. Across field sites, so-called "self-care" appears interwoven with "planet-care" in terms of a mutual regeneration. Scrutinizing such quotidian practices that complement, inform or instantiate activists' confrontational politics allows us to rethink modes of being political in the Anthropocene. Harms situates activists' harnessing of processes of self-fashioning within critiques of neoliberal governance and explores tensions emerging between the responsibilization of the individual, on one hand, and the quest to escape the internalized logics and aesthetics of runaway growth, on the other. Studying the idea and practice of regeneration in a number of tightly interwoven field sites connects one of anthropology's classic debates to present-day environmental governance, and helps theorize current inclinations to seek new futures by rethinking the past.

Jovan Maud (October 2020 –), predominantly supporting other researchers in his role as Senior Scientific Editor, as part of his research brief is exploring Buddhist responses to climate change and other global anthropogenic phenomena. How do these religious communities conceptualize the present and imagine the future under conditions of environmental decline? In July 2022, he and Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko (University of Copenhagen), co-organized an international workshop on "Buddhism in the Anthropocene". In addition to a keynote presented by Department guest Robert Desjarlais, participants

discussed how Buddhist communities around the globe are responding to the unprecedented impact of human activities on the planet. Papers from this workshop are being prepared for a special issue of the *Journal of Global Buddhism* in 2023.

Desirée Kumpf's (October 2020 –) postdoctoral project engages in attempts to bring about environmental transformation through state-sponsored projects of rewilding that re-imagine and remake social life in future ecologies. Due to climate change and other pervasive human influences, conservation projects are experimental forays into unpredictable ecologies. Rather than seeking to regain control, rewilding approaches count on the self-sustaining capacities of ecosystems. To generate a grounded understanding, Kumpf conducts fieldwork with conservation ecologists, mostly in Germany and Italy, and follows their projects into the nature reserves where they are put into action. The research analyses environmental politics on a micro-scale and asks how "wildness" is mobilized on a densely settled continent, and which alternative political constellations are incidentally created through these alternative approaches to environment. In answering these questions, the project traces how heterogenous micro-collectives influence environmental policies in the EU without representing a unified political movement. For instance, environmental sensing technologies (such as camera traps or GPS tracking) used by scientists also mobilize volunteers and local communities around emerging ecologies across national borders. In other cases, local actors become citizen scientists and develop new visions for rural livelihood, which sometimes differ from those of conservationists. The study of such dispersed actions illustrates the productive role of uncertain knowledge for novel conservation politics, within and beyond the state.

David Kananizadeh's (October 2021 –) doctoral research examines the multiple entanglements between people and forest landscapes in Sierra Leone. Based on the observation that people in Sierra Leone's eastern forest landscapes live both in mutual social dependency as well as ecological dependency in and with forests, this project explores how these dependencies and the uncertainties stemming from them are negotiated. Forest landscapes emerge out of complex interactions between human and non-human actors. This project enquires into these interactions by focusing on the social and economic forms they take, as well as their moral dimensions. The project explores how forest dwellers care, cultivate, and foster – but also control, exploit, and destroy – ecological relations within their fields of practice. Ecological relations are bound up with ideas and principles about how the common good and well-being are to be achieved. Forest dwellers mobilize such morally infused notions to hold each other accountable for their actions and, in so doing, to negotiate the ambivalence of relationships between people and their environment. However, moral arguments can only partially negotiate the existential dangers of living in interdependent forest environments. At the limits of moralization, forest dwellers turn to different indigenous practices of healing to repair damaged relationships and to cope with their

Having to share the Kosasthalaiyar river with a state-owned coal-fired thermal power plant, Ennore's fishermen inspect the size and quality of their catch at night, separating the shrimp from the larger Tiger prawns, thereby also noting the ways in which the power plant has intruded into their lives and livelihoods. Ennore, Chennai (India), December, 2018.

traumas. How to recover from trauma and make space for manoeuvre and becoming adds to the question of how to make forest milieu habitable.

Rishabh Raghavan's (November 2022 –) postdoctoral project also engages with lived environments and investigates survival economies of fishermen and their families who live and work near the state-owned coal-fired power plants in Ennore, a suburb of Chennai (Tamil Nadu, India). The research describes a "landscape of coal". First, it attends to the artisanal labour of local fishermen, and explores the ways in which toxic coal and its by-products seep through different bodies and environments. Using the analytic lens of "toxicity", Raghavan argues that research must broaden its focus to consider the many porous relations that coal affects: between skin-born afflictions and the disappearing welfare state; between silting rivers and changing labour markets; and between embodied physical skill and sub-contracted informal work. Second, the ethnography focuses on the ongoing effects of coal on local labour relations. By following a trade union leader in his meetings with different stakeholders, Raghavan traces the ways in which coal and its circulation facilitates a range of illegalities that preserve uneven power structures, make livelihoods increasingly precarious, and undermine contracts designed to guarantee renumeration or protect workers. Finally, Raghavan highlights the "politics of perceptibility" pursued by Ennore's residents, trade unions, and activists as they seek to draw attention to this landscape of coal. The research shows how these groups oscillate between vehemently exposing the government's own illegal practices and discreetly aligning themselves with other concealed illegalities that surround the power plants.

Ecologies of Disruptive Technology

While the aforementioned projects engage with established political institutions, the following two projects engage with speculative technologies and their potential for altering the techno-social constellation of human existence. AI and research on outer space are underscored by aspirational technologies that seek to take people beyond the limitations of human reasoning and the planetary framework. The emergent techno-imaginaries are constrained by the outcome of past histories and run up against limitations of resources, entrenched divisions of labour, and enduring effects of colonialism. Moreover, these technological "dream" worlds face a particularly intensive painful questions of ecological disaster and the exhaustion of planet's resources.

Projects

Hanna Nieber's (March 2021 –) postdoctoral project investigates the relationship between astrophysics and the ground. The scientific discipline that takes the extra-terrestrial as its research interest relies on infrastructures, research facilities, and observatories on earth. For an omnidirectional view into outer space, astrophysics requires telescopes to be spread across the globe, in addition to those in outer space. Moreover, for good angular resolution, these telescopes need to be networked. The necessary spread of networked telescopes is implicated in geopolitical dynamics and justified through science's claim to universality. Against the background of astrophysics' on-earth–off-earth relationality, Nieber takes the anticipated expansion of a South African telescope array onto Malagasy grounds as a starting point to investigate how astrophysics emerges as a scientific discipline on the island. She follows student initiatives that embrace science's claim to universality and understand astronomy as a tool for development in Madagascar, and she traces the students' aspirations for astrophysical careers in an unequal world. Furthermore, she attends to the constellations of place-bound infrastructures, both material and ideological, through which astronomy's research object – the universe – is rendered approachable. She is interested in how these infrastructures of astronomy become a vehicle to reimagine and reconfigure Madagascar's relation to Africa (and its decolonial narratives), to the earth (and concerns for a planetary future amidst global inequalities), and to the universe (and cosmological questions about humanity).

Michiel Baas (October 2020 –) seeks to develop a deeper understanding of how AI functions as part of our lifeworld, and interrogates how humankind is entangled with a technology whose agency remains unclear but which has clearly had a profound impact on the way we live and create. The work is based on ethnographic research among India-based artists working with AI, and data scientists employed with Bangalore-based IT companies. Baas asks how artists relate to AI for its creative potential and, turning this question around, how data scientists think of AI as a creation itself. He also actively collaborates with grassroots organizations that are invested in exploring AI's potential but are also critical of its consequences. What is AI when it has become part of this specific urban ecology of Bangalore, and how do people imagine and activate AI to create new meaningful ways of being in the world? While Baas is primarily interested in how his informants relate to AI and engage with questions of autonomy, bias, regulations, and sociocultural impact, his research also seeks to understand the technology's environmental impact and reliance on planetary resources, and which new political projects spring from reflections on environmental questions. Thus, the research seeks to illuminate everyday realities of life in Bangalore within the concerns of the Anthropocene. Drawing on multispecies ethnography, Baas argues that AI's presence asks us to think critically about the way we define the idea of being human.

Summary: Care and Control (continued)

The projects in this section show that people are refusing to give up in their struggle to create a future for humanity and a place for themselves in that future. At this point, it is difficult to identify common themes because the projects presented in this section are still in the early stages, and researchers have just begun their projects or completed the first part of fieldwork. However, the preliminary conclusions already point in a new direction, so that with more attention to ecological entanglements, these newer projects transcend the dichotomy of care and control that structured debates in the first three years.

As an example of new lines of thought within the Department, a recent workshop entitled "The Politics of Living on in the Mode of Despite" allowed us to describe and discuss less-than-utopian departures that nevertheless lead people into the future. Across projects, we found people were situationally resisting seemingly all-encompassing, dominant systems, defying those in power, or rejecting hegemonic knowledge, even if it meant suffering ridicule, criticism, or repression. In less dramatic forms, people were acting despite the odds, finding ways forward even when feeling a lack of personal capacity or experiencing pain and loss. They would act despite the inability to foresee the future, or the seeming futility of the exercise. In light of the danger of romanticizing such practices of acting against someone or something, some projects spoke about situations in which people acted despite better knowledge, ignoring the dire consequences of their actions, or despite pain and suffering. Building upon these discussions, we will seek to more systematically reflect on these tensions that emerge from the midst of the everyday and consider their political purchase. When and how do these acts turn into movements or influence the mainstream, where are they related to alternatives futures, and how are these futures are imagined? How distant are these futures? Do people worry about near or distant futures, and what does this mean for visionary interventions, systems of repression, and resilience?

First successes and results of this second line of inquiry are described in "Environmental Transformations: Towards Latency and Minor Futures" in the Highlights volume.

FURTHER PROJECTS

A number of further projects, both internally and externally funded, broaden the scope of the study of the political in the Department by providing further evidence of how ordinary objects, inherited and disruptive routines, and everyday actions shape subject positions and collective action. With a focus on urban infrastructures and path dependencies created by inherited political forms, they help the Department think critically about the politics in the minor.

Infrastructures of the Political

Michael Vine: *Received third-party funding from Humboldt Research Scholarship for Postdoctoral Researchers. Project: "Home Rule: Municipal Statecraft After U.S. Empire" (September 2021 – December 2022).*
This research focuses on the interface between subjectivity, history, and political institutions in the Euro-American world. As a Humboldt Fellow, Vine pursued a book project that explores the interaction of welfarist and punitive forms of social control in Tampa, Florida. His research was especially interested in human bodies, their senses, their affects, their relations, and their movement in urban space as a historical formation and object of contemporary urban governance. Vine asked, what is the impact of new technologies on vernacular cultures of urban democracy and how best to describe the dynamic policy ecologies of formal municipal institutions. The book will approach these fields (bodies; technologies; institutions) and their interactions as objects of ethnographic and historical investigation and will pay particular attention to the minor politics of everyday urban struggle in a city marked both by entrenched structures of social inequality and by emergent efforts to remake the built environment and political relations it supports. In this way, Vine's work contributes to the Department's broader project by exploring nonnormative modes of urban living and the techniques deployed to constrain and control them.

Jakub Zahora: *Received third-party funding from Fritz Thyssen Foundation for the project: "Spaces of Politics and Humanitarianism: Local Population's Attitude towards Refugee Centres" Ref. 40.21.0.006SO. (April 2021 – April 2022).*
Zahora examined refugee facilities near Leipzig and how they shape the perception of refugees, and migrants more broadly, and relations to them. Zahora argues that the architectural features and spatial conditions of immigration facilities and their surroundings crucially impact the forms of political engagement, as well as the affective experiences, that underlie attitudes towards refugees. Accordingly, the project focused on local citizens' everyday practices and sensations related to these sites, and how spatial and material configurations affect their attitudes to people on the move. By zooming in to the specific material and spatial sites that have been involved in the management of people on the move since 2015, the project addressed the lack of attention paid to how refugee facilities become part of everyday urban landscapes and mediate mundane experiences and political practices.

Nina Glick Schiller: *Received funding from the Departments 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' and 'Economic Experimentation' as Research*

Partner to study the consequences of the influx of refugees following the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. (January 2021 – December 2022).

Glick Schiller's study contributes to debates about the outcomes of neoliberal policies that have reduced public funding for service delivery, offered narratives of decentralized governance and local empowerment, and increased reliance on volunteer labour. Taking the arrival of large numbers of Ukrainians in the city of Halle as a point of departure, this project examined the structuring of local migrant service delivery and found a recentralization of control. Funding, direction, and structuring of services generally came from outside the city. Funding provided some local employment in minimally staffed short-term projects and the infrastructure of sponsoring organizations. Some local resident taxes and profits were accrued for national and international migration and housing industries. Locally recruited volunteers – both citizens and non-citizen migrants – provided services without salaries or decision-making power.

A research team of three student research assistants and a research coordinator, led by Nina Glick Schiller, worked for eight months to interview fifty-three interlocutors: twenty-seven staff of migrant service organizations, sixteen volunteers, and eleven government officials or personnel. Thirty-eight were of German background and fifteen of migrant background (four were Ukrainian). They represented forty-two organizations, government offices or projects. Research methods included interviews of one to three hours, participant observation in events linked to organizations, scrutiny of official documents, statements, news stories, websites, and social media. Questions addressed the workings, funding, history, goals, accomplishments, and difficulties of each organization as well as the interlocutors' backgrounds and attitudes toward migrants. Research data was analysed to obtain an overview of how migrant services were structured and delivered in Halle, changes over time, and the impact of the arrival of Ukrainians.

The organizations researched represent the broad range of governmental, public/private charitable, and service-providing organizations and independent voluntary organizations in the city. The connections and interactions between individual actors and organizations in the city and land, German federal government, the EU, housing corporations, and international investment and banking interests were traced. The transmission of organizational funding, information, and assistance were approached as social relations that connected migrants and non-migrants to various institutions of power and processes of governance and capital accumulation. A report to the city and several journal publications are planned.

Hassan Hussein Kochore *was originally employed as a doctoral candidate by in the Department 'Integration and Conflict', headed by Günther Schlee, and after Schlee's retirement joined the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'. He defended his dissertation at Halle University in July 2022 (August 2016 – March 2022).*

Adopting an ethno-historical approach, Kochore provides a nuanced account of the way Boran elders experience the state from their position at the margins of Kenya in the northern province of Marsabit. The dissertation focuses on how people construct time by engaging with different systems of counting age and re-telling crucial events from a collectively shared history, preserved in their cultural memory. The entry point is the connections of two temporalities invoked by Kochore's interlocutors: the "government age" that is included in documents, and the "Boran Age" that invokes traditional concepts of generational belonging. According to these traditional "systems", all males born in the same *gada* (eight-year period) belong to the same cohort or "age-set", *hariyya*. By comparing the two different temporalities that are used, evoked, juxtaposed, and intertwined, the research explores experiences of aging and social change among Boran, against the background of Boran consciousness and romanticization of a more traditional and "customary past". By tracing the retelling of history through different mnemonic techniques, Kochore analyses the contentious shaping of social relations and power hierarchies and explores the role of temporal imagination for both identity and intergenerational conflict.

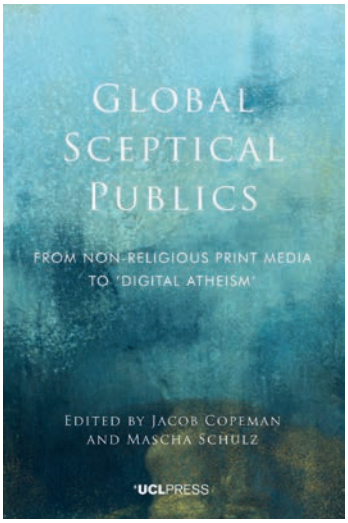
Political Assemblies

Lisa Björkman *Received third-party funding via a Humboldt Research Scholarship for Experienced Researchers. Project: "Political Communication Beyond Truth and Lies: An Anthropological Study of the Theatrical Idiom of Political Life in Mumbai" (July 2020 – November 2021). She was also funded by the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' as a Senior Research Fellow for a collaborative project on brokerage (December 2021 – April 2022). She continues to be an associated researcher of the Department.*

Björkman's work on crowd politics and theatrical idioms of political speech has resulted in a book manuscript, titled "Drama of Democracy", which will be submitted to University of Minnesota Press in August 2023. The book is an ethnographic study of political communication and representation in Mumbai, focusing on the material infrastructures and real-time enactment of mass-political assembly. Pushing past debates in political anthropology over crowd ontology (whether political crowds are mediated or spontaneous), and focusing instead on the aesthetic and affective resonances of mass politics, the book seeks to demonstrate that crowds be treated not as phenomena with a distinctive ontology (as if crowds could be understood as examples of the same type), but rather as practices of political communication that are meaningful within the socio-material and semiotic contexts within which they unfold. Based on this insight, the book explores practices of political assembly within Mum-

bai's broader political-communicative landscape by attending to its socio-material and sensory-affective infrastructures. Crowd politics are thus read together with the language-based forms of political communications with which popular assembly tends to be counterposed (public orations and meetings; traditional and social media; pamphlets in vernacular languages; private conversations) as well with images and artistic renderings or non-linguistic sign-vehicles (e.g., cash, food, or flowers). With crowds as the methodological entry point, each of the book's chapters investigates a distinctive domain of political concern in contemporary Mumbai: meanings of money; political aesthetics and enjoyment; believability of words; material mediations of citizenship and belonging; the instability of image-representations; and the partisan perils and political possibilities such semiotic slippage affords.

Mascha Schulz *is employed as postdoctoral researcher in the ERC-funded project "Religion and its Others in South Asia and the World: Communities, Debates, Freedoms" headed by Jacob Copeman. (Grant agreement ID: 817959), (December 2020 –)* Schulz's research project examines Bengali cultural performance as a means to struggle for a more secular society in Bangladesh. Because secularism and criticism of religion, including atheism, have long been highly contentious issues in Bangladesh, even those who strongly aspire to and struggle for a "secular society" often choose to avoid open criticism and activism around these issues. Instead, they enact their aspirations in more indirect ways, such as through joining the communist movement or becoming cultural activists. Schulz's research project traces the tensions between, on the one hand, the desire to fight for a secular society and cultivate a critical stance towards certain forms of religiosity and, on the other hand, a reluctance to address these issues explicitly. Thereby, the study draws attention to how aspirational politics and secular imaginations become activated, articulated, and circulated (or not). It seeks to provide a detailed account of the particular forms that politics and its mediations take in specific contexts and what it means for these "hidden" forms of political activism to be recognized as such. The research thus engages with the politics of identification, ethical self-making, and questions of how political space becomes demarcated by examining the significance of the conditions under which aspirational politics remain hidden or become public in the form of demands.



Book cover Global Sceptical Publics, UCL Press, 2022. Co-edited by Jacob Copeman and Mascha Schulz.

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Departmental retreat. Ribnitz-Damgarten, September 2022.

Working together in the Department

TRAINING AND COLLABORATION

In order to advance our individual and collective thinking, the Department engages in three types of shared activities: colloquia, group work, and annual retreats.

Colloquia take place every fortnight for the greater part of the year, with the exception of the summer break. During these colloquia, we discuss work in progress and help each other refine our writing of chapters, articles, book proposals, and funding applications. Departmental guests join the colloquia and enrich the discussion, since they bring fresh perspectives from outside and provide additional input.

Group work aims to keep the group abreast of ongoing debates, expand our conceptual vocabulary, and help members develop new perspectives on their material and new questions. Within the Department, members organize various temporary reading or discussion groups. In doing so, they do not start from a preconceived systematic logic but rather respond to current observations and develop questions that arise in comparison or through discussion with colleagues.

The discussion of the relationship between "Care and Control" has opened up debate on the relationship between ethical orientations and power relations that organize attempts to nurture in situations of crisis and conflict. The reading group "Meantime" discussed the temporal orientations of political action and how perception of the present in the register of the meantime generates hope amidst the persistence of irresolvable issues and everyday anxiety. The reading group "Minor" reflected on the core anthropological endeavour of paying attention to the small and specific in order to contribute to debates about larger issues. What are minor acts, and what is their role in coping with reality and moulding the future? Further groups have worked on the relation between "Science(s) and Universality", the meaning and practices of "Political Assembly", and the prefigurative politics emerging form "Lived Utopias". The emerging new topics for reflection and discussion include: spectrality, the politics of perceptibility, politics beyond intention, and the temporal order of development.

Annual retreats assemble all members of the Department for an intensive discussion of collective intellectual endeavour. The members reflect on their own as well as collective learnings, take note of and

Departmental retreat. Ribnitz-Damgarten, September 2022.

inform each other about of past results, and develop a vision for future collective work. The retreats have also proved to be a useful platform for adjusting the methods of collective work to emerging needs and asking fundamental questions about the role of anthropological knowledge generation. Finally, they are an important venue for forging a sense of shared intellectual endeavour and for consolidating the Department as an entity.

As part of our commitment to the **professional development** of our researchers, Departmental Senior Scientific Editor Jovan Maud provides editing support and also works with researchers to develop their academic writing and publishing skills, both individually and in group workshops. Workshops have focused on such topics as transforming dissertations into books, writing an effective book proposal, journal publishing strategies, and various aspects of ethnographic writing.

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

In addition to participating in all activities of the Department, doctoral students have received training in the Leipzig University's graduate school, participate in their own annual retreat, and attend a regular PhD colloquium organised by Ursula Rao. From 2023 onwards, doctoral training will be organized by the International Max Planck Research School "Global Multiplicity", which has been established as a consortium of the entire MPI with the universities of Halle, Leipzig, and Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Academic Output

PUBLICATIONS

As scientific output, the Department prioritizes articles in top-tier journals as well as monographs. The following table reflects the emphasis on journal publications, with an impressive 24 journal articles written by researchers employed in Rao's team, as well as one monograph and three edited volumes/ special issues (such as with Duke University Press, UCL Press, and the *Journal of South Asian Development*). There have been some remarkable successes in terms of placing of articles in important outlets contributing to debates in anthropology (*American Anthropologists*; *Social Anthropology*), interdisciplinary sense-making (*Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*; *City*; *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*), and South Asian Studies (*Contribution to Indian Sociology*; *Journal of South Asian Development*). Several researchers are working on monographs (Romm Lewkowicz, Ursula Rao, Rishabh Raghavan, Michael Vine, Mascha Schulz, Hanna Nieber) or dissertation/ habilitation theses (Arne Harms, Samiksha Bhan, Hynek Becka, David Kananizadeh) whose manuscripts are expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

AWARDS

Three employees received awards for their doctoral research in 2022. First, Hanna Nieber was awarded the *Fritz Steppat Award* 2022 for her dissertation on healers in Zanzibar from the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin. Second, Tyler Zoanni received the 2022 Young Author Prize of the European Society for Disability Research, Brussels. Third, the University of Zurich presented Mascha Schulz with the Graduate Campus and FAN Award 2022 (Fonds zur Förderung des Akademischen Nachwuches) for her doctoral research on "Non-Religion, Secularism, and Party Politics in Bangladesh".

PRESENTATIONS

To compensate for restrictions on long-distance travel during the COVID pandemic, researchers complemented face-to-face talks with online presentations. Members of the Department were present at all important disciplinary conferences (American Anthropological Association, European Association of Anthropology, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie) and were invited as guests to present in person at the University College London, University of Trento, LMU München, MIND Foundation, Bremen, as well as the neighbouring universities in Leipzig and Halle. From mid-2022 onwards, when fieldwork become possible again, members of Rao's team presented their research to audiences in host countries at the Centre for Study of Development Societies, Delhi, the Indian Institute for Science Education and Research, Bhopal, and the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Online engagement had many faces. The group "Political Assembly" invested in a podcast series to debate matters of concern (https://www.eth.mpg.de/podcast-apa). Researchers presented online to students and staff at various international universities (University of Michigan, Rutgers University, the Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland, University of Zurich, Lancaster University, University of Leeds, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Argentina, Responsible Today Initiative, India). Ursula Rao spoke about her work and the Department during a series of digital events, such as her conversation with Amrita Datta from the University of Cologne about research in times of COVID, reflections on the digital state in the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program at University of Michigan (https://sites.google.com/umich.edu/stscarceral/event-schedule), or in the recorded lecture on "Algorithmic Governance" of the Max Planck Institute of Neurosciences in Florida (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd9x-bjzj-Q8).

	Department employees	Department employees with third-party funding	Guests who received funds from the Department	Associated researchers
Monographs	0	0	1	1
Edited volumes / special issues	1	2	0	3
Journal articles	23	1	1	9
Chapters in edited volumes / special issues	5	3	3	4

An abandoned wheel-chair in Savda JJ colony, Delhi.

Public Outreach

The Department regularly participates in producing video material as part of the various YouTube series published by the MPI. Furthermore, a collaborative project between Departmental researchers (Harms, Vorhölter) and pupils and teachers from a local high school (Elisabeth Gymnasium) has resulted in the co-authored publication of teaching materials in the form of a role-playing scenario centred on a newly built coal-fired power plant in Bangladesh. In addition, Arne Harms is working with a journalist to publish his research on the megacity of Kolkata as part of the Max Planck Society's Geomax series, which is designed to feed Max Planck research into the German secondary school system. (For further details, see "Environmental Transformations: Towards Latency and Minor Futures" in the Highlights volume of this report.)

The most important outreach contribution at this point is work on a multimedia publication, "Ticketless Travellers", about life in working-class neighbourhoods in Delhi. The material was produced over the course of ten years as part of a collaboration between Ursula Rao and Ankur, an NGO training working-class youth in Delhi. **Kavita Dasgupta** (December 2021–), a filmmaker, community media trainer, and anthropologist in training, is employed by the Department as a full-time multimedia editor to help collectively develop this material into a web-based multimedia journal featuring texts and media-based narratives that capture experiences and reflections about Delhi and its working-class underbelly. Since 2012, the Delhi writers have been writing narratives in Hindi about their everyday lives and surroundings. As a result of the creative synergy between these Delhi-based research practitioners and the anthropologists at the MPI, the multimedia publications will be published in the coming three years to present to a broad public the results of the research collaboration. (For further details, see "Anthropology in Collaboration" in the Highlights volume of this report.)

Guest Programme

STRUCTURE OF THE GUEST PROGRAMME

The Department regularly invites international scholars to join the debate and contribute discussion, theorizing, and research output. There are three types of guests:

Short-term guests spend 3 to 14 days at the MPI to give lectures and seminars and join discussion groups. They are selected on account of the new and exciting work they have done or because their work has influenced the work of individual scholars or the group. All members of the Department may suggest guests.

Repeat visitors stay for 1 to 3 months and return several years in a row. Their association is tied to a shared project, such as a reading group and series of workshops, and will lead to a publication or publications that will contribute to the research output of the MPI. Initially, the duration of the association is fixed at a maximum of three years, but it can be extended. A prerequisite for the invitation is that a significant number of scholars in the Department are interested in collaboration.

The Sabbatical Award allows scholars to stay at the Department as full members for a period of 6 to 12 months. They receive a significant stipend or salary while taking leave from their home institution. During their stay, they contribute significantly to the research output of the Department. Interested researchers may apply on their own initiative or respond to the irregular calls of interest.

The guest programme is an important part of the work of the Department. Among other things, the regular interaction with international colleagues provides critical input for advancing the research programme and gives researchers important feedback on their work. Networks resulting from such engagement provide avenues for dissemination of our work, serve as channel to distribute information about events, and allow the dissemination of information on new trends and job opportunities. Visits also lead to collaborative output and spin-off projects.

MAIN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS DURING 2020–22

In cooperation with the Department 'Economic Experimentation', **Professor Ghassan Hage** (University of Melbourne) has been invited for a one-year senior professorial fellowship, starting from November 2022, during which he is applying for a Humboldt Distinguished Fellowship to extend his involvement with the MPI. During his time at the MPI, he provides important feedback on individual projects, contributes toward building a dialogue between the departments, and together with more than 20 researchers from across the three departments, is developing a co-published volume on the topic of "Social Repair". Thereby, he has facilitated transversal thinking and advanced the research agenda of the MPI.

Over the course of four years, the MPI is supporting **Professor Lisa Mitchell** (University of Pennsylvania) to conduct research and write a new book, based on archival material, about political activists from Tamil Nadu who travelled globally in the first half of the twentieth century and had critical input in shaping Indian democracy. The project will show how translational choices have shaped the reception and understanding of key concepts and practices considered fundamental to democracy in the West – concepts like freedom, liberalism, representation, the individual, collective action, and rights. Moreover, the research will demonstrate how these choices have influenced the ways that political representation is practised and understood in India today. As a resident researcher, Mitchell provides important feedback to the entire group of South Asianists at the MPI. Mitchell received a sabbatical award for the period January to July 2022 and will conduct follow up visits in 2023, 2024, and 2025 (six weeks each).

During two six-week visits, in 2021 and 2022, **Professor William Mazzarella** (University of Chicago) and **Dr Amy Leia McLachlan** (University of Chicago, now Field Museum), provided important input for the initial phase of shaping the Department. William Mazzarella, in particular, has provided strategic advice and contributed towards drawing out common themes of the projects. This has led to the formation of a new working group comprising both scholars in the Department and international colleagues on "Spectrality, Temporality, Ethnography". The working group has started meeting on a monthly basis, to explore "the possibilities of ethnographic phenomenology, writing, and critique where the edges of agency, objectivity, and mastery fray" (Quote from email communication, Amy McLachlan, 19 January

2023). The group will convene an in-person workshop in July 2023, and a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association & the Canadian Anthropological Society in Toronto, November 2023.

Associate Professor Bidisha Chaudhuri, Indian Institute of Information Technology in Bangalore, and Ursula Rao are collaborating on a book project on the Indian digital welfare state. Together, they lead a group of five research scholars who will co-author the book: Srividya Balasubramanian and Sreya Dutta (both Rao's doctoral students), Smriti Sharma (a doctoral student at the University of Lucerne whom Rao is co-supervising), and Meredith McLaughlin (Cambridge University). To facilitate the project, Chaudhuri has completed one of three writing residencies at the MPI. Each residency lasts for three months, in the years 2022, 2023, 2024.

The DFG-funded project "Infrastructure and the remaking of Asia through Adapting, Orchestrating and Cooperating", headed by Ursula Rao and **Anja Senz** (University of Heidelberg), has produced two collaborations. Ursula Rao is a principle investigator of the SFB 1199 "Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition" at Leipzig, and in this context supervises two doctoral candidates who are associated with the MPI, Sreya Dutta and Srividya Balasubramanian. Together with Rao, they are working on the digital transformation of the Indian state.

Associate Professor Jason Cons (University of Texas at Austin) visited the MPI for several weeks during spring 2022 and will return in November 2023. He has provided important expert advice to Arne Harms and Lukas Ley for a volume on "Coastal Futures" that has been submitted to University of Toronto Press. Moreover, after meeting Rishabh Raghavan at the MPI, Cons was recruited as an external examiner for his doctoral dissertation at the University of Edinburgh. Moving forward, Cons will mentor Raghavan during the process of transforming his dissertation into a book. While at MPI he worked on two projects. The first, titled "Delta Futures: Time, Territory, and Capture on a Climate Frontier", explores the politics of future making in the Bengal Delta. The second, "Settler Colonial Beasts: Ferality and Frontier Assemblages in Texas", explores the history and present of feral hogs in the American Southwest.

PART 2: RESEARCH GROUP REPORTS

Research Group 'Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast of West Africa'

Head of Research Group: Jacqueline Knörr

ACTIVITIES 2020–2022

This contribution to the Institute's report is provided by the head of the research group 'Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast of West Africa'. She is now the sole remaining member of the group, and thus this contribution will feature more "Jacqueline Knörr" than previous reports about the activities of this research group, which remained fully staffed until 2019.

Knörr's last doctoral student, whose contract ended in May 2021 after a period of parental leave, submitted her dissertation to the École normale supérieure (ENS) in Paris, which she defended brilliantly in December 2022 (see also below "Agathe Ménétrier: Dissertation and Activities", section authored by Agathe Ménétrier). Since then, Knörr has not supervised doctoral students at the MPI but is involved as (co-)supervisor in academic contexts elsewhere.

A lively global network dealing with the region from various disciplinary angles continues to exist as the result of the research group's work over 15 years. Activating this network, Knörr organized a small workshop on "New Research and Publication Projects on the Upper Guinea Coast and (Far) Beyond" in December 2021. Together with her colleagues worldwide, she will continue to promote scholarship on this, often neglected, part of the world.

Knörr's former doctoral student Anaïs Ménard, who received the prestigious Otto Hahn Medal and Otto Hahn Award for her thesis, has recently established herself at the MPI as Head of the Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among West African Women in Europe', after having worked as Otto Hahn Postdoc at the Université de Louvain (see her own contribution in this report). In October 2022, Ménard and Knörr co-organized a workshop inaugurating Ménard's new research group that brought together researchers working on related topics. The session Knörr organized as part of this very lively and rewarding event focused on upward social mobility among female remigrants in West Africa. Ménard and Knörr continue to collaborate closely, and at the time of writing are looking forward to the first "Annual GenMig/UGC Workshop", due to take place at the MPI in July 2023.

Knörr was invited to the École normal supérieure (ENS) in Paris as Visiting Professor in 2021 and 2022. Due to the COVID crisis, however, she could not be physically present there until 2022. During her time at the ENS, she presented papers in different formats, and engaged in extremely fruitful discussions with colleagues and students about her research and mutual research interests. These interactions have led to inspiring new ideas and the further development of the conceptual frameworks applied in her research. Such international collaboration with colleagues working on related issues will continue.

Knörr's current research is primarily concerned with the relationship and interaction between decolonization and creolization throughout colonial and postcolonial eras (see section "Current Research Project: Creolization and Decolonization in Interaction"). She has presented papers on the topic in various contexts, amongst others, during her stay at the ENS and at a conference organized by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen/KWI). She is now in the

process of co-authoring articles on the topic with her long-time Brazilian colleague, Wilson Trajano Filho, and with Mariana Kriel, another of her research partners (see section "Guest Programme").

The Upper Guinea Coast in Global Perspective, which Knörr co-edited with one of her former doctoral students, Christoph Kohl, and which was originally published with Berghahn Books in 2016 and made Open Access in 2018 (funded by Knowledge Unlatched II), has meanwhile also been published as a paperback (2023), as was her monograph *Creole Identity in Postcolonial Indonesia* before. Her article on "Creolization in Atlantic West Africa: The Example of Sierra Leone", will be published in F. Lüpke's *The Oxford Guide to the Atlantic Languages of West Africa*, Oxford University Press (in press).

Together with her colleague Diego Ballestero from the University of Bonn, Knörr is organizing a panel on "Decolonization (Studies) – Anthropologized and Bottom-up" at the Conference of the German Anthropological Association (DGSKA) in July 2023. She was also invited as discussant at the conference "Teaching to Treat: Medical Education in Empires (18th–20th centuries)", which took place at the Centre for the History of Science and Technology of the University of Oxford in June 2021. She has continued to teach at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, conducting seminars on "Language and Identity in Postcolonial Societies" (WS 2021) and "Queer Anthropology" (SS 2020).

Knörr continues to be active in various outreach activities in different contexts, although her capacity to participate as an individual is more limited than it had been while the research group was at full strength (see for example the 2016–2019 Report). She continues to serve as an expert witness in asylum procedures, and as consultant and advisor concerning human rights issues and matters related to the countries of the Upper Guinea Coast and Indonesia in various institutional and (non)governmental contexts. Her political engagements concern asylum procedures, development cooperation with Africa, and the politics and legislation of science and research.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT: CREOLIZATION AND DECOLONIZATION IN INTERACTION

Knörr's work on the interaction between creolization and decolonization is ongoing and can only be outlined here. With a focus on the Upper Guinea Coast region of West Africa and on Indonesia, Knörr is collaborating with several international research partners whose respective regional and disciplinary specializations will enhance the comparative and interdisciplinary dimensions of the research project (see also Knörr's section "Guest Programme" below).

This project builds on previous comparative research on the social and political roles of creole identities in postcolonial societies conducted by Knörr and her research partners, as well as by other researchers from various disciplines (see e.g. Knörr, in press; Knörr and Kohl 2023; Knörr 2020; Knörr 2018a; Knörr 2018b; Knörr and Trajano Filho 2018; Knörr 2010). The aim of the current project is to connect the findings from previous research on creole identities and creolization in postcolonial societies with the study of processes of decolonization at the grassroot levels of colonial and postcolonial societies.

The development of this research project was also triggered by the observation that the study of decolonization as it is conducted today is in many – rather troubling – ways a reflection of colonial worldviews in that it applies top-down, rather than bottom-up, perspectives and is dominated by the worldviews of elites, particularly those from the so-called Global North, but increasingly from the Global South as well. Such top-down perspectives focus on the (nation-) state and its institutions and representations. According to this view, the history of decolonization began with indigenous elites in colonial societies fighting to overcome colonialism, and it will end with decolonizing elites in postcolonial societies implementing their visions for their respective societies.

Reflecting this bias at the disciplinary level, decolonization studies tend to be placed within postcolonial studies. As a consequence, current postcolonial studies do not leave enough room for the recognition that decolonization is not merely a phenomenon related to the aftermaths and demise of colonialism, but also to the upholding of one's own by way of interaction with the other throughout colonialism. Thus, decolonization should not just be thought of as marking the end of colonialism but also as constitutive of its beginnings. Based on this insight, this project aims to "decolonize" decolonization studies and discourses themselves by applying a bottom-up perspective and by focusing on decolonization practices at the grassroot levels of *both* colonial and postcolonial societies. More explicitly, it focuses on practices of creolization as a strategy of decolonization and anticolonial resistance among colonial and postcolonial subjects throughout both colonial and postcolonial eras. Thereby, it aims to elucidate yet underexposed dimensions and dynamics of decolonization.

This project is based on the recognition that creolizing practices among non-elite populations have significantly contributed to decolonization in both colonial and postcolonial societies. In colonial times, such "common people" – amongst themselves and in interaction with various "others" – contributed to decolonization by preserving social and cultural practices, languages, institutions, beliefs, and identities in creolized forms that were able to survive colonialism. In so doing, they prepared a fertile ground from

which later anticolonial struggles for independence and political decolonization could grow. Hence, much of the subject matter of contemporary decolonization studies is rooted in (much) earlier, "vernacular" decolonization processes that largely took the form of creolization practices among the lower ranks of colonial societies. In the framework of this research project, these practices of creolization – which have to date primarily been studied in cultural, religious, and linguistic terms – will be acknowledged as inherently political and studied as acts of decolonization and anticolonial resistance.

In connection with the focus on nation-state institutions and elite actors, current approaches to decolonization also apply – more or less implicitly and largely unquestioned – binary oppositions, e.g., "colonizers versus colonized", "(post)colonial nation-states versus (former) colonial power", "collaboration versus resistance", "West versus Non-West", "(Global) South versus (Global) North", "periphery versus centre", etc. Such oppositions are rarely clear-cut in colonial and postcolonial societies' social and political realities, where (former) colonizers and (former) colonized have been, and continue to be – under conditions of often extreme power asymmetries – interacting agencies, not only at nation-state and institutional levels, but also in everyday social and cultural practices.

Current decoloniality discourses that propose an epistemological delinking from everything colonial and Western tend to replicate rather than overcome the fundamental assumption separating the "West" from the "Rest", namely that there is a basic and profound opposition between European and Non-European, or Western and Non-Western, rationales and modes of reasoning. Thereby, they tend to underestimate and belittle the subalterns' and Global South's agency in social practices of decolonization.

By applying a bottom-up perspective and focusing on the decolonizing agency of creolization at the grassroot levels of colonial and postcolonial societies, the perspective is shifted away from oppositions and separations and towards interactions, thereby acknowledging and paying tribute to the role of everyday practices in forms of decolonization, past and present. The intervention made by this project may contribute to an anthropological as well as historical "shift" in the study of decolonization by promoting more ethnographic, bottom-up, comparative, and historicized perspectives in a field that has so far been characterized by top-down perspectives, elitist bias, and exclusions.

GUEST PROGRAMME

Jacqueline Knörr's guest programme continues to involve close cooperation with research partners on mutual research interests as well as the organization of (joint) publications and workshops. The programme is now primarily focused on the current research project on the interaction between creolization and decolonization. To this end, Wilson Trajano Filho, with whom Knörr has already co-edited and co-authored several books and articles, was among the guests invited in 2022 and 2023. He has been an associate and research partner of the research group since 2006 and has attended Knörr's annual workshops concerning ongoing research/publication projects for many years.

Mariana Kriel, a sociolinguist and Senior Lecturer at Nelson Mandela University, is also a regular guest at the Institute. Her collaboration with Knörr focuses on the role of creole and (other) local languages in decolonization processes and is largely based on the themes of the conference they co-organized on "Language and (De)Colonization" at Nelson Mandela University 2018. Kriel has taken part in Knörr's annual workshops and, as an outcome of this collaboration, published various articles. Both Trajano Filho and Kriel took part in the workshop "Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among West African Women", co-organized by Anais Ménard and Knörr in 2022 (see section "Activities"). They will be among the presenters at Knörr's panel at the DGSKA conference and the GenMig/UGC workshop, co-organized by Ménard and Knörr, both to take place in July 2023.

At the time of writing, efforts are being made to strengthen collaboration with historians working on decolonization and creolization to enhance the historical component of Knörr's current research project.

Becoming Dr. Agathe Ménétrier. Defense of thesis at the École normale supérieure (ENS) in Paris, 16 December 2022.

Section authored by Agathe Ménétrier

AGATHE MÉNÉTRIER: DISSERTATION AND ACTIVITIES

In the reporting period, Agathe Ménétrier completed her doctoral dissertation "'We Have to Get LGBT Refugees Out of Here!' A Study of Secrecy along a Humanitarian Resettlement Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in West Africa". The dissertation examines the international governance of asylum through an ethnographic analysis of a programme run by the UNHCR in Dakar, Senegal, that selects LGBT refugees from and in West Africa and resettles them to the Global North. Shifting the focus to the Global South, the dissertation examines the practices behind what is often presented by international organizations and states of the Global North as a particularly "humanitarian" aspect of the governance of mobility. Based on fieldwork conducted in Dakar, Nouakchott, and Banjul from 2017 to 2018, Ménétrier's dissertation addresses fundamental questions of contemporary refugee selection: Who decides who is "at risk" and who is "gay enough" to be resettled to the North? Based on which criteria are these decisions made? And how do resettlement aspirants adapt to meet these criteria?

The dissertation was completed in the framework of an interdisciplinary collaboration and co-supervision between Prof. Jacqueline Knörr of the MPI and Prof. Johanna Siméant-Germanos, a political scientist at the Ecole normale supérieure (ENS) in Paris. The dissertation defence took place in Paris on 16 December 2022.

Over the reporting period and despite impediments to mobility due to the pandemic and parental leave, Ménétrier taught a seminar at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, held several online presentations, and organized an online lecture series. She continued to serve as an expert in asylum courts in Europe and wrote/reviewed Country of Origin Information as voluntary coordinator of the Africa Team for the NGO Asylos. After her contract with the MPI ended in 2021, she was hired by Asylos as an interim Programme Manager.

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Research Group 'Urban Sprawl and Flexible Regional Borders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia'

Head of Max Planck Partner Group:
Ameyu Roro Godesso

This project studies protests against land dispossession in Oromiya in response to housing development at the fringes of Addis Ababa, as a specific local instance of urban tension. Across the globe, cities have become hubs for a substantial renegotiation of the meaning of citizenship. The desire to participate in global economic flows has not only aggravated local inequalities, but turned cities into spaces for a virulent remaking of notions of home and belonging. Cities learn from each other, and planners use standard blueprints when imagining what a global city should look like in the twenty-first century. However, the effects of globally circulated measures encounter locally distinct conditions.
The economic and urban policies employed by the Ethiopian Peoples Republic Democratic Front (EPRDF)-led government since 2005 have aimed at developing urban centres. The urban centres, it is assumed, would help the country as the engine in the overall economic growth. The new policy, which already started surfacing in 2001, gained speed when in 2005 the ruling party officially adopted the East Asian developmental states' economic model, particularly that of Taiwan and South Korea, which were known for their strong state intervention in development programmes and massive investment programmes in urban areas to foster industrialization. It was in this context that EPRDF earmarked urban development as a key to the country's economic progress. One of the urban centres in which such a developmental model was applied was Addis Ababa.

In contrast to the official propaganda that praises the city administration's effort to provide low-cost housing for the poor, academic studies highlight the adverse effect urban housing development has brought on city residents (Abduselam 2018; Gebre 2008; Nebiyu 2000). Furthermore, the city is expanding horizontally, thereby dislocating a large population who are forced into unplanned settlements on the peripheries, encroaching on land outside of the municipality boundary by confiscating agricultural lands from farmers who were born and grew up there. In the past decade, the encroaching city has inched ever closer to every rural village located far beyond the administrative border, deep in Oromiya. On the farmlands that once supported many rural families now loom both finished and unfinished apartment blocks. In most rural areas surrounding Addis Ababa city, the Ethiopian authorities confiscated most of the land to build public housing for residents living in the city. In this regard, studies have shown how Addis Ababa has been growing spatially, displacing the surrounding peasants (Chala 2015, cited in Bula 2020:68; Feyera 2005). Some have claimed the uncontrolled expansion of Addis Ababa and the eviction of the peasants, mostly ethnic Oromo, from the city's peripheries is nothing but a continuation of the long-standing centre-periphery power relationship of the county, not to mention the emerging global political economy.
In Addis Ababa the ethnic groups of Oromo experience urban expansion and gentrification as marginalization. The federal state of Ethiopia officially pursues a politics of "unity in diversity". This means the multi-ethnic state recognizes the rights of ethnic groups to govern their inherited territories. However, the aim to give limited sovereignty to ethnic groups does not easily align with the elite's attempt to connect the country to global capitalist circuits. The investment in urban hubs, which would be on par with Singapore or Hong Kong, comes at the expense of land acquisitions directed by the federal government and disadvantaging small farmers. In Ethiopia, these conflicts between classes fuel ethnic conflicts, which may appear to be inherited traditional antagonisms but are indeed created by new inequalities.

This situation raises a number of questions: Why did the federal government and the city administration start housing construction in Oromiya administration territory? Why did the Oromiya region authorities fail to protect their region's rights and interests from the federal state and the city authorities' interferences? Was it based on complicity or negotiation? How were the rights of thousands of farmers to their land-use denied in the name of "public interest"? Finally, perhaps most importantly, what do state practices of dispossession tell us about good governance and its far-reaching consequences?
This five-year project began in January 2022. This project is designed to add value to the existing research work and knowledge on land and urban governance within the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'. In another sense, the project will continue earlier work carried out in Ethiopia within the project "Anthropological Perspectives on Pastoralism and Land Deals" within Schlee's Department 'Conflict and Integration' (see Gabbert et al. 2021).

HABTAMU FIKADU LEMU

One key goal was to train a doctoral student within the Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'. To this end, Habtamu Fikadu Lemu was

selected. In this connection, the MPI invited Lemu to Halle for five months from 15 September 2022 to 15 February 2023. In Halle, he consulted the extensive library of the MPI, enrolled in the "Advanced Course" at the Institute of Social Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, participated in the fortnightly PhD colloquium, and consulted with Ursula Rao to refine the project proposal. He then presented his project to the whole group of doctoral students in January 2023.

The doctoral project aims to explore how the official discourses of housing development are dis/entangled with the lived experiences of affected individuals and groups. It will focus on the case study of the integrated housing development program in Koye Feche, which is located in a contested administrative boundary between Addis Ababa city administration and Oromia regional state. As part of the development, local farmers were dispossessed of their land, which led to the Oromo protest. Using an ethnographic approach involving extensive fieldwork, the research will be the basis for adding to the discussion of incompatibility of developmental state policy with ethno-national federalism. Territorial identity and political process theories will be used to discuss the protest against land dispossession.

The study will have both academic and policy implications. Academically, it will add knowledge to the existing literatures on land use and housing development, and on social movements seeking social change. With regard to policy, the study's close engagement with issues of urban development and the involvement of stakeholders will also generate important insights for interested government officials to improve urban development planning and social services.

The doctoral project is supervised by Ameyu Roro Godesso, who holds the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Jimma University (JU). Jimma University was founded in the 1980s, and in recent years has significantly expanded its programme in the social sciences. As a result of the partnership programme, and in line with the development vision of JU's leadership, in August 2022 the long-awaited PhD program in Sociology was founded. Lemu, who is employed by the same university, was accepted into the programme by meeting the necessary application requirements and passing an entrance exam. The programme is in its early days, during which students are required to attend coursework/seminars offered primarily on the university campus, which must be completed within two semesters of initial enrolment in the programme. During his time at MPI, Lemu was also able to attend online modules of a PhD programme offered by JU's Department of Sociology.

The remaining four years of this project will be primarily devoted to completing coursework/seminars, conducting fieldwork, managing and organizing data, writing reports and manuscripts, and publishing and disseminating research results. Lemu will take coursework/seminars in the second semester the first year of the study. His proposal will then be further developed in the second semester of the second year of study and presented at the JU Sociology PhD Seminar. These tasks will be completed in 2023. The next step will be to conduct fieldwork and collect field data in 2024. The first draft of the dissertation will be written in 2025. Publication and dissemination of research results are planned for 2026. Publication following JU's Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) curriculum in Sociology includes submission of both hard copy and soft copy of his one published article, and a letter of acceptance for publication of the second submitted manuscript in a reputable and peer-reviewed journal from his doctoral dissertation. Completion of the dissertation following oral defence marks the end of his doctoral program. Finally, a conference will be held at JU with the aim of exchanging scientific knowledge on the partner research project. The conference will be attended by MPI professors, JU faculty, and other relevant stakeholders.

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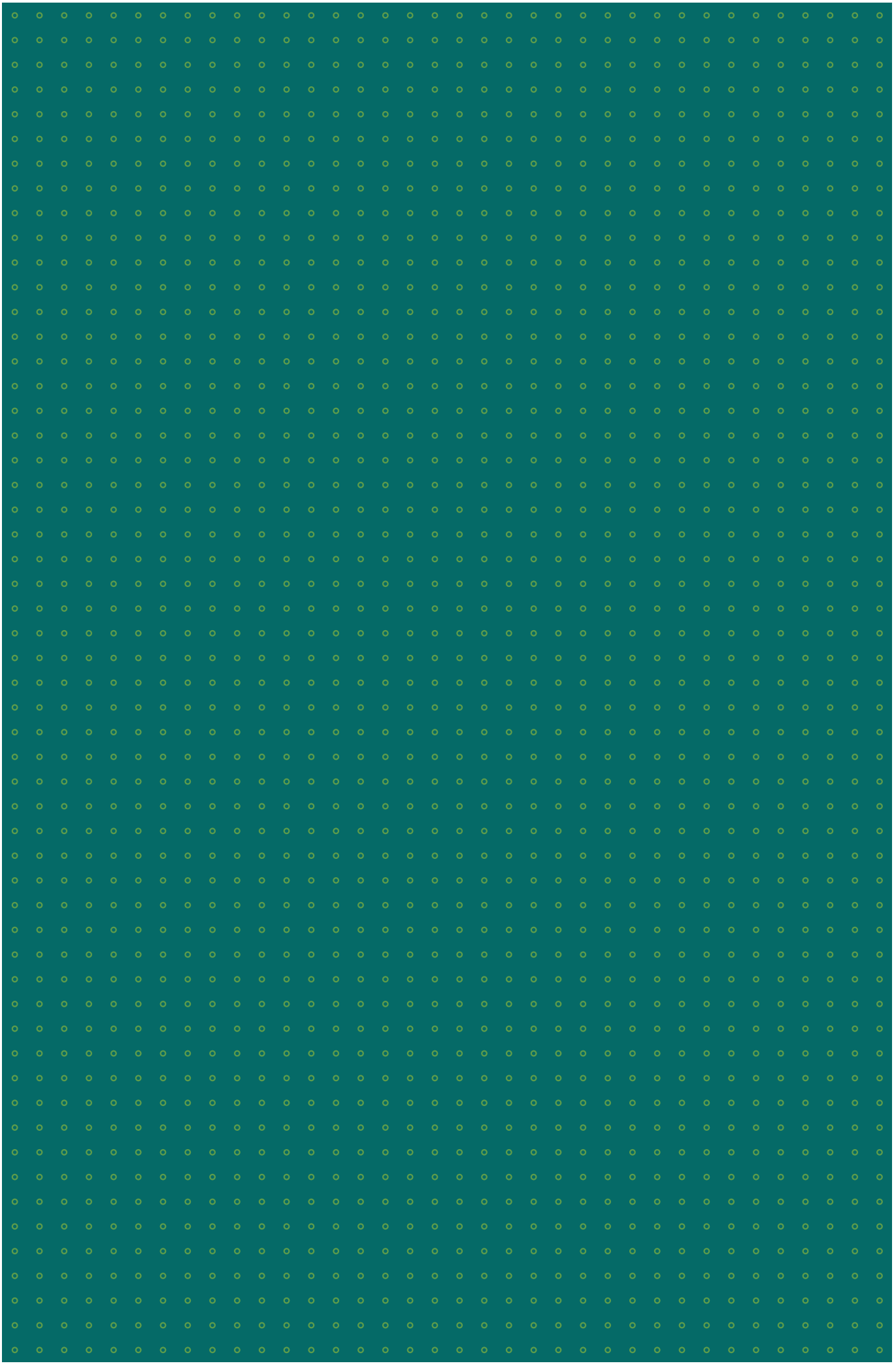

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

DIRECTOR

Biao Xiang (since 4/2020 part-time, since 9/2021 full-time)

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Kirsten W. Endres (Research Group 'The Political and Economic Anthropology of Southeast Asia', previously Department Hann)

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Mario Schmidt (since 5/2022)
Iain Walker (since 1/2022, previously Department Hann)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

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Andrew Haxby (since 1/2022)
Deborah Jones (until 9/2022, previously Department Hann)
Jing Jing Liu (1/2022 – 12/2022)
Samuel Joseph Williams (since 10/2022, previously Department Hann)

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Thao Vu (until 02/2023 Research Group Endres, previously Department Hann)

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Zhipeng Duan (Doctoral Student, Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway) (11/2021 – 4/2022)
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Erik Forman (Doctoral Student, City University of New York, USA) (10/2021 – 3/2022)
Ghassan Hage (University of Melbourne, Australia) (11/2022 – 12/2024)
Jennifer Holdaway (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) (4/2021 – 12/2021)
Brandaan Huigen (University College London, UK) (2/2021 – 5/2021)
Emre Eren Korkmaz (University of Oxford, UK) (5/2020 – 1/2021)
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Elizabeth Saleh (American University of Beirut, Lebanon) (6/2021 – 8/2021)
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Ovidiu Tichindeleanu (10/2021 – 3/2022)
Emrah Yildiz (Northwestern University, Evanston, USA) (9/2021 – 2/2022)

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

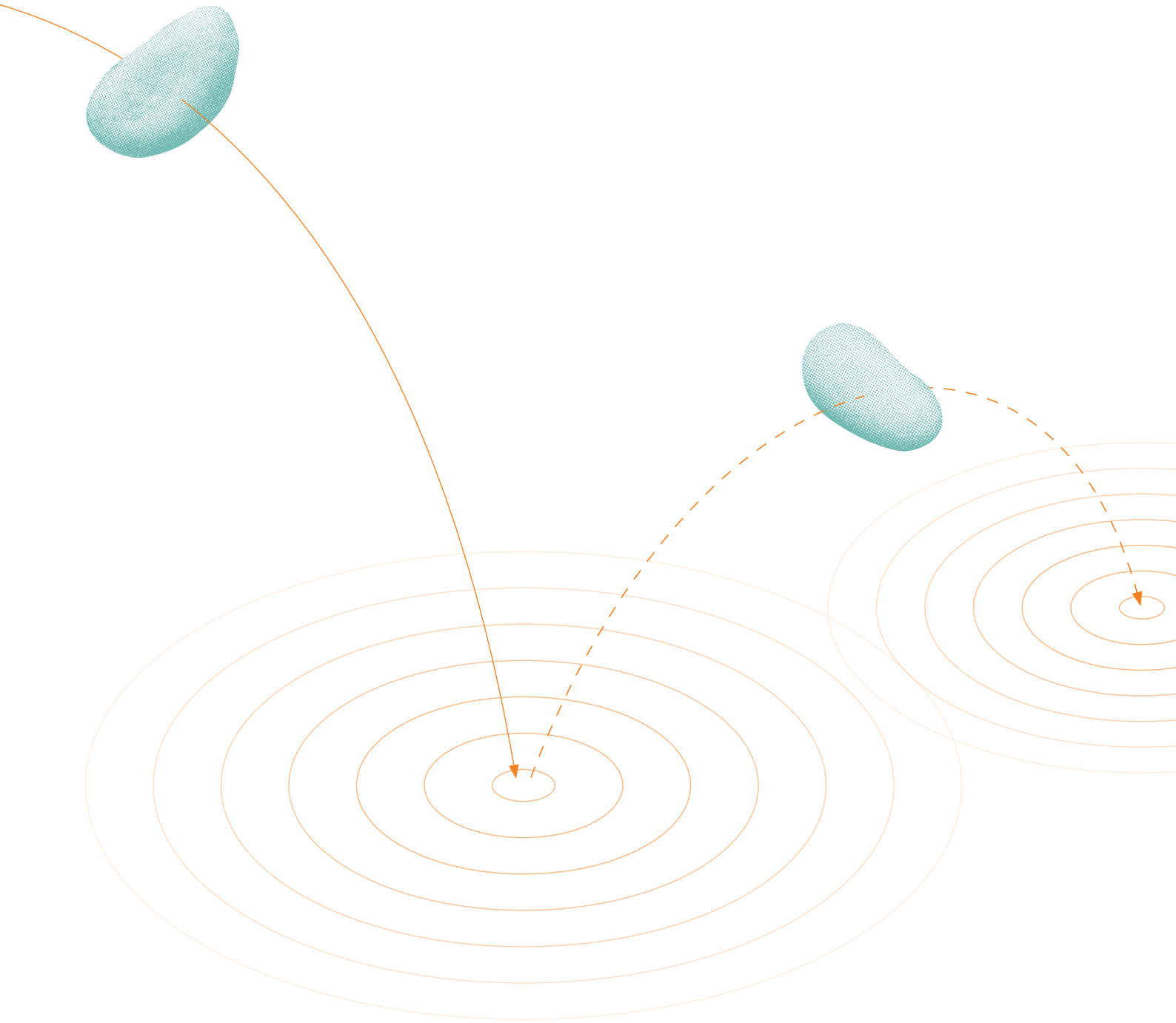
Director of Department:
BIAO XIANG

The Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' was established in April 2020 when the director, Biao Xiang, who was at that time based at the University of Oxford, joined MPI on a part-time basis (20%). Xiang arrived in Halle to start his full-time directorship in September 2021, assisted by two secretaries, Anke Meyer and Berit Eckert, and a senior advisor, Jennifer Holdaway, based in the United Kingdom. By October 2022, the Department had hired seven researchers. Two additional members of the Department are Christoph Brumann and Kirsten W. Endres, who had been research leaders at MPI well before Xiang's arrival. Their positions are funded by the Max Planck Society instead of the Department. Brumann, in particular, has provided advice for the development of the Department from the very beginning.

Xiang's vision for the Department is informed by his life and work as a social anthropologist from China based in the United Kingdom, researching migration and social change in India and China. In his career, Xiang benefited from the remarkable growth since the 1990s of the field of migration studies. It is, however, an interdisciplinary field that he came to realize tended to grow by proliferating empirical case studies without yielding many insights of enduring significance, especially the types of insights that resonate with migrants. Work in anthropology faces a similar risk, namely intellectual labour is absorbed elaborating ever finer conceptual distinctions in conversations among colleagues, rather than producing substantive output that speaks to what people are concerned about in their lives. Together with an increasing number of colleagues around the world, Xiang believes that migration studies and anthropology can and should become much more responsive to public concerns.

The time is ripe for engaging with the public more directly as a basis of research praxis. First: from energy transition to population ageing, the most pressing issues we confront today around the world can only be addressed by facing up together to fundamental questions about our common concerns, such as what a good life really means. Second: given the heightened complexity of an interconnected world, it is impossible for anyone, whether an individual, or a corporation, or a nation-state, to base all their decisions on exhaustive evidence. People have to act with partial knowledge of facts. In such uncertain and anxious times, anthropological wisdom is indispensable, both for fathoming what uncertainty and arbitrariness can mean and exploring how people in different contexts deal with such challenges in pursuit of a meaningful life. Third (and most critically): thanks to a rapid increase in educational levels and advances in communications technology, a public of unprecedented size is now ready to engage in critical reflection together with scholars. Across the world, young people are posing challenging questions, making sharp observations, eager to experiment with new ways of living. Professional anthropologists have much to learn from them, and in turn, what these publics demand from academic specialists are analytical tools that they can use to deepen their thinking. Anthropology, given its commitment to advance knowledge based on research subjects' experiences and perceptions, is uniquely positioned to contribute to such public conversations.

The first formal activity of the Department was a biweekly seminar, the "Halle Group of Economic Anthropology", convened over twelve months from September 2020 until October 2021 and co-ordinated with the support of Jonathan Kraemer, the Department's first visiting PhD student. In all, 20 visiting fellows were recruited to participate, both through open calls and also by personal invitation of the director. In the course of their discussions, participants reviewed the current state of economic anthropology, including the relevance of classical texts, emerging topics of concern, and changing practices in the discipline. Participants agreed that work in economic anthropology is currently witness to a growing number of exciting case studies and a proliferation of new concepts, however the field also



suffers from fragmentation and stagnation when it comes to theorization. Simply continuing the current mode of research practice – accumulating more cases, complicating interpretations, publishing more in disciplinary journals – participants concurred, cannot provide a way out of this intellectual impasse.

As a result of these formative discussions, the Department has defined its mission as developing a new style of research practice, rather than focusing on some-or-other subject matter or intervening in this-or-that topical debate. We tentatively call this style of thinking the "common concerns" approach.

Common Concerns

A "common concerns" approach grounds research in the concerns of the subject groups we study – the worries that they grapple with in their daily lives, such as excessive competition, uncertainty, burnout, powerlessness, increasing pressure. Beginning from such concerns, research guided by this approach explores the multifaceted ways these worries animate different dimensions of experience, probes for their origins in contemporary transformations of political economy, and examines how people themselves seek to face up to them – from strategies for coping day-to-day through to how they reckon with such anxieties in their long-term pursuit of a meaningful life. At heart, a "common concerns" approach aims to achieve two fundamental goals. First: the approach seeks to develop an analytical style of thinking that is capable of addressing social contradictions as they are actually experienced. Actual experiences of social contradictions often defy established categories that demarcate life into discrete domains like family, education, and work, or that organize knowledge along the lines of recognizable issues such as climate change or digitalization and may lose sight of the nuanced dynamics of how social life actually unfolds. As such, a focus on common concerns necessitates new analytical strategies. Second: the approach hopes to enrich research subjects' own understanding about their condition, centering people themselves as creators of their own history. So often, people become acutely concerned about an issue because they feel their own actions are perpetuating an undesirable condition. People desire change, but they cannot see any way out. Thus, beyond addressing questions like "what has caused an unfair condition?", a common concerns approach seeks to help people think "what can I do in such an unfair condition?"

It is not a major goal of a "common concerns" approach to advance disciplinary knowledge by filling gaps in academic literature. Rather than creating new theories, the Department turns to the wealth of knowledge produced by earlier generations as a positive resource, searching for ways that it can speak today to people's worries. Indeed, if it is to work, a "common concerns" approach will need to draw on insights from a wide range of traditions across the social sciences and humanities in order identify what is potentially most valuable for helping people wrestle with what is worrying them. In short, rather than approaching the "existing literature" as something a scholar critically pokes holes in to plug with novel concepts, a "common concerns" approach seeks to brings old ideas to bear in people's on-going struggles.

In developing such an approach, gender studies has provided a major inspiration to members of the Department during the first year of collective exploration. In the 20th century, gender studies proved not only one of the most intellectually exciting fields of social research, but at one and the same time, among the bodies of work with most social impact. Crucially, this was not because gender studies discovered a new empirical field of research: historically, much work on kinship dealt with the same phenomena that proved of pressing concern in gender studies. What set gender studies apart, however, was its style of inquiry. While earlier studies, focused on kinship as a discrete domain, tended to work with established categories for classifying gender relations, slotting experience into familiar patterns, gender studies started rather with (overwhelmingly female) scholars' own personal frustration about gender inequality as they themselves experienced it ramifying across various domains of life. If earlier research sought generally to analyse how the situations of men and women may differ across time and place in terms of patterns of culture or forms of social system, gender studies foregrounded how men and especially women *experience* difference in specific situations and aimed to explain why these differences were a concern for people then and there. This was the approach that so resonated with the public: theoretical research, public debate, and social movements became organically interlinked.

Building on such discussions, Department members' exploration of a "common concerns" approach began by thinking about parallels between two issues that they had identified emerging of vital concern among their research subjects: "suspension" and "pressure". Suspension is the English translation of the Chinese word *xuanfu*. Meaning literally "hanging in the air", it is a feeling widely shared today across China. Too occupied with earning money to pursue other aims in life, or constantly looking to move on to better opportunities rather than confronting problems in the here and now, people say they feel "suspended". Originally used by Xiang in the 1990s as an etic term to describe a structural condition faced by rural-urban migrants, in the 2010s *xuanfu* became an emic term used widely across social media by a broader Chinese public to express their feelings. Partly in response to this public reception, Xiang worked with seven scholars outside MPI between 2018 and 2021 to explore how "suspension" had so come to speak to people's concerns. Conceptualized as both a structural condition and a life strategy, "suspension" was being turned to experimentally to name multifaceted experiences of how it feels to live in the mass-move-

ment of a market economy that is a mix of a socialist legacy (which emphasizes inclusiveness) and neoliberal developmentalism (which encourages competition and justifies inequality). On analysis, individuals who felt themselves "in suspension" became more susceptible to moralistic discourse and ideological manipulation, which in turn lead to a brutalization of interpersonal relations. These initial findings were published in a special issue of *Pacific Affairs* (2021, 94 (2)) that Xiang edited, entitled "Suspension". Three articles in the special issue were shortlisted for the journal's annual William Holland prize, with only one article from all the other issues that year making the cut. One of the three ultimately won the award.

At the same time, an experimental focus on pressure grew out of another collective research project, "Under Pressure in the African City" led by Mario Schmidt, who joined the Department as a senior research fellow in May 2022. Amidst rampant inflation, stagnant wages, shattered middle-class expectations, and the inability of neoliberal states to intervene, people's experience across East Africa of what they term "pressure" manifests itself in multiple symptoms that they diagnose in physical and mental health problems, gender-based violence, and social mistrust. On the one hand, in contrast to more well-studied experiential terms like feeling "stuck", "pressure" simultaneously denotes an inability to move because of the weight that pins one down and also a stored energy that might explode. On the other hand, "pressure" criss-crosses familiar categories of objective socioeconomic analysis: unlike poverty, "pressure" is understood to cut across economic class lines, and in contrast to marginalisation, "pressure" often affects people who are perceived as having considerable control over their lives. Contributing to the Department's discussions about developing a "common concerns" approach, Schmidt completed a book manuscript during 2022 – *Migrants and Masculinity in High-Rise Nairobi: Under Pressure in an African Capital* (under contract to James Currey). Considered in parallel, what struck members of the Department as most interesting in these two collaborative research projects is how terms like "suspension" and "pressure" – which are both emic and etic – at once express the subjective experience of actors in their own terms and also offer intellectual purchase for helping to analyse *and* respond to the objective conditions that shape these experiences; an analysis framed in terms that speak directly to the questions our research subjects are troubled by and indeed, are asking of us as researchers.

Working Together

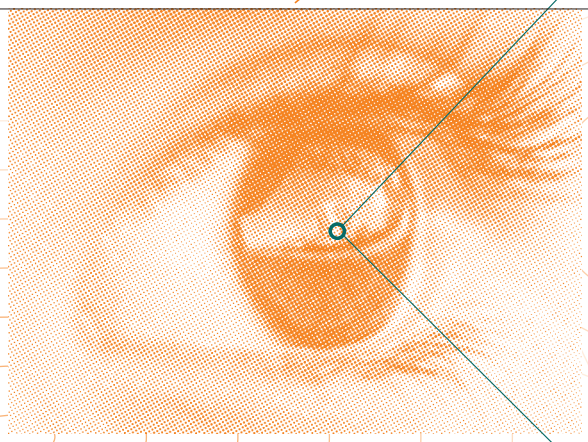
The "common concerns" approach only began to develop over the course of collective conversations during 2022. Thus, the initial group of seven researchers to join the Department were recruited before "common concerns" had emerged explicitly as a research agenda. At that time, Xiang as director had faced a difficult question. Should he focus on a specific research topic and recruit researchers accordingly, or rather form a broad team with a range of expertise and search for common ground subsequently? Xiang chose a middle path. He recruited researchers working on three medium-range topics: migration and mobility, intermediaries, and political economy of social change.

The theme of migration and mobility was chosen because socioeconomic relations are increasingly organised, and changed, through the mobility of people and things. Jing Jing Liu, who worked with migrant Igbo traders from Nigeria in Yiwu, south-east China, was recruited under this theme as the first postdoctoral fellow of the Department in January 2022. Three more researchers, although recruited under other themes, also have empirical interests in migration and mobility. Wanjing (Kelly) Chen worked with migrant Chinese entrepreneurs in Laos. Mario Schmidt worked with male residents in a high-rise settlement of Nairobi, mostly Kenyan rural-urban migrants looking for jobs in the capital. Iain Walker, who had been a member of the previous department at MPI and joined the new Department as a senior researcher, is an expert on regional mobility in the western Indian Ocean with a specific focus on the Comoro Islands and the Hadrami diaspora.

"Transformative Intermediaries: Infrastructure, Platforms, and Logistics" was chosen as a second theme, based on the observation that – contrary to predictions of technological innovation rendering intermediaries redundant – economic operations in many sectors are becoming more intensively mediated than before. Andrew Haxby and Wanjing (Kelly) Chen were recruited under this topic: Haxby has worked on brokers in land transaction in Kathmandu and Chen's research examines Chinese migrant entrepreneurs who over time reposition themselves as commercial intermediaries orchestrating capital flows from China to Laos. In addition, Samuel Williams, who joined as senior researcher, brought with him many years research experience of market intermediation in Istanbul.

Thirdly, questions of political economy – how resources are distributed unevenly through power relations – are central to the Department's research. This line of recruitment brought in Jeremy Rayner and Mario Schmidt. Rayner, with an ethnographic background in Ecuador and Columbia, has researched controversies over land rights, taxation, and free trade agreements, focusing on practices of democracy. Schmidt was recruited based on his work on experiments carried out by economists and development agencies in Eastern Africa, with an interest particularly in unconditional cash transfers and basic income schemes.

Pressure is widespread across the world: Xiang is cited in the comic book, Bullshit Jobs, analyzing why pressure is becoming ever heavier.



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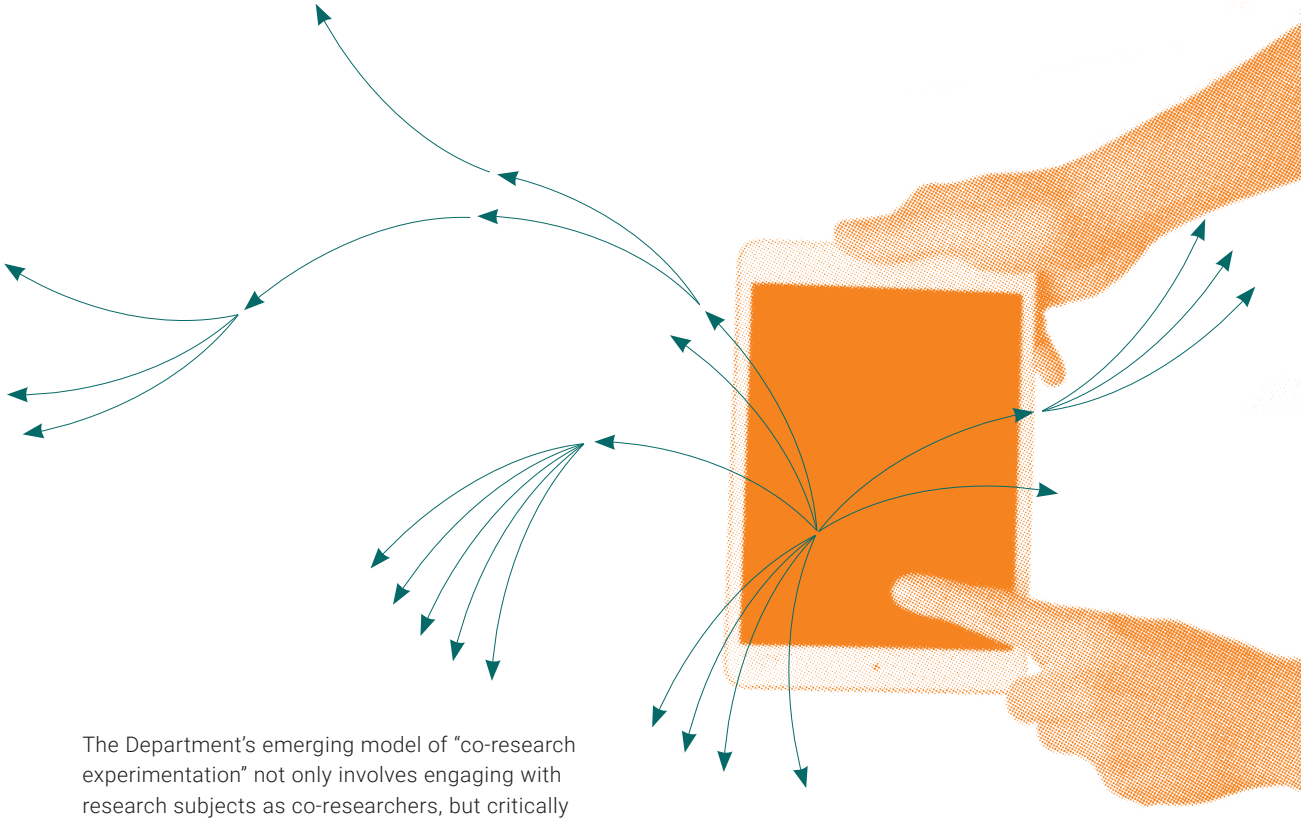
Co-research experimentation

As members of the Department have begun to work together, Xiang suggested in the first instance an 80:20 formula – each member is expected to devote 80% of their time to their own research projects and 20% of their time collaborating to develop a "common concerns" approach. Yet over the last twelve months as researchers have moved forward with their individual projects, each has started to find – albeit to different degrees – that methodologically beginning from "common concerns" offers a productive approach for reinterpreting data to further their own research. Chen, for instance, has started to rethink her material on commercial intermediaries by beginning from her research subjects' moral concerns about "brutality" – the ruthlessly instrumentalized interpersonal relations that migrant entrepreneurs contribute to and suffer from, normalize yet wish to escape, as they make a living by mediating transnational flows of Chinese capital. Liu, working in China, has found it productive to reinterpret her data on Nigerian migrant traders by shifting attention from her initial focus on how traders strategize to make short-term profits, and begin rather from their own existential anxieties living in a China that is easy to enter but where it is impossible to settle down; concerns about uncertainty and timeliness that afford a new perspective on traders' distinctions between "short-term" and "long-term" and a fresh vantage for theorizing what it means to "profit", indeed evaluating *when* "profits" matter.

At the same time, as researchers have begun to work together in developing a "common concerns" approach, members of the Department have been keen to explore how their emerging model of "co-research experimentation" does not simply involve themselves as researchers collaborating to analyse their interlocutors' concerns, but most critically re-engaging with their research subjects *as* co-researchers. Over the last twelve months, Haxby, Rayner, Schmidt, and Walker have each returned to the prior fieldsites, interested to explore how "co-research experimentation" with people whom they have worked with before may open new possibilities for co-creating research projects. The animating idea is that a "common concerns" approach also involves an ideal of "co-research" where researchers methodologically (re)define their questions and (re)analyse their data based on constant back-and-forth communication with research subjects themselves. Schmidt, for instance, who in earlier research focused on male rural-urban migrants' aversive experiences of "pressure", re-engaged with these young men to explore how they themselves self-consciously seek to address such concerns – in their terms, to "depressurize". He has started to develop a project that explores the spaces afforded by a motley of relationships with prostitutes, psychologists, religious counsellors, and self-help authors through which these young men seek explicitly to "relieve pressure".



The Department's emerging model of "co-research experimentation" not only involves engaging with research subjects as co-researchers, but critically a process of back-and-forth communication with *both* research subjects *and* larger publics. Indeed, the Department's approach to "common concerns" has already begun to attract some public attention. Over the last twelve months, media in various countries published thirteen special reports or dedicated interviews with Xiang all related to the "common concerns" approach, including *Die Zeit*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Hankyoreh* (South Korea), *Fortune Chinese*, *Hong Kong 01*, *Neue Züricher Zeitung*, and *Sixth Tone* (China). Department members have so far experimented with co-research involving broader publics in two ways: (1) through public-facing publications, including public lectures and media presentations, and (2) through organized co-research activities in collaboration with artists, activists, and other practitioners.

The Department's first major experiment with organized co-research was the social art workshop, *Seeing the first 500 metres*. Organized by Xiang in collaboration with Dr Jason Ho (an architect and art activist) and Zhipeng Duan (a design researcher and associate of the Department), the workshop was held between August-November 2022 in Guangzhou and involved 65 participants from different parts of China and overseas, including students, teachers, film makers, company employees, the unemployed, and junior civil servants. Responding to an open call, all of the participants were personally interested in Xiang's concepts of "The Nearby" and the "First 500 Metres". During the workshop, participants each carried out brief field research to explore what was nearby to them in the first 500 metres and then, informed by 300 hours of group discussion and 100 hours of online discussion, ultimately created 36 artworks that were exhibited at the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture 2022 (December 2022 – February 2023). Documentary film makers, Long Ai and Xie Lin, took 500 hours of film footage to document the workshop and exhibition with the hope that it may provide valuable lessons for further experimentation with co-research.

Beyond co-ordinating such events, the Department seeks to become a global hub that affords an institutional structure for scholars and practitioners beyond MPI, particularly across the Global South, who are interesting in developing a "common concerns" approach and exploring the methodological possibilities of our model of "co-research experimentation". Our first institutional project in creating a space for co-research is the Mobility Lab (MoLab), which aims to facilitate collaboration among globally disparate scholars and practitioners working on migration. Core to MoLab is its Inventory – a collection of real-time observations and rapid analyses of the latest developments in mobility that reflect changes in global political economy – and the typical format of contributions are short texts below 2000 words. The MoLab team, spearheaded by Jennifer Holdaway and Iain Walker, had by the end of 2022 accumulated around 100 entries in both text and multimedia formats. Currently organized into five themes – Shock (Im)mobilities, Mobile Work, the Securitisation of Mobility, Reproduction Migration, and Mobility Infrastructure – during 2023, the Department is working to encourage the authors of these entries and further participants, including research subjects, to engage with each others' contributions; at once drawing on the Inventory to elaborate entries into larger arguments that bring information from diverse sources together, and experimenting with how to work together as members of a globally-dispersed research ecosystem.

Challenges ahead

Our aspiration as a department, in the long term, is to become a global hub for anthropological research that is guided by people's "common concerns". Based on members' primary case studies, the Department will work to clarify foundational methodological and theoretical questions involved in a "common concerns" approach. At the same time, the Department will build a global community of like-minded scholars and practitioners – including journalists, artists, and popular authors beyond the academy – keen to experiment with our "common concerns" approach in their own work, even as we benefit from their professional expertise in mediating research and public debate to engage with larger publics. If we are to realize this vision, the Department needs to address multiple challenges.

The methods and ethics of reinterpreting data. As it is only during or after field research that a researcher knows what subject groups are most worried about, *post-hoc* reinterpretation of ethnographic data is inevitable to a "common concerns" approach. Yet developing an approach that fosters re-interpretation of ethnographic data poses distinct methodological and ethical challenges. How methodologically can a research project be designed best to facilitate reliable reinterpretation? What are rigorous and ethical ways to interpret data that was collected for different purposes?

Intellectual coherence and public engagement. While co-research involves constantly redefining research questions and reconceptualizing data in light of public engagement, a researcher must also maintain a focused intellectual agenda. Rather than perpetually raising new angles, research should move toward a deeper understanding of what is at stake. How can the Department best foster synergies between academic research and public engagement rather than risk these agendas colliding?

Weighing social impact and academic recognition. Public engagement and co-research may well reduce the number of academic publications produced by the Department. So far, it seems harder to generate publications grounded in co-research that begins from research subjects' common concerns than more familiar publication strategies that start from identifying gaps in a scholarly literature. How can the Department legitimize our "common concerns" approach among academic colleagues, and especially minimize any negative impact on Department members' career prospects? Who are strategic partners in the academy – institutions, journals, significant figures – with whom a "common concerns" approach can proceed in conversation?

Regional focus and global relevance. Developing a "common concerns" approach through co-research practice will require long-term commitment to particular subject groups. If empirical research in the Department is too diverse in regional context and subject matter, discussions risk being guided more by whatever scholarly jargon is most ready-to-hand rather than by a firm grasp of the actual social contradictions and common concerns faced by our research subjects. Going forward, should the Department consciously narrow down the geographic scope of future research projects? Would it be advisable, perhaps, to focus on China, India, and Germany?

Relations to other disciplines. While grounded in anthropology, how can the Department engage the psychological and philosophical expertise necessary to inform the multiple dimensions of a "common concerns" approach? Should the Department hire researchers with backgrounds in psychology and philosophy? Ought the Department develop cross-disciplinary exchanges on designated topics, say through seminars or co-writing projects?

A global community beyond MPI. So far, in our initial experiments developing a "common concerns" approach through co-research, it is becoming clear that in order to deepen dimensions of public engagement we need to create an organizational structure that better facilitates exchanges with professionals beyond the academy, such as journalists and artists, who are often more expert than academics at navigating the nexus between research and public debate. Are there helpful models from which we can learn, where anthropologists are consciously attempting to create such an ecosystem? Practically, how best can we begin to develop such a web of relations that engages broader publics? Would it be helpful to devise a practitioner-in-residence programme, or perhaps initiate a biennial "common concerns" think-camp, drawing together practitioners who have expressed interest in our work?

RESEARCHERS' REPORTS

Wanjing (Kelly) Chen joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in July 2022.
During her first 6 months at MPI, Kelly has focused on a book project based on her doctoral research among Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Laos. Acting as commercial intermediaries to help intermediate the flows of Chinese capital involved in Beijing-sponsored infrastructure projects, these migrant entrepreneurs embrace opportunism in their quest to capture windfall profits through often morally dubious brokerage practices, and Kelly's book begins with the restlessness and ruthlessness that commonly becomes a defining character of their lives. Informed by a "common concerns" approach, she sheds light on the moral brutality and brutal moralism at work in a contemporary Chinese society unbound by territory, where marginal actors – at once brutalized and brutalizing – are compelled to suspend their consciences in a scramble to attain desired upward social mobility. Working at the intersection of research on morality and economy, Kelly has begun developing a new field project since joining the department that investigates how a comparable brutal moralism has come to animate China's mobility governance during the COVID19 pandemic. In a contribution to MoLab, she has published some of her initial research on the ways governance of mobility during this period is threatening to open a lasting social wound in Chinese society between homeland and diaspora.
Kelly received her PhD in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2020 and prior to joining the department, she was a research assistant professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Andrew Haxby joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' in January 2022 as a Research Fellow.
In his first year at the MPI, Andrew has focused on a book project exploring the formation of landownership and land value in urban Kathmandu. Land values have risen to extraordinary levels over the last thirty years in Kathmandu, creating a market where real-estate prices are believed to never go down, and Andrew's research examines the characters and social interactions that produce this asset inflation in everyday life, particularly how people's common concerns with the escalating value are mediated through brokerage, formal lending, and family inheritance. His book seeks conceptually to reframe valuation as an overlapping set of materially mediated human relations and interlocking modes of domination. Based on this research, Andrew has submitted and revised two articles for publication over the last 12 months and participated in several international conferences and workshops. During Summer 2022, he also completed three months fieldwork in Kathmandu, initiating a new research project on return labour migrants, following young people who choose to come home, exploring their concerns as they seek to craft an identity and make a place for themselves in the city.
Andrew received his PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of Michigan in 2019, and prior to joining the department, he was a visiting professor at Pitzer College in Los Angeles County.

Deborah Jones was a Research Fellow in the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' from September 2021 to October 2022, following a return from parental leave; before this, she had been a member of the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'.
During her fellowship, Deborah – a scholar of Ukraine – became extremely involved in relief efforts following the Russian invasion. In addition to helping evacuate and house her own friends and interlocutors, she volunteered at a local emergency shelter in Halle, provided translation and logistical support to refugees in need, and organized the transport of generators and communications equipment across the border. Through this unplanned fieldwork, she was able to help refugees, volunteers, and community members understand each other's concerns, needs, and limitations. Deborah organized a roundtable on the war for the Institute and also represented the

Institute at Halle's annual "*Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften*", where she presented some of her observations on the challenges Ukrainian refugees in Germany face. She presented related works in progress at the European Association for Social Anthropology conference in Belfast and at an invited workshop at Stockholm University. Jones is refining those texts for publication and developing a new manuscript on anthropology and ethics in times of war. In 2023, Deborah took up a new position with the general administration of the Max Planck Society but continues her affiliation with the Department as she completes these publications.

Jing Jing Liu joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' in January 2022 as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.
During the last 12 months, Jing Jing has worked on a book project based on her doctoral fieldwork with Nigerian entrepreneurs in Yiwu, China. An analysis of the social relations and geopolitical changes that shape trade and migration today, her book begins from migrant traders' common worries over longevity – the anxious question, what will last? While China is easy to enter, it is impossible to settle down, leaving the option of remaining but with irregular legal status, and although one can easily start a small trading business, this does not often translate into a long-term future in China or high status back home. There are opportunities here and now, but the future is always a question. In this context, migrants develop distinctive perceptions about their time in China and sometimes contradictory strategies to navigate uncertainty that involve both leaving and staying. In helping to develop the Department's "common concerns" approach, informed by her own work on temporality and uncertainty, Jing Jing has organized two workshops drawing together members of MPI and international scholars working at the nexus of migration and economy. In addition, she has begun a new field project exploring how related concerns about temporality and uncertainty animate the use of cryptocurrencies in Nigeria, presenting some of her initial research at the University of Bayreuth and the University of Siegen. During 2022, she published two articles on a popular platform ("Africa is a Country"), a book review, together with an article for the MoLab, and submitted two journal articles that are under review.
Jing Jing received a PhD in anthropology from the University of Toronto in 2021. At the end of 2022, she left the Department to start a new position as an assistant professor of anthropology at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Canada.

Jeremy Rayner joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' as a Senior Research Fellow in June 2022, bringing an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and a history of ethnographic research with social movements in Costa Rica and Ecuador.
This emphasis on relating ethnography to political economy and urban processes reflects Jeremy's longstanding concern to contribute to public debate and inform collective action, a commitment he has continued to develop in dialogue with his colleagues and the department's "common concerns" approach. As he has re-engaged with his ethnographic research archive during the first six months at the MPI, he has begun to develop his writing around the problematic of "collective commitment", or the disposition, capacity, and possibility of acting towards common goals, in relation to "commitment to collectivity", the determination to foster forms of political and economic organization that permit working and acting in concert over time. He seeks to explain how the people with whom he worked in Costa Rica and Ecuador committed to fostering institutions and practices that were seen as maintaining capacities for collective action, against perceptions of imminent social disintegration attributed to processes of marketization, as well as the challenges and obstacles they faced in doing so. He hopes to inform critical understanding of, and creative responses to, widespread contemporary concern over the state of collectivity and of collective commitment, whether figured as its absence, futility, or misdirection.
Jeremy came to the MPI from Quito, Ecuador, where he had worked since 2015 at the National Center for Strategies for the Right to Territory (CENEDET) and the Center for Public Economics of the National Institute of Higher Study (IAEN). Originally from Honolulu, he studied anthropology at UC Berkeley and the City University of New York, where he obtained his PhD under the supervision of the geographer David Harvey.

Mario Schmidt joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' as a Senior Research Fellow in May 2022.
Informed by his fieldwork experience over the last decade in Kaleko, a small market centre in rural western Kenya, Mario undertook a new field project working with men who migrate from western Kenya to Nairobi and during his first 8 months at MPI has completed a book manuscript, *High-Rise Nairobi: Under Pressure in an African Capital* (under contract with James Currey). Informed by the department's "common concerns" approach, Mario's book explores how the experience of pressure affects male migrants' daily lives, their aspirations, and their most intimate social relations. Building on this work, Mario is currently developing a project on Kenyan "masculinity consultants" who offer men solace and solutions to their economic and romantic frustrations by giving advice on how to "depressurize" on social media, in self-help books, as well as by organizing in-person workshops on fatherhood, male sexuality, and marriage**.** Since joining the department, Mario has also published an edited volume on the Durkheim School's Category Project, an intellectual tradition that informs his own work, and he edits a blog called "Pressure in the City" (Developing Economics

Blog), which draws together contributions comparing everyday experiences of pressure across Africa and beyond.
Mario came to MPI from a 3-year research project funded by the DFG, investigating the experimentalization of development aid in East Africa. He has published a number of articles during the last 8 months drawing on this research about unconditional cash transfers, examining ways that common local understandings of money in East Africa can clash both with international aid interventions and also with behavioural economic experiments that make use of money's numeric nature to measure individuals' economic preferences.

Iain Walker joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' as a Senior Research Fellow in January 2022.
Iain's ethnographic focus is the Comoro Islands and the Hadrami diaspora in the western Indian Ocean. Over the last 12 months, he has conducted a study of how servile status remains important in shaping relationships on the island of Ngazidja. Participation in rituals, land ownership and residence patterns, marriage strategies, access to and exercise of power are all regularly framed with reference to hierarchies that are the legacy of slavery on the island. Yet beyond such customary contexts, these hierarchical distinctions are far less important in economic or indeed formal political contexts. Anyone may aspire to economic success on Ngazidia, but participation in the customary political process remains the preserve of the free. At the same time, these distinctions are far more salient in the proximate relations of everyday life than in more socially (and spatially) distant relationships. Informed by the department's approach to "common concerns", Iain's research asks why this is so – why is there so much concern about allowing members of servile lineages to participate in customary politics? – and explores the comparative anthropological significance of a way of belonging in the shadow of slavery, where spatial and political belonging is denied to those who nevertheless belong socially, culturally, and economically. Given his long-standing interest in migration and mobility, Iain is also currently overseeing the development of the department's MoLab initiative and implementing the new MoLab guest researcher programme.
Iain arrived in Halle in 2015 as part of the Max Planck Fellow Group 'Connectivity in Motion: Port Cities of the Indian Ocean', and prior to joining the Department had held a DFG research fellowship in ZIRS at MLU and been a Senior Research Fellow since 2020 in the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'.

Samuel Williams joined the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' in January 2022 as a Guest Researcher, and since October 2022 as a Research Fellow.
Trained as an economic anthropologist, his work explores intersections between economy, ethics, and materiality, with an approach informed by phenomenological and psychoanalytic thought. He has a particular specialism in the qualitative study of markets, shaped by long-term fieldwork with migrant artisans and traders in a number of historic Istanbul marketplaces, including the Grand Bazaar. He also conducts research on the intellectual and institutional history of post-WWII anthropology.
During his first three months as a Research Fellow, Samuel has been at work on an ethnographic book project exploring how competition comes to figure as concern among rural-to-urban migrant traders in Istanbul, and he has also been approached by a publisher to begin research for an intellectual biography of Clifford Geertz. Prior to this as a Guest Researcher, he helped the Director organize several roundtables exploring intellectual forebears of a "common concerns" approach. He also conducted a pilot study of all US PhD dissertations produced in 2021, mapping emerging themes and institutional research clusters, largely to aid in the Department's strategic planning. Since October, he has begun work helping to co-ordinate the Department's guest researcher programme and has contributed beyond the Department to the development of MPI's new committee on Research Data Management.
Born and raised in Australia, Samuel received his PhD in anthropology at Princeton University in 2016 under the supervision of John Borneman, and he has subsequently held appointments at London's Courtauld Institute of Art, Musée du Quai Branly, and Max-Cam. With a background spanning art market, art school, museum sector, and academic institutions across Europe, he is also collaborating to develop the Department's "common concerns" approach to art and social research.

Joost Beuving was a Visiting Fellow from September to December 2021.
During the visiting fellowship, Joost wrote a full first draft of a book manuscript, entitled *Theorizing Entrepreneurship for the Future: Voices from Global Frontiers*. The manuscript synthesizes two decades of ethnographic work in various parts of the world, developing a new, anthropologically-informed theoretical perspective on entrepreneurial behaviour with a special attention to time.
During the visit, Joost also prepared and submitted a book proposal to Berghahn Publishers, which is scheduled to be published in 2023 as volume 11 of the Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy.
Joost is a lecturer in anthropology and development studies at Radboud University.

Anindita Chakrabarti was a Visiting Fellow from March to May 2022.
During the three months, Anindita organized a roundtable discussion entitled, "Economy and Society: Experiences and Experiments from South Asia". Conducted in hybrid mode, the roundtable discussion invited scholars to decode recent debates on

informal economy. Participants shared their research findings on land transactions, anthropology of consumption, finance, wealth accumulation and kinship, anthropology of consumption, and digital economy. She also worked on her edited book project, *Gold in India: Economic Commodity, Culture and Economic Circuits.* She participated in the bi-weekly meetings and workshops organized by the Department, and the conversations have greatly contributed to her current research projects on economic sociology in India. Anindita is a professor of sociology at IIT Kanpur, India.

Zhipeng Duan was a Visiting Fellow from November 2021 to April 2022, and has since joined the Department as an Associate.
During the fellowship, Zhipeng worked with Biao to prepare the social art workshop "Seeing the first 500 metres ". Inspired by "the nearby" and material semiotics, Zhipeng started developing an article that proposes different ways for designers to attend to practices adjacently, in order to perceive more sensitively how their work is shaped by their nearby – a space which for designers is a threshold between their individualized work and large projects of social change. This paper is currently under review for a design journal. While at MPI, he also shared his experience of designing apps with surgeons and patients in China, and these discussions informed his chapter in the edited volume, *Artistic Cartography and Design Explorations Towards the Pluriverse*.
Zhipeng is a doctoral candidate at Oslo School of Architecture and Design. Prior to that he worked as a designer to facilitate the digitalization of hospitals and remote care in China.

Kathrin Fischer was a Visiting Fellow from October 2021 to March 2022.
During her time in Halle, Kathrin completed two of chapters of her doctoral thesis, which investigates international migration channels from Nepal and the corresponding labour-brokering networks. The chapters were presented and discussed in the Department's bi-weekly meetings. Together with Biao Xiang and Jing Jing Liu, she prepared and convened a workshop, entitled "Cumulative, Communicative and Generative: Interventions in Migration-Mobility Studies". She also wrote and presented a report on "The Landscape of Migration/Mobility Studies in Germany". In March 2022, she worked on a project for transit camp management at the Ukraine-Slovakia border. One of the direct outcomes was the MoLab entry, "Fluctuating 'Structures' of Protection – the Integration of Civil Society Actors in Government-led Response at the Ukraine-Slovakian Border."
Kathrin is a is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the University of Oxford.

Brandaan Huigen was a Visiting Fellow from February to June 2021.
Brandaan's doctoral research follows digital objects stolen from South African homes, exploring how and why they circulate through criminal networks after theft to illicit markets. The fellowship proved to be a fruitful period for developing his idea of the 'short circuit' which came conceptually to framed his data, and the fellowship provided an opportunity to explore seminal and contemporary anthropological literature on theft, redistribution and inequality, especially through the work of Bronislaw Malinowski, Marshall Sahlins, and Arjun Appadurai. Based on this research, an article was written for the MoLab Inventory reflecting on 'short circuits' and the redistribution of stolen valuables between abundant and deprived regions in Africa, and around the world. Data from a thesis chapter, which benefited from the discussions, was also published as a journal article in the *Journal of Cultural Economy*. This article examined how stolen objects are exchanged shortly after theft for drugs in gangs, and the social effects of these exchanges. Discussions in the biweekly seminars were particularly useful, as many of the participants – including many visiting fellows – had knowledge of economic anthropology.
Brandaan is a research associate in anthropology at University College London.

Jonathan Kraemer was a Visiting Fellow from January to June 2021.
During these six months, Jonathan worked on theoretical dimensions of his doctoral research project, examining the relation between labor migration and environmental change in rural Southeast Asia. Lively discussions with colleagues at the department helped him to develop his ideas on the emergence of new economic configurations in times of environmental change. He contributed to the Department's activities by helping to organize the biweekly online seminar, in which he also presented key theoretical themes of his research. In addition, he led a session of the weekly departmental meeting, focusing on the concept of 'ecosystems' as used both in natural sciences and, in relation to online platforms, in social sciences. During his stay in the Department, Jonathan developed an initial conceptual framework and theoretical foundation for his doctoral research project, drawing on the Institute's library resources and building on conversations with and feedback from colleagues in seminars (and beyond).
Jonathan is a doctoral candidate in anthropology at Stockholm University.

Julia Morris was a Visiting Fellow from May to August 2021.
While at MPI, Julia completed the final edits to her book, *Asylum and Extraction in the Republic of Nauru*, published in early 2023 with Cornell University Press. The book draws together her long-term research into the outsourcing of asylum through the theoretical framework of resource extraction. During the fellowship, Julia also completed the draft of an article on the impacts of COVID19 on Indigenous Aboriginal and undocumented migrant populations in Brisbane, Australia. The article was recently accepted by *Polit-*

ical Geography and will be published in 2023. Alongside her writing projects, Julia attended events held by the Institute, including a reading group, and made strong connections with researchers across departments. She also collaborated with the Berlin-based arts collective Club Real on a multispecies project in wild garden spaces in the city. This collaboration helped her shape the theoretical angle of her next research project, centered on multispecies (im)mobilities.
Julia is an assistant professor of international studies at University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Anton Nikolotov was a Visiting Fellow in 2021.
During this period, Anton conducted preliminary fieldwork at the RATAN 600 radio telescope in the Karachay-Cherkessia in Russia and probed common concerns among the different communities of scientists, pastoralists, and farmers. Exploring one of the central nodes in the sociotechnical network of observatories where empirical and theoretical SETI research is conducted in Russia and the post-Soviet space, Anton gained valuable understanding of the colonial and anti-colonial legacies in this site as well as the different regimes of value at play. The contacts and social networks gained through this research enabled Anton to connect with astrophysicists in Central Asia and to later redirect his research on the roles of imagination and verticality in the informal economies of observatories in Kazakhstan. Over the fellowship, Anton was able to (1) conduct pre-study fieldwork of the field site; (2) produce a literature review on this research topic; (3) write a research proposal that was then successful in gaining him another visiting fellowship at the University of Fribourg. Anton was able to test his ideas at the bi-weekly seminars and expand his understandings of the tactics and strategies of publically orientated social research. The Departmental seminar meetings helped Anton to present preliminary results and to find adequate terms and concepts for further study.
Anton is a postdoctoral researcher with Team Human Geography at the University of Fribourg.

Julia Perczel was a Visiting Fellow from June to December 2021.
The six months at the MPI had a significant influence on Julia's thinking, turning her towards questions of economic anthropology while she worked on her doctoral dissertation, entitled "The alchemy of green markets: materiality, ethics, and value transformations in Delhi's e-waste sector". Her research traces the exchange of waste electronics in vernacular markets of northeast Delhi, exploring in particular one new startup's attempt to redirect the flow of e-waste to formal recycling as policy makers try to institute markets in responsibility. On arrival at MPI, she participated in the MoLab interview series, talking about her work on circular economy in India. While participating in the bi-weekly meetings, she also wrote three chapters of her dissertation. One chapter explored the way prices are constituted by and determinant of the possibility of value transformations when e-waste is bought up in the informal sector to be converted into formal channels of dismantling. The second explored the valuation practices in the choice of wives and marriage proposals for informal e-waste dealers that reveals the e-waste business as the basis of caste-based social mobility. The third chapter looked at claims to "knowledge" among waste dealers and the startup to understand how knowledge is constitutive of and essential to operating in the market.
Julia is a research associate in anthropology at the University of Manchester.

Elizabeth Saleh was a Visiting Fellow from May to August 2021.
During her visit, Elizabeth worked on a chapter of her book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Junk Territory: Growing up at a Beirut Scrapyard.* The book tells the story of underage Syrian waste pickers growing up at a small scrapyard located in a run-down building in Beirut. Drawing on more than six years of fieldwork, the book documents how different schemas of worth and value intersect with profit-making infrastructures, currencies of intergenerational obligation, and the interplay between host and migrant communities. It shows how Beirut is a city pieced together through a medley of different enterprises and projects facilitating an equally hodgepodge provision of public services. She also worked on a draft of an article from the book which was recently submitted for review at a peer-reviewed journal. Saleh attended the weekly online seminars and also participated in a conference on waste, "Re-Opening the Bin: Waste, Economy, and Culture". The conference was initially organized to be held at the University of Gothenburg, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic was moved online.
Elizabeth is an assistant professor in sociocultural anthropology at the American University of Beirut.

Olga Wanicka was a Visiting Fellow from October 2022 to January 2023.
Over the four months at MPI, Olga worked on her PhD dissertation which examines the experiences of overseas Filipino workers in Poland, focusing on new kinds of concern that emerge with changes in how recruitment agencies are coming to intermediate transnational job placement. Based on this research, she contributed an entry to MoLab that documents a new cast of online brokerage agencies and analyses the blurred morality through which they navigate fraught lines of economic in/formality. Excited by the Department's interest in "common concerns", Olga discovered a space in the weekly seminar to reflect explicitly on concerns faced by young Poles like herself, particularly how certain "visions of the good life" animate Poles' choices about migration and their relation to what matters for her Filipino interlocutors.
Olga is doctoral candidate in sociology at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences in Warsaw, Poland.

RESEARCH GROUP REPORTS

Research Group 'Urban Anthropology'

Head of Research Group: Christoph Brumann

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP'S REPORT

Christoph Brumann has been a tenured Head of Research Group (W2 position) in the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia' since 2010. Despite active involvement in Biao Xiang's Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation', to which he moved in 2021, his position is now funded from the central Max Planck Society budget. Due to Hann's impending retirement, Brumann's work was focused on wrapping up research and publications connected with his previous departmental groups, 'The Global Political Economy of Cultural Heritage' (researchers employed in 2011-15) and 'Buddhist Temple Economies in Urban Asia' (2014-18), in addition to continuing ethnographic engagement in Kyoto. He also prepared the launch of a new research focus, 'Constructing Urban Futures in Asia', supported by Xiang's and Rao's departments.

UNESCO World Heritage, Buddhist economies, and Kyoto

Brumann's monograph on UNESCO World Heritage was published in 2021. Based on ethnographic fieldwork at the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee, together with several dozen interviews and documentary study, Brumann analysed how the Committee allocates the coveted World Heritage title, an award that is conditional on finding the nominated cultural and natural sites to be of "outstanding universal value" or "OUV". He observed that the 2010 annual session led to an about-turn, with nation-state members of the Committee and the diplomats dispatched by them increasingly brushing aside the advice of heritage experts. As a result, nation-states have become more likely to get their wishes fulfilled, both in regard to receiving new titles and lighter demands for conservation. While this new turn originated among influential states from the Global South frustrated at their lack of recognition, it changed outcomes only temporarily, and European states continue their dominance of the World Heritage List. Much as in other global bodies like the World Bank or the IMF, the more powerful countries from the South used their window of opportunity not for practicing South-South solidarity and stamping out oft-deplored Northern hegemony, but rather for their own individual advantage. An important contributing factor is the lack of standards defining 'OUV', particularly for the cultural sites, as it encourages the Committee to talk this elusive quality into being.

Just months after publication of Brumann's monograph, the 2021 Committee session seemed to disprove his findings, as Liverpool was deleted from the World Heritage List due to unapproved construction. By analysing the video record of the proceedings, however, Brumann found this individual decision to be an outlier. Instead, the 2021 session drove prior trends to extremes, and a Committee majority from the Global South had no qualms about approving the biggest European title haul in decades. Brumann sees this as "supra-state capture" – member states do not undermine the Committee's weight, but use it for their own diplomatic advantage and not for the shared interest of humanity (Brumann 2022). Together with historian Gfeller, Brumann also published an analysis of how "cultural landscapes" have been treated in the World Heritage system. While this category was supposed to attract candidate sites outside Europe, most listings prove to be European, with the limited success of African candidate sites hinting at Eurocentrism and disciplinary biases among experts (Brumann and Gfeller 2022). PhD dissertations from the research group and the IMPRS ANARCHIE led to book publications during the reporting period (De Giosa 2021; Tateo 2020), and in

2021, Shilla Lee successfully defended her dissertation on a Japanese traditional pottery village.

Together with the former postdoctoral researchers in the 'Buddhist Temple Economies in Urban Asia' group, Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko and Beata Świtek, Brumann also published an edited volume that grew out of an MPI workshop convened in 2017 (Brumann et al. 2021). Comprised of ethnographic case studies that range geographically from Sri Lanka to Japan and cover all major traditions, the book investigates the treatment of money and other economic resources in contemporary Asian Buddhism. In their introduction, Brumann and colleagues identify this as a neglected topic in the scholarly study of Buddhism, which has prioritized doctrinal, cosmological, and ritual aspects of that religion. Yet as the chapters – four of them by group members – reveal, money is a key concern for contemporary clergy and laity in their struggle to reconcile lofty ideals with making ends meet; indeed, it is often taken as a yardstick of moral credibility, irrespective of doctrinal affiliation, disciplinary standards, or the interplay of socialism and capitalism in their histories (see also Brumann 2021). Moreover, the focus of prior anthropological work on reciprocal transactions between clergy and laity, involving donations and karmic merit, overlooked important economic processes of redistribution and pooling. Team members Abrahms-Kavunenko and Kristina Jonutytė also published a number of related journal articles..

From October 2019 to the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, Brumann conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Kyoto, exploring temple economies in this capital of Japanese Buddhism, a city to which he has regularly returned since 1998. He focused in particular on two temples in the central city, both of them family-run ventures that depend on paid ritual services (mainly funerals and memorials) and voluntary contributions to stay afloat. With the time-honoured affiliation of households to temples gradually eroding, the head priests struggle to keep parishioners committed, and each also wants to involve them more actively in the everyday management of temple affairs. Relationships to the temple remain ambivalent on both sides: legally, the temples are religious corporations, as much the property of parishioners as that of the priestly family, who are mere employees. But with that family residing there, even committed parishioners are hesitant to make the temple completely their own, deferring to priestly initiative and authority most of the time. In this context, both of the priests are reluctant fully to formalize the finances: one leaves it to his wife to open the envelopes with donations, not wishing to become partial to big spenders; the other soon abandoned an initiative to prepare detailed accounts, feeling that parishioners preferred instead to work on the basis of trust. Now that Japan has re-opened after the pandemic, Brumann plans to continue this research and follow up what has become of the temples' reform initiatives and their attempts to increase lay involvement.

In the same period of fieldwork, Brumann also continued earlier research on the social life of Kyoto's cityscape and public traditions, faced with the perennial debate about conservation versus development in this celebrated stronghold of national history and tradition. The strict building rules introduced by Kyoto City in 2007 – a surprising break with earlier liberalism – have continued to be applied and, indeed, enjoyed broad support in 2019-20. Construction of new high-rises largely remained banned and designs based on traditional town houses had spread widely, all against the backdrop of an unprecedented tourist boom. Kyoto City, however, abandoned the next step they had planned of drafting more detailed rules for specific neighbourhoods and, instead, empowered "local cityscape councils"; that is, voluntary groups of concerned citizens whom prospective developers must meet before applying for building permits in their area. Brumann interviewed all central-city councils and observed their negotiations with developers, finding these to be arenas with somewhat shaky legal standing but often surprising efficiency. Compared with the official narrative that pictures local amateurs meeting external professionals, negotiations proved most successful where councils included professionals and developers had local connections and roots. Support by Kyoto City's bureaucrats also plays a role, even when their relationship with the councils remains ambiguous. An anthropological journal article, drawing on this case to reconsider the urban commons, is currently under review.

Constructing urban futures in Asia

As a cross-departmental venture supported by both Ursula Rao and Biao Xiang, Brumann will launch a new research group in 2023 called 'Constructing Urban Futures in Asia'. Growing prosperity and ongoing rural-urban migration have been feeding an unprecedented building boom across the cities of East, Southeast, and South Asia, often coupled with a renewed appreciation of built cultural heritage. In the process, Asia is taking the lead in the growth of global construction, a sector of the world economy that has been comparatively less affected by the pandemic than many other industries. Not only is this transforming political economies; it will also create the signature metropolises of our century and challenge Euro-American hegemony over notions of the urban. Potential profits are as enormous as the risks involved, hazards that can be glimpsed already in the recent slump of the Chinese real estate market. With so much urban space created and remade, the group will investigate what this holds in store for current and future urban governance, commerce, and human lives – is the social fabric transformed as thoroughly as the physical one is reshaped?

Different from prior studies that focused on populations displaced by re-development or the experience of new residents, the group will focus on the actual builders of these cities – planners, architects, engineers, conservationists, and other professionals in the construction sector, all of whom have received little ethnographic attention so far, particularly in Asia. What are their concerns, strategies, and aspirations? How do they deal with compromise amid the multiplicity of political and economic actors populating the field? These questions will be addressed through workplace ethnography.

Political science and economics tend to neglect the city as a unit of analysis, but populations, value creation, and political power are centred in cities, with urbanisation and urban real estate providing key stores of both capital and labour surpluses. The group will therefore address the political economy of building, examining in particular that distinctive "heaviness" which makes construction more local and grounded than other industries, with correspondingly close ties between developers, contractors and public officials – Chinese and Vietnamese municipalities themselves set up development corporations, blurring the line between public and private. Construction can also be intensely symbolic, charged with demonstrating political elites' vision and prowess. We expect all this to create challenges for professionals navigating their course between state officials, developers, building firms, customers, neighbours, and prior owners and residents. To what degree do they serve their clients' and their own interests? Do they aim to contribute to the built environment as a shared space, having an impact on everyone who moves through it? Do they dream up an innovative future or do they ground themselves in the past, linking up with local built traditions? Do they see their modernity as "Western", given the origin of modern building forms and technologies, or are Asian cities becoming their primary frame of reference? And how do they deal with the ecological challenges of urban building and its massive carbon footprint? Two postdoctoral researchers will take up work in summer 2023, studying real-estate speculation in Kochi, India, and smart-city planning in Hangzhou, China, with doctoral researchers also expected to join the team.

Outreach and service

Featuring the former group on Buddhist temple economies, Brumann contributed one of the four MPI thematic sections to the exhibition of anthropological research at the Federal Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt in 2022. After an MPI press release about his World Heritage book, his research was widely featured in the German and some international media, with at least three dozen press, radio, and TV features, articles, and interviews appearing in connection with the 2021 World Heritage Committee session. Brumann also did a podcast interview for the *New Books Network* series. Together with the MPI media team, he produced seven outreach videos and podcasts, five on his World Heritage research and book (in English, German, and Japanese) and two other book chats, including one with his Buddhist temple economies co-researchers concerning their edited volume.

As the Scientific Staff Representative to the Social and Human Sciences section of the Max Planck Society of the Institute (elected for 2021-24), Brumann represented researchers' interests in section-level meetings. He was an examiner for 11 PhD dissertations in the reporting period, mostly at MLU Halle-Wittenberg but also at the University of Oxford and Komenius University Bratislava. He also served on appointment committees for a directorship at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, and a professorship at Brandenburg Technical University Cottbus.

Research Group 'Electric Statemaking in the Greater Mekong Subregion'

Head of Research Group:
Kirsten W. Endres

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP'S REPORT

Kirsten W. Endres has been a Head of Research Group (W2 Position), initially in the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia', and since 2021 in the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation', where her position is now funded from the central Max Planck Society budget. Over the course of the reporting period, Endres has headed the Research Group 'Electric Statemaking in the Greater Mekong Subregion'. Funded originally as part of the Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia', the group began work in September 2017 with participation from the outset of two PhD candidates: Thao Vu, whose research focused on rural electrification in northern Vietnam, and Floramante S. J. Ponce, who investigated hydropower development in north-western Laos. In September 2018, postdoctoral researcher Bada Choi became part of the team and examined the use of solar water heaters in Kunming, China.

Background and objectives

At a time when global initiatives to achieve universal access to sustainable energy go hand in hand with efforts aimed at tackling devastating ecological effects around the world of increased energy consumption, it is pertinent to look more deeply into the "networks of power" that crisscross the landscapes of our planet. Anthropologists have only recently started to explore "energopower" as a lens through which to comprehend power dynamics across different scales. Despite calls for increased attention to the relationship between energy systems and sociopolitical arrangements, empirical research on "electric statemaking" is still at an incipient stage. The research group addressed this gap in our knowledge with a comparative investigation of currents of power and electricity in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). Applying an infrastructural perspective on statemaking processes, the group explored how electricity infrastructures, services, and devices emerge as critical sites of political encounter, where negotiations at once affect and are affected by people's understandings and experiences of the state in their everyday lives, and come to have a profound impact on their identities and practices as citizens.

States are forever uncompleted projects. They are fluid, malleable, and thus continuously in the making. Infrastructure development contributes to these processes. As technopolitical assemblages, infrastructures play an important role in the organization of state power. They are also closely linked with visions of modernity and promises of progress; indeed since the late nineteenth century, electricity has been crucial in efforts to make these visions and promises become reality. With the emergence of the modern and modernizing nation-state, electricity infrastructure development became part and parcel of state formation and state-building projects. These "electric statemaking" processes are ongoing in many parts of the world. They include the appropriation of resources from peripheral regions and the consolidation of territorial control through development projects. At the same time, they involve new configurations of social relations, identity politics, political institutions, economic integration, and power and inequality. Electricity grids are therefore inextricably linked not just to the purposes of governmental modernity, but also to the formation of subjects and subjectivities.

The group set out to shed light on how the expansion of electric power lines in the Greater Mekong Subregion is shaping perceptions of government and governance. Exploring the role of electric infrastructure development in the construction of subjects and subjectivities, group members investigated how energy development projects are reshaping, challenging, or reproducing existing social relations among different groups of people.

Electrification and power consumption

The evolution of electric power systems in Western societies and their introduction into the domestic sphere coincided with the heyday of European colonial expansion, and it was during this period that electricity first penetrated into colonized territories. In the region that was then called Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos), familiarity with electric appliances and their functions was initially associated with the cultural sophistication of urban colonial elites. After independence, universal access to electric power was seen as a precondition for economic development. As this research group posits, however, electricity grids are not only fundamental to the goals of governmental modernity and development agendas, but to the very practices of statecraft.

Among the Greater Mekong Subregion's fast-developing economies, substantial effort has been dedicated to universal electrification. Population growth, economic development, industrialization, and urbani-

zation have been key drivers of energy demand. This is particularly true for Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan, China, where electrification rates and power consumption are highest. In some areas of rural Laos, by contrast, 24/7 electricity supply is still a novelty. Ponce's research in a hydropower resettlement village in Bokeo province showed that the introduction of electricity significantly transformed people's social relations, consumption patterns, and views of rural life. Ponce also identified huge differences in how people have appropriated electric appliances in their everyday lives, depending on their level of affluence. Whereas those from historically well-to-do families could often capitalize on the 24/7 electricity supply, others lost their previous sources of income in the relocation process and struggled to cope with the transformations brought about by their resettlement and grid connection.

In Vietnam, accelerating economic expansion has resulted in increasing electricity consumption and household appliance ownership during the last two decades. Until the late 1980s, the proper use of all things electric was underpinned by discourses of civilizational achievement. With the implementation of the economic reforms, Vietnamese urbanites grew ever more accustomed to living their lives electrically. Today, Vietnamese households in metropolitan areas are equipped with an increasing variety of electric appliances to prepare and store food, provide physical comfort and relief from climate conditions, allow for flexible work hours, and connect people in unprecedented ways. However, access to and usage of electricity has not increased equally in urban and rural areas.

Renewable energy appliances may help users reduce their electricity bills as well as their carbon footprints. Approximately 85 million solar water heating systems have been installed across China. Besides enabling residents to economize on electricity, these appliances offer a window through which to explore changing everyday practices. Choi's project focused on the ways resettled villagers use and interact with solar water heaters installed on the roofs of their modern residential buildings in the city of Kunming in Yunnan province. Here, the everyday use of solar water heaters has improved users' perceptions and practices of personal hygiene. The new technology has played a role in shaping users' identities as 'modern' citizens as well as subjective relationships with the state.

Electric statemaking and subject/ivity formation

Although the creation and upkeep of essential infrastructure is still viewed in many parts of the world as a primary responsibility of the state, public-private partnerships and private sector involvement in infrastructure development have become widespread in the neoliberal era. This is true for the Greater Mekong Subregion, where hydropower development has emerged as a high-priority sector in national development plans. But due to the hazardous impacts of huge dams on riverine ecosystems and human populations, the development of hydropower has become a topic of global concern. Its most obvious effect is the large-scale displacement of people. Ponce's research reveals that despite obtaining 24/7 electricity supply together with other new infrastructures, the majority of villagers were dissatisfied with the management of the relocation process. Many people argued that the promised compensation measures had not been properly implemented. Some said that the district administration and company staff gave relatives and close friends preferential treatment, which generated resentment and rivalry in the new village. The majority of Ponce's interlocutors also claimed that they had been happier in their former settlements since they had access to a variety of food and income sources there. They felt disillusioned and thought their future in the resettlement was gloomy: some were contemplating moving elsewhere or returning to their former settlements.

Choi's research participants in Kunming had to move as well, but for a different reason. Their village was the target of a large urban development project, forcing the people to relocate to newly constructed apartment buildings with rooftop communal solar water heating systems. While the relocation was perceived as a necessary sacrifice for national development objectives, the water heaters enabled the state to re-establish a positive relationship with its citizens. Given the difficulty of obtaining hot water in the past, solar water heaters gave residents an intimate feeling of being (re-)embraced and taken care of by the Chinese state. People also felt that the use of solar water heaters contributed to raising their overall "quality" (*suzhi*), which is seen as a prerequisite to the ultimate goals of modernization and development. People felt that the cleaner they became through 24/7 availability of hot water (which enabled them to take a shower anytime they wished and to wash their bodies as long as they wanted), the more civilized they were, a belief rooted in the idea that personal hygiene mirrors *suzhi*.

The Vietnamese state – that proclaims to be "of the people, by the people, and for the people" – has likewise instrumentalized electricity, seeking to maintain a positive relationship with the population. Vu found that electric power works both at the everyday level to improve rural living standards and also at the ideational level to maintain the desire for state care. Whereas the state is almost uniformly given credit for the positive effects of electrification, the state-owned electricity corporation EVN and its workers are blamed for any power sector inadequacies. "Electric statemaking" is thus an important tool of Vietnamese statecraft to maintain its legitimacy and its positive relationship with citizens. Yet in the context of market economic reforms and the development of a domestic private sector, the state's claim to act "for

the people" is being challenged by privatization and reductions in tariff subsidies. The public resentment evoked by the 2019 power tariff increase showed that legitimacy depended on the provision of basic necessities – including electricity – at affordable prices. Another effect of raising power tariffs is that electricity is increasingly regarded as a commodity that must conform with certain quality standards to justify the price being charged. Consuming and paying for electricity thus raises people's awareness of consumer rights, including the right to complain and demand better quality service. This emergent customer subjectivity potentially transforms relationships with the utility company, which in turn may translate into new ways of relating to the state.

Group activities and output

The research group kicked off in June 2018 with a workshop entitled "Untangling the Grid: Toward an 'Anthropology Electric' in the Greater Mekong Subregion", during which group members presented their research proposals and received valuable comments and practical advice from experts in the field. Ponce and Vu's long-term doctoral field studies in Laos and Vietnam, Choi's 6-month research in Kunming (China), and Endres's research in the *Archives Nationales D'Outre-Mer* in Aix-en-Provence (France) and the *National Archives Centre Nr.1* in Hanoi (Vietnam) took place in 2018-19. A conference that had been planned for May 2020 unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The pandemic also caused a delay in the completion of dissertations, especially for Thao Vu, whose writing progress was further held up by her maternity leave, with submission now expected in the summer of 2023. Ponce, in contrast, spent some time preparing a number of peer-reviewed articles for publication before submitting his dissertation in November 2022. Endres currently continues to analyse the materials collected throughout the project, while the group as such has concluded its work with the submission of this report.

RESEARCHERS' REPORTS

Bada Choi, Research Fellow, "Rethinking quality (*suzhi*) through solar water heaters and their users in south-western China"
Choi's project explored how solar water heaters reshape users' lives and subjectivity as well as their relationship with the state in Kunming, Yunnan, China. Quality (*suzhi*) has become an omnipresent discourse in daily life in China, functioning as a means for the Chinese state to realize its state power through the self-governance of the general population. According to the state-deployed *suzhi* discourse, quality is supposed to manifest in a person's outward appearance, daily conduct, dispositions, levels of educational attainment, and environmentally responsible behaviour. The acquisition and cultivation of quality is understood as an aspirational refinement of the person, at once improving oneself and enhancing China's status as a rising global power. Choi's research revealed that the introduction of communal solar water heating systems caused most of his research participants to clean themselves more frequently and thoroughly than before and to collect cooled water that comes out first before hot water arrives. They thought that their quality improved due to this behaviour that the quality discourse seeks to cultivate.
By the same token, lived experiences of poverty played a greater role than the quality discourse in shaping participants' way of using solar water heaters and water. They had acquired frugal habits of conservation since their childhood and tried to save everything as much as possible. For many of them, being frugal meant using something when necessary but not squandering it. When the solar water heaters enabled them to frequently clean themselves, they embraced the comfort while collecting cooled water to repurpose it. Choi's research results therefore challenge the tendency in many of the existing studies to treat the quality discourse as an almost deterministic internalized guide to behaviors and thoughts.

Kirsten W. Endres, Head of Research Group, "Power and progress: The electrification of French colonial Vietnam"
Electrification has played a key role in the global spread of modern lifestyles since the late nineteenth century, although the results have been highly uneven across regions. Electricity's association with light and lightness, speed and connectivity, and freedom from drudgery has also been implicated in nation-building and modernization projects. Whereas colonial states emphasized its positive features as emblems of Western civilizational and technological superiority, socialist states turned them into icons of national belonging and liberation from feudal and colonial oppression. Today, electricity and electrification have come to signify state sovereignty, efficiency, and global integration, and universal access to an electric power supply is perceived as an essential prerequisite for civilized life and human progress.
Despite its transformative effects on societies, electrification in the colonial era has thus far received little scholarly attention. At a time when the spectre of the Anthropocene looms large across the globe, it seems pertinent to look at the past and study how new technologies moved from the metropole to the colonies, and how they gained traction and affected local lifeworlds in unforeseen, contingent ways. Creatively combining historical and anthropological approaches, Endres's research project investigates how the expansion of electric power lines across French colonial Vietnam (re)shaped local lifeworlds, perceptions of civilization and progress, and visions of the future.

Publications

- Endres, Kirsten W. Forthcoming (2023). "Plugged into the Good Life: Living electrically through the ages in urban Vietnam" *positions: east asia cultures critique*.
- Endres, Kirsten W. Forthcoming (2023). "City of Lights, City of Pylons: Infrastructures of illumination in colonial Hanoi, 1880s-1920s." *Modern Asian Studies*.
- Bruckermann, Charlotte, Katja Müller and Kirsten W. Endres (2021). "Introduction: The political power of energy futures." FocaalBlog, 7 April. https://www.focaalblog.com/2021/04/07/katja-muller-charlotte-bruckermann-kirsten-endres-introduction-the-political-power-of-energy-futures/

Workshops/panels

- "The political power of energy futures within and beyond Europe", Panel organized jointly with Charlotte Bruckermann and Katja Müller; 16th Biennial EASA Conference; Lisbon, Portugal, 22.07.2020 (Online).
- "Technological Innovations and Changing Temporalities in Colonial Southeast Asia", Panel organized jointly with Oliver Tappe, 12th EuroSEAS Conference, Paris-Aubersvilliers, France, 28.07.2022.
- "Untangling the Grid: Toward an 'Anthropology Electric' in the Greater Mekong Subregion", Pre-fieldwork Workshop, MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/S., 15 June 2018.

Floramante S. J. Ponce, PhD Researcher, "Hydropower development in China's backyard? Modernity, market integration, and (im)mobilities in northwestern Laos"

The post-1975 Lao state considers hydroelectric projects an important driver of economic development. These projects have also facilitated resettlement and infrastructure programs that aim to alleviate the poverty of people living in isolated areas of Laos. One of these hydropower projects is the Nam Nua 1 (NNua1) Project, the first international hydropower dam in Laos under China's Belt and Road Initiative. Drawing on ethnographic data from Banmai – the NNua1's largest relocation site – gathered between April 2018 and September 2019, Ponce scrutinized how the new grid connection and other physical infrastructures as well as compensation distribution systems in Banmai have shaped the villagers' experiences of modernity, market integration, and (im)mobilities. His research revealed that the resettled were never homogenous in their relocation experiences or views of the Lao state. Most participants thought their new grid connection gave their rural community a touch of urbanity, but not all households were able to experience this electricity-induced modernity in Banmai, mainly because they lacked the means to purchase appliances. Those few participants who felt their resettlement had been successful perceived the Lao state as the main enabler of their more convenient and modern lives in the new village. Many participants, however, experienced state coercion and dispossession while pursuing their desires for a better life in Banmai. These villagers viewed the Lao state in a contradictory manner: while they openly voiced their disillusionment with and fear of the Lao state, they still perceived this powerful entity as a tower of strength that provides hope and support in difficult circumstances. Investigating these heterogeneous resettlement experiences transcends recent debates in Lao resettlement studies that focus too one-sidedly either on the villagers' connection to or disconnection from the Lao state.

Publications

- Ponce, Floramante S.J. "Moving Away from the Margins? How a Chinese hydropower project made a Lao community modern and comfortable." In *Extracting Development: Contested Resource Frontiers in Mainland Southeast Asia*, edited by Oliver Tappe and Simon Rowedder, 143–171. Singapore: ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.
- Ponce, Floramante S.J. 2022. "Eating with the People: How a Chinese hydropower project changed food experiences in a Lao community." *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* 30(1): 1–23.

Presentations (selection)

- "Lights and Gossips: The Influence of Electric Lights on 'Spirits,' 'Speaking Souls,' and the State's Gaze in Northern Laos." Paper presentation at 7th International Conference on Lao Studies; The Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation (ADI), Deakin University, Sydney, Australia. 15–18 November 2022 (Online).
- "Limited Statehood Due to Hybrid Governance? Governing a Chinese Transboundary Hydropower in Laos." Paper presentation at 17th EASA Biennial Conference: Transformation, Hope and the Commons. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA). Belfast, Ireland. 26–29 July 2022 (Online).
- "(Dis)integrating the Marginalized: Resource Frontier Dynamics from Below in a Chinese Hydropower Resettlement Community in Northwestern Laos." Paper presentation at 16th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies; Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 19–24 June 2021 (Online).
- "Unpacking the Lao State Practices in Facilitating the 'Made in China' Dam: The Case of the Nam Tha 1 Hydropower Project." Paper presentation at Workshop on Transboundary Environmental Governance in Southeast Asia; Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 04 December 2020 (Online).
- "Promises of Progress: Everyday Experiences of Development, Disconnection, and

Disillusionment in the Hardmoauk Resettlement, Northern Laos." Paper presentation at 16th EASA Biennial Conference New anthropological horizons in and beyond Europe, panel "Energy transition(s): the promises of renewables and future of the commons [Energy Anthropology Network]; Lisbon, Portugal, 20–24 July 2020 (Online).

Thao Vu, PhD Researcher, "Electrification and Energy Transition in Rural Vietnam: The Making of a 'For-People' State"
Drawing on ethnographic research conducted in rural Vietnam between June 2018 and September 2019, Thao Vu's study examines the relationship between state and people in market-oriented socialist Vietnam. Following the successful electrification programme over past decades that reinforced state legitimacy in the countryside, the state today relies on local ideological statecraft and what Vu calls a "humanized" rural electricity infrastructure to maintain its appeal and foster its relationship with rural populations. The electric-statemaking process in contemporary Vietnam thus boils down to the human actions and interactions around electricity infrastructure: formal and informal practices of village electricians that render the rural market legible to the monopolist power company; professional and personal activities of electrical workers at district branches to fix infrastructural loopholes and buffer conflicts between a monopolistic system and electricity users whose consumer subjectivities have emerged; as well as people's active partaking in, or everyday resistance to, the generation of political power through electricity. The study seeks to move beyond materialistic or symbolic approaches to the state's infrastructural power to consider human engagements with electricity infrastructure as being charged with affects, understood as direct sensorial and imaginative feelings. In this sense, it contributes to the anthropology of the state an analysis of affective statemaking, and to the anthropology of infrastructure an ethnography on the human components of the system, or as Vu terms it, "human infrastructure".

GUEST PROGRAMME

Lively exchanges of ideas and experiences are highly beneficial for early-career scholars and established researchers alike. The research group profited tremendously from the possibilities that the MPI's guest programme offers. In the summer semester of 2018, Kirsten W. Endres joined forces with Charlotte Bruckermann, John Eidson, and Katja Müller to organize the weekly Joint Institutes Colloquium at the MPI with the theme "Fueling the Future". Issues discussed ranged from energy security and local development to the international trade of fossil fuels, de-growth discourses, and climate action movements. The research group also invited individual scholars to present and discuss their findings in a more intimate setting than a workshop or a conference. In November 2019, Kirsty Wissing (ANU) gave a presentation on "Water as a state(-ment) of power" that spoke to the overall theme of the research group. In January 2020, Cihan Tekay (CUNY) presented a chapter of her dissertation on the political economy of electrification in Turkey that met with great interest among group members.

PUBLICATIONS

Gold Open Access = *Green Open Access* = *Hybrid Open Access* =

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SECTION 2

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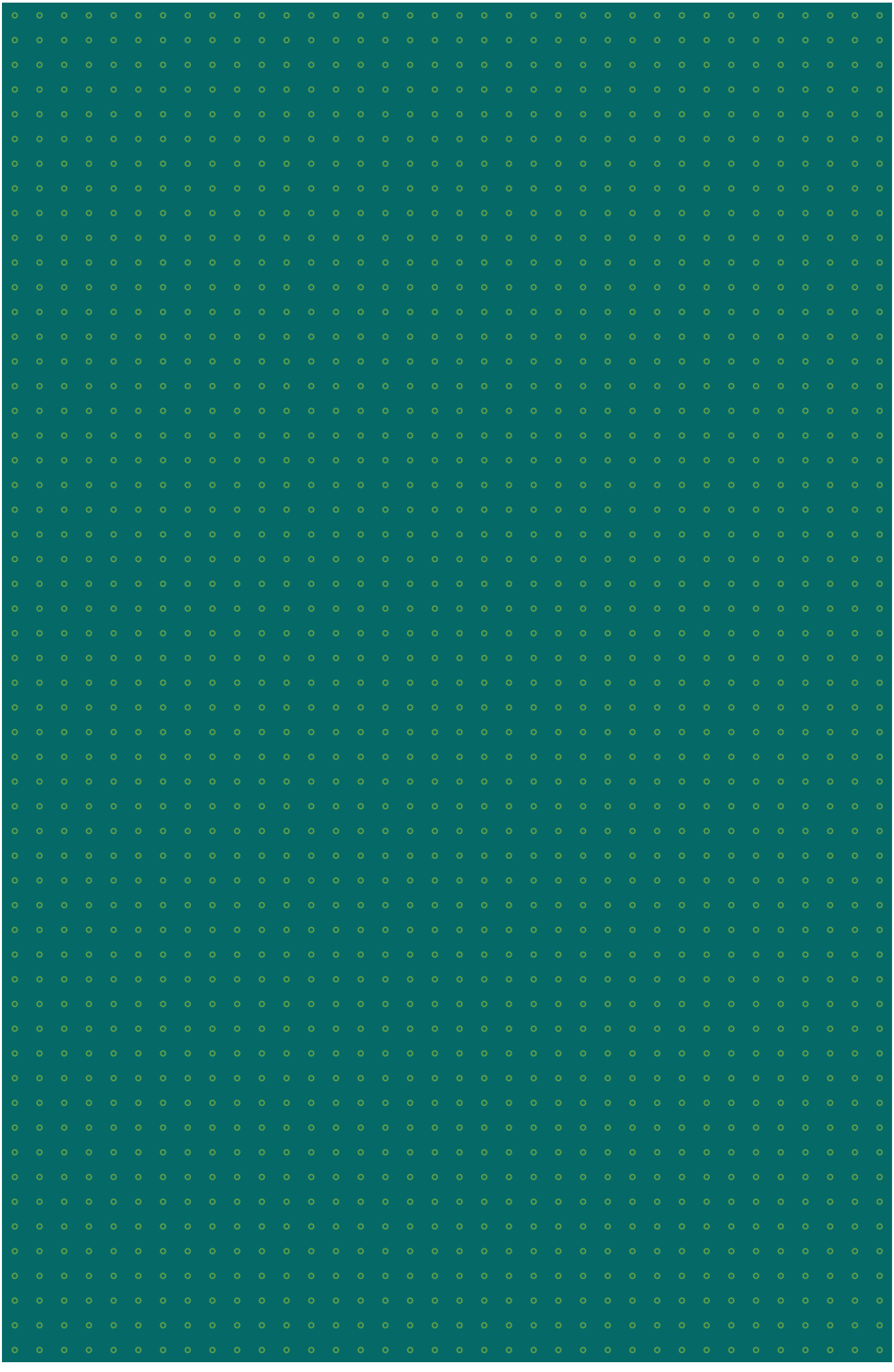

DEPARTMENT ‘RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATION IN EURASIA’

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

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COORDINATOR

Sascha Roth (until 12/2021)

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Sofia Lopatina (until 9/2021)
Lisa Kröger (until 9/2021)
Adrià Moreno Gil (until 11/2021)
Nikola Stefanovski (until 11/2021)

COMPLETED PHDS

Pablo Ampuero Ruiz (10/2021)
Milana Čergić (6/2022)
Ruben Davtyan (7/2022)
Anu Krishna (6/2022)
Elzyata Kuberlinova (6/2021)
Shilla Lee (11/2021)
Benjamin Matuzak (4/2020)
Julius Roch (10/2021)
Frank Rochow (12/2022)
Adrian Wesołowski (10/2021)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director emeritus:
CHRIS HANN

SUMMARY

Due to the retirement of its Director, the main task of this Department in these years was to bring existing projects (presented in previous MPI reports) to a successful conclusion. Some plans were adversely affected by the COVID pandemic, but thanks to (cost-neutral) extensions, the flexibility of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and the creative ingenuity of individual researchers, all main objectives were achieved.

INTRODUCTION

The Director of this Department was a lame duck in this review period (his official retirement date was 31 August 2021). Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, a member of the Department from its launch in 1999, formerly a Minerva Professor and later Coordinator of the European Research Council project 'Realising Eurasia: Civilization and Moral Economy in the Twenty-First Century', also reached the age of retirement (though she remains active as a *Privatdozentin* at the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic). Three Heads of Research Groups appointed and funded by this department – Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres, and Dittmar Schorkowitz – present their reports independently. Postdoctoral researchers Iain Walker and Samuel Williams joined the new department of Biao Xiang; their individual reports can be found in his chapter.

The implications of the pandemic for this Department were potentially disastrous, given the urgent need to conclude all activities before the retirement of the Director. Outcomes turned out better than initially expected. Several events had to be postponed, including the final conference of the International Max Planck School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) and a workshop of the Visegrád Anthropologists' Network (V4 NET). Miraculously, however, very little was cancelled or lost (the main casualty was the final workshop of the Research Group led by Kirsten W. Endres – see her report). Some of the funds left unspent due to lockdowns were redistributed to researchers who could make a convincing case for extensions. Supplementary short-term grants were extended to numerous members of V4 NET.

With hybridity the name of the game, flexibility and patience were called for. The Department continued its weekly seminars according to the usual semester routines. The Martin Luther University made it possible to examine doctoral theses online. Fifteen students defended successfully in this review period.

With the last postdoctoral research group in economic anthropology ("Financialization") having concluded its work in 2019, no new positions were advertised, and irrespective of COVID, little fieldwork was scheduled for this review period. For some senior members of the Department, COVID had silver linings in terms of freeing up time for data analysis and writing. Fewer meetings and less travel meant more time for reading and even writing book reviews (a genre that has been in decline for years). Together with Ildikó Bellér-Hann, the Director took advantage of the first lockdown to complete work on a monograph about eastern Xinjiang that they not anticipated being able to pull together before retirement (Bellér-Hann and Hann 2020).

Of course, the human costs of the disruption were experienced by everyone. Webinars were an imperfect substitute for exchanges in the seminar rooms and their continuation later in the evening over drinks at Nexus (a popular watering hole for two decades). Sociality in the fresh air was greatly prized. *Communitas* was fostered through departmental excursions along the Saale River and through the forest to the Heidesee (in 2020 and 2021 respectively, when the virus beat its annual summer retreat).

The informal interaction that is so important in most branches of science has always been easy in Halle. This city has less than half the population of Leipzig,

Departmental excursion to Heidesee, July 2021.

which in turn is dwarfed by Berlin. Yet the "cultural capital of Saxony-Anhalt" has much to offer in virtually every field of the arts, and the intellectual traditions of the Martin Luther University are second to none in East-Central Europe. Our interaction with historians and archaeologists of the MLU in the framework of the IMPRS ANARCHIE has enriched our community for over a decade. It was gratifying that Burkhard Schnepel, one of the founders of the university's social anthropology seminar, was able to join the Research School and play an active role in supervision of the last cohort.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

External collaborative events included a small hybrid meeting in December 2020, "The Emotional Consequences of the Peace", to explore the politics of memory in Central Europe 100 years after the peace settlements at the end of the First World War. This was organized jointly with historian Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development) and took place at the Harnack Haus in Berlin.

A large, transcontinental online workshop was convened in March 2021 by Dimitriy Funk (Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Otto Habeck (University of Hamburg), and Virginie Vaté-Klein (CNRS). "Anthropology of Siberia in the Late 19th and 20th Centuries: Re-assessing the Contribution of a 'Marginal' Field" took the Department back to its beginnings, when a strong Siberia Project Group provided the impetus for an inter-departmental Siberian Studies Centre under Habeck's leadership. The papers presented at this meeting will be published in 2023 as Vol. 49 of Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, the Department's publication series with LIT Verlag.

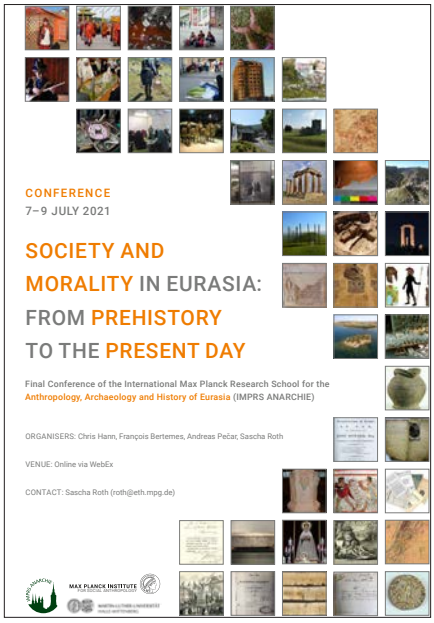
Another highlight was a critical celebration of the centenary of Bronislaw Malinowski's *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, probably the most significant monograph in the history of economic anthropology, if not anthropology in general. This event at the London School of Economics in July 2022 was organized jointly with Deborah James of the LSE. Revised versions of the papers will be published in our Berghahn series, Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy.

Joint workshop to celebrate the centenary of Bronislaw Malinowski's most famous monograph (London School of Economics, July 2022).

GOODY LECTURES

Goody Lectures were given online by Stephen Levinson in 2020 ("On 'Technologies of the Intellect'") and by Thomas Hylland Eriksen in 2021 ("The Treadmill Paradox in Cultural History: Competitive Global Capitalism and the Anthropocene Challenge"). Chris Hann's in-person valedictory lecture in June 2022 on "Colonial Encounters" (see pp. 178–179) was simultaneously an unofficial twelfth lecture in this series. All the Goody Lectures delivered since 2011, together with supplementary materials pertaining to Goody, will be brought together in a single volume edited by Chris Hann and Han Vermeulen. Scheduled for publication in 2023, this will be the fiftieth and last volume of the series Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, launched in 2003.

INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF EURASIA (ANARCHIE)



Final conference of the IMPRS ANARCHIE.

Postponed from December 2020, the final meeting of ANARCHIE eventually took place in early July 2021 under the title "Society and Morality in Eurasia: From Prehistory to the Present Day". Only residents of Halle were allowed to gather in the main seminar room. Other participants, including the three plenary speakers, took part online.[1] The transdisciplinary conversations extended over 7 panels and 18 papers. The meeting was a resounding culmination of the interdisciplinary exchanges and *longue durée* approaches that were the very foundations of ANARCHIE.

Sascha Roth remained in post as Coordinator until the end of 2021. Ten doctoral dissertations were successfully defended in the present review period; more will follow in 2023. In September 2021, Roth and *Sprecher* Chris Hann submitted a final report to the Max Planck Society, excerpts from which follow below:

"The International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) was launched in 2012 as a cooperation between the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. It provided young scholars with the opportunity to pursue a doctorate in the framework of a structured programme and excellent research conditions. Four cohorts of doctoral students applied themselves to four broad themes within the space of the Eurasian landmass. Members of the first three cohorts were funded for three years but could receive extensions of up to six months when necessary. Members of the fourth cohort received funding for four years (subject to satisfactory progress). We strove to ensure equal representation of our three disciplines within each cohort.

One core aspect of ANARCHIE was the nature of its interdisciplinarity. Work outside established disciplinary boundaries requires an institutional framework that enables students to step back from their earlier training (usually a master's programme in one discipline). The first-year programme of ANARCHIE thus featured wide-ranging introductory courses covering theories and methods of the social and historical sciences. Students meanwhile worked intensively on their individual projects with their main supervisor. The projects were discussed collectively at Winter and Summer Schools to which suitably qualified international experts were invited. The second year was largely devoted to data collection, which usually took the form of field research in the case of the social anthropologists, archival research in the case of the historians, and work at excavation sites and/or museum collections in the case of the archaeologists. The third year opened with an Autumn School at which progress reports were presented. Thereafter students prioritized the completion of their dissertations and the dissemination of results to a range of scientific audiences.

After a decade of fruitful cooperation, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the collegial spirit shown by our university partners who, in spite of the many competing demands on their time, immersed themselves in interdisciplinary cross-fertilization with the same commitment and enthusiasm that characterized our students.

By the end of 2022, 30 students had successfully defended their dissertations. More are in the pipeline and the final overall completion rate is expected to exceed 80%.

In the broader landscape of the Max Planck Society, ANARCHIE was a modest initiative. Our partners were almost all local. Yet far from being provincial and parochial, we remain as convinced now as we were a decade ago when launching ANARCHIE that our subject mix is full of promise, which should ultimately bear fruit on a larger scale. Social anthropological theory has much to contribute to the study of human origins and evolution (Barnard 2011). Empirical data from contemporary projects on the demise of socialist property relations or the expansion of neoliberal markets are pertinent to topics such as (in)equality in our species and the investigation of long-term social dynamics and comparative psychology. As ANARCHIE draws to a close, the potential for collaboration with other Max Planck institutes and excellent universities in our region remains."

[1] The three plenary lectures were brought together in a booklet, of which a PDF version is available at: https://www.eth.mpg.de/5990326/2021_Anarchie_PlenaryLectures-web-version.pdf

VISEGRÁD ANTHROPOLOGISTS' NETWORK (V4 NET)

In the final phase of this Network, mobility was hindered by the pandemic. Postdocs continued to work on papers and books, while doctoral students continued to work on their dissertations (most of which were submitted at their home institutions and are not recorded here). It was possible to organize several meetings. By July 2021, the coronavirus had relented sufficiently to allow members of V4 NET to gather in large numbers and in style at Schloss Ringberg, the Max Planck Society's charming castle in Bavaria, for a meeting titled "Vox Populi Visegradensis: The Anthropology of East-Central Europe". The 31 presentations covered a wide range, reflecting how young social anthropologists are investigating new technological developments (such as e-waste and the production of bitcoin) as well as the challenges of the populism-illiberalism nexus, while continuing to work in established fields such as historical memory and transformations of the peasantry. Highlights included after-dinner presentations by two longstanding associates of the department, Don Kalb and Deema Kaneff. Thanks were due to Jochen Essl and his team at Schloss Ringberg for their excellent support, and to the Schloeßmann Foundation for subsidizing the costs of this meeting.

Smaller in-person meetings took place in Warsaw in September 2020 (convened by Agnieszka Halemba, "Locating Religion and Nonreligion in Eastern/Central Europe") and in Pezinok, Slovakia, in April 2022 (postponed from March 2021, convened by Juraj Buzalka and Margit Feischmidt, "Tradition and Solidarity in the Visegrád Countries in the Pandemic Moment").

It is important to disseminate anthropological research of the kind that animated V4 NET to audiences beyond anthropology. The special issue of *Europe-Asia Studies* which the Director edited with sociologist Gabor Scheiring was an example of how this can be achieved (Hann and Scheiring 2021; most contributors to the issue were members of the Network). When life gradually returned to normal in 2022, the Director co-organized in-person panels to debate core themes of this issue at meetings of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (Cambridge, April 2022) and the Council for European Studies (Lisbon, June–July 2022).

Beyond the concrete benefits it brought to departments and individuals across the region, V4 NET nurtured interdisciplinary agendas and illustrated the value of engaging with Area Studies literatures. The intellectual perspectives and ethnographic insights of anthropologists can make vital contributions in understanding the local and regional factors that shape a broad range of phenomena, from new forms of spirituality to "democratic backsliding".

Network meeting at Schloss Ringberg, Bavaria, July 2021.

MAX PLANCK – CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR ETHICS, ECONOMY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (MAX-CAM)

This collaborative initiative was hard hit by the pandemic, especially the meetings and mobility schemes originally envisaged. The Centre's lifespan was extended until the end of 2022 to allow final activities in Cambridge to be successfully completed. Fortunately, it was possible to publish the papers from the Halle conference of December 2019 (see the previous MPI report for details) according to plan in the Berghahn series Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy (Hann 2021).

MAX-CAM was based in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, where its activities were managed by two directors (James Laidlaw and Joel Robbins), a coordinator (Johannes Lenhard), and a part-time secretary (Connie Tang). Chris Hann was a regular participant in the Cambridge meetings. Johannes Lenhard prepared a report for the University of Cambridge in November 2022, excerpts from which follow below:

"The Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change (MAX-CAM) was established at the end of 2017 and began operations early in the following year. Funded in equal measure by the Max Planck Society (including the MPI for Social Anthropology in Halle and the MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen) and the University of Cambridge (including a grant from the Isaac Newton Foundation), MAX-CAM was conceived as a research centre to be housed and managed primarily by the Department of Social Anthropology in Cambridge. The impact of COVID did not prevent the Centre from developing into a lively institution with a wide range of impact across the three partners and beyond.

The initial group of six postdocs (four in Cambridge, one each in Halle and Göttingen) was soon expanded with the appointments of affiliated researchers in all three partner institutes, some of whom were supported by external funds. Following the first in-person workshop in Halle in 2019 (discussed in the previous MPI report), a virtual equivalent was organized in Göttingen in 2021. The concluding meeting in Cambridge in September 2022 was in-person and brought all MAX-CAM members together with an international and interdisciplinary group of guests to explore our core terrain: "Ethics and Social Change: Economy, Religion, and Moral Transformation". We also organized a variety of (mostly in-person but also virtual and hybrid) events and smaller workshops at various locations within Cambridge. The postdocs met regularly (at least monthly) to discuss individual projects and also to monitor the Centre's core agenda, namely to investigate new possibilities for linking the domains of ethics, economy, and religion in anthropological research.

Significant collective publications include the special journal issue "Navigating Investment Universes: The Ethics of Decision-Making on New Frontiers of Capital", which has been accepted by the *Journal of Cultural Economy* (edited by Anna-Riikka Kaupinnen and Johannes Lenhard, forthcoming 2023). The postdocs published almost 50 individual peer-reviewed journal articles and 3 monographs in this review period. Papers appeared in a variety of journals from top general anthropology journals (four in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, but also in *Cultural Anthropology, Social Analysis, Cambridge Anthropology, Social Anthropology, Ethnos*) and specialist journals (both for region and for field). We also published outside the boundaries of anthropological journals, including journals in geography (*Environment and Planning D, Housing Studies*), material culture, psychology, medicine, and internet studies. Outreach and popularization were also taken seriously: we published more than 50 journalistic pieces and blog posts across the most influential anthropological media and beyond.

Over 70 papers were presented in academic conferences and as invited speakers at other universities. We organized panels – collectively and in sub-groups – at numerous major anthropology conferences, including the American Anthropological Association, the Association of Social Anthropologists, and the European Association of Social Anthropologists. We also participated in many non-anthropology conferences in fields such as management studies, homelessness, finance, political economy, and policy and technology.

Over the lifetime of MAX-CAM, more than 30 meetings were convened with invited speakers in Cambridge. The events followed different formats, ranging from book workshops (e.g., with Tim Rogan, Felix Stein, and Anna Alexandrova) to internal workshops/seminars (e.g., with Nofit Itzhak and Devin Singh) and larger public lectures open to all. Our guests included distinguished scholars in economics (e.g., Deirdre McCloskey, Diane Coyle) and sociology (e.g., Donald MacKenzie, Eva Illouz) as well as anthropology (e.g., Caitlin Zaloom, Kimberly Chong, Daromir Rudnyckyj, Soumhya Venkatesan). We published podcasts and/or recordings of 10 of these events to make them more widely available.

During COVID lockdowns we were obliged at times to switch to online-only events, but most were in-person. These (and the refreshments that followed) were greatly appreciated by colleagues in Cambridge and contributed crucially to the cohesion of the MAX-CAM community."

REALISING EURASIA: CIVILISATION AND MORAL ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY (REALEURASIA)

REALEURASIA was launched on 1 July 2014 and formally completed in July 2020. Seven doctoral students spent the academic year 2015–6 carrying out field research in cities of modest size located across Eurasia. Three post-doctoral researchers, the project coordinator, and project leader also carried out field research. Five dissertations had been submitted by summer 2020 and a sixth followed one year later. One project (involving fieldwork in China) was not written up for personal reasons. The REALEURASIA blog, an important outlet for the work of project researchers and their partners, was refocused in 2020 to address various aspects of the pandemic.

Originally scheduled to conclude in 2019, REALEURASIA was extended into 2020 due to the intermission of Sylvia Terpe. A full report was submitted to the European Research Council in 2020. The grant-holder (Chris Hann) and the coordinator of this project (Lale Yalçın-Heckmann) later prepared a summary for the departmental homepage, which included the following summary characterization:

"In this project Eurasia was understood in the classical sense of global historians as the super-continent which embraces the whole of Europe (including the Mediterranean world) and the whole of Asia. The project was primarily rooted in the theories and methods of economic anthropology, but it also set out to renew links to historical sociology and adjacent fields. It combined detailed ethnographic investigations of family businesses, in towns selected to ensure structural comparability, with attention to the embeddedness of economy in religion, polity, and society as they have evolved together in the *longue durée* of the Eurasian past.

The project was constructed so as to contribute to various subfields of anthropology, while also engaging with long-running debates about modernity and global history. Our investigations of contemporary economic behaviour revealed common dilemmas, which we construed as support for the views of anthropologist Jack Goody and numerous global historians who have approached "Christian Europe" as an important macroregion of the Eurasian landmass, rather than as a distinct continent. The recent rise of East Asia is a timely reminder that the most powerful civilizations of this landmass have common origins dating back to the Bronze Age. Goody's perspective on three millennia of Eurasian history can be productively combined with Karl Polanyi's analysis of the transformations of the last three centuries. "

REALEURASIA exemplified how such macro-level interpretations can be productively combined with ethnographic research. Critical of over-simplified usage of "moral economy", Hann drew on his own long-term research in Hungary to highlight the salience of human labour (work) for grasping the moral dimension. Economic action is profoundly influenced by evolved values, and the toolkit of Max Weber remains useful in analysing these values. The volume *Moral Economy at Work* (ed. Lale Yalçın-Heckmann 2022) illustrated how moral ideas embedded in history and culture shape relations between employers and employees, and how concepts of class are complicated by differentiation according to ties of kinship, neighbourhood, ethnicity, religion, caste, etc.

FAREWELL HALLE

In summer 2022, with life slowly returning to normal, the Director (by now retired) delivered in-person plenary lectures to interdisciplinary audiences at conferences and workshops in Fribourg, Vilnius, Budapest, and Prague. In November 2022 he crossed the Atlantic and the United States of America to Seattle, where he delivered the William A. Douglass Distinguished Lecture to the Society for the Anthropology of Europe (as part of the meetings of the American Anthropological Association).

In June 2022, the Director returned briefly to bid farewell to the institute and city that were his base and home for almost a quarter of a century. A *Festschrift* featuring close *Weggefährten* over many decades had taken him by surprise a year earlier (ed. Kaneff and Endres 2021). Now he was honoured by a second, comprising chapters by former doctoral students (ed. Buzalka and Pasieka 2022). Although numbers still had to be limited due to the pandemic, about 60 colleagues and alumni gathered for an exciting symposium under the motto "Holistic Discipline". The preceding afternoon featured the presentation of new books and the retiring director's valedictory lecture, in which he reflected on the pitfalls and exaggerations of contemporary decolonization rhetoric in the light of his own biography. The presentations, lecture, and symposium together made for a last memorable whiff of collective effervescence. The Director thanked everyone who had taken the trouble to travel to Halle for the occasion, and also members of the Institute (in particular the Department's senior members and administrative staff) for their long-term collegiality and support. The social highlight of these balmy summer days was an afternoon cruise for all guests and institute staff on the incomparable Saale.

The Department's accomplishments in the last two decades have illuminated many aspects of the contemporary world, especially in countries with a socialist past. Do they help in grasping the state of the world in 2023? Neither the repression of the Uyghurs in China nor the invasion of Ukraine by the

Dean Francois Bertemes welcomes the audience to the Valedictory Lecture of Chris Hann (23rd June 2022).

Russian Federation has led the Director to abandon his vision of unity-in-diversity across the Eurasian landmass ("from Lisbon to Vladivostok"). On the contrary, he continues to critique resurgent Atlanticist hypocrisies and to view the recovery of long-term Eurasian legacies as a precondition for ending violence, promoting more equal forms of human society, and protecting the planetary environment. The "otherness" of Cold War socialism has long been dismantled. But in applying paradigms developed elsewhere to Eurasia, most of which has been relatively neglected by social anthropologists, it is important not to forget the distinctive patterns of this landmass. We need to make global comparisons but they must be historically informed through area studies contextualization.

A directorship in Halle is the most satisfying position a research-oriented social anthropologist can wish for. The wrench of leaving an academic paradise was mitigated for this retiree in several ways, both personal and institutional. First, Corpus Christi College smoothed the process of relocation back to Cambridge by re-electing him to a Fellowship (a position he had held previously between 1980 and 1992). Second, the Max Planck Society wasted no time in reaffirming its commitment to the future of social anthropology in Halle. Two new Directors took up their posts in 2020. As Ursula Rao and Biao Xiang consolidate their programmes and reconstruct a dynamic institute fit for the post-COVID era, and with comparable processes of renewal taking place at the Martin Luther University, it is reassuring to know that Halle will remain at the forefront of anthropological research globally.

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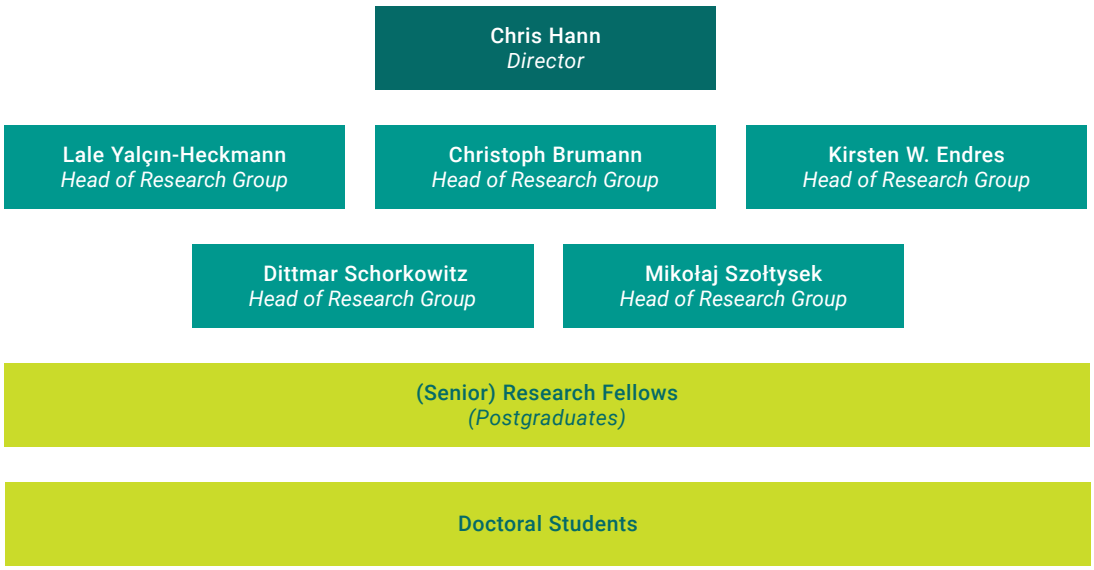
APPENDIX I: OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE AND PROJECTS, 1999–2022

The organigram below shows the structure of the department. Five Research Group Leaders (including Honorary Professors appointed by the Martin Luther University and Minerva Professors appointed by the Max Planck Society) supported Chris Hann for varying periods of time in a variety of ways, including the supervision of doctoral students (also in the framework of ANARCHIE).

The table on the following page provides a comprehensive listing of the Department's collective projects. Except where indicated, responsibility lay with the Director. The numbers in parentheses refer to associated projects (mostly comprising scholars whose research costs the Institute helped fund, but who were not formally recruited and remunerated as core members of a research group; the associated projects of members of the Visegrád Anthropologists' Network were doctoral theses registered at the students' home institutions).

Between 1999 and 2021, almost one hundred "senior" researchers worked in the Department. The number of doctoral students appears to be higher, but this is misleading. Two-thirds of the students admitted to the IMPRS ANARCHIE were archaeologists and historians who did not take part in the regular anthropology seminars. Hann's Advanced Grant from the European Research Council also had a bias toward doctoral students. Overall, postdoctoral projects have received a significantly larger share of the regular departmental budget.

For further explication of this table together with discussion of doctorate completion rates and the destinations of our alumni, see *Twenty Years of Eurasia* (compiled by Chris Hann with the assistance of Anke Meyer, published in Vol. II of the MPI report to the Advisory Board for the years 2017–2019).



GROUP/SCHOOL/NETWORK	(SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWS	DOCTORAL STUDENTS
Property Relations (2000–2005)	13 (+ 2)	4 (+ 1)
Religion and Civil Society (2003–2006)	4 (+ 3)	5 (+ 2)
Religion and Morality (2006–2009)	8 (+ 2)	4
Kinship & Social Support in China and Vietnam (2006–2016)	9 (+ 2)	5 (+ 1)
Caucasian Boundaries and Citizenship from Below (MINERVA) *Lale Yalçın-Heckmann* (2004–2009)	1 (+ 1)	2 (+ 1)
Political, Economic and Social Inclusion and Exclusion in Poland and Bulgaria (Volkswagen Foundation project of *Deema Kaneff and Frances Pine*, 2003–2006)	2	2
The Catholic Church and Religious Pluralism in Lithuania and Poland (Volkswagen Foundation project of *Ingo Schroeder and Kinga Sekerdej*, 2007–2010)	2	2
The Global Political Economy of Cultural Heritage *Christoph Brumann* (2011–2016)	0	2
Traders, Markets, and the State in Vietnam (MINERVA) *Kirsten W. Endres* (2011–2016)	1 (+ 1)	2
Historical Anthropology *Dittmar Schorkowitz and Mikołaj Szołtysek* (2009–2017)	2 (+ 2)	2
Economy and Ritual (*with Stephen Gudeman, 2009-2012*)	6	0
Industry and Inequality in Eurasia (*with Catherine Alexander and Jonathan Parry, 2012–2015*)	6 (+ 2)	0
International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (ANARCHIE) (2012–2021)	0	45
Realising Eurasia: Civilisation and Moral Economy in the 21st Century (ERC Advanced Grant, 2014–2020)	4 (+ 1)	8
Financialization (*with Don Kalb, 2015–2019*)	6	0
Buddhist Temple Economies in Urban Asia *Christoph Brumann* (2014–2018)	2	2
Electric Statemaking in the Greater Mekong Subregion *Kirsten W. Endres* (2017–)	1	2
Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change (MAX-CAM) (2017–2022)	2 (+ 5)	0
Visegrád Anthropologists' Network (2017–2022)	7	2 (+ 14)
TOTAL:	**76 (+ 20)**	**89 (+ 19)**

All departmental projects, 1999–2022

APPENDIX II: POSTER GALLERY

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

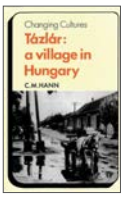
www.eth.mpg.de

CHRIS HANN

A Journeyman's Way in Economic Anthropology

APPRENTICESHIP IN HUNGARY

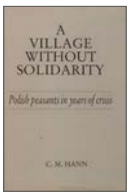
In his Oxford undergraduate studies of economics and politics, Hann chose to specialize in "communist countries". After moving to Cambridge to study social anthropology for his doctoral research, he was encouraged by Jack Goody to investigate "market socialism" through fieldwork in Hungary. Although he has also worked from time to time on other topics, economic anthropology (especially the study of property and markets) has remained central to his work ever since the publication of his first monograph.

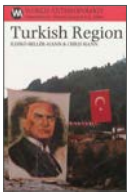


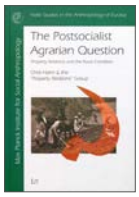
Ürümchi, 1986

CONSOLIDATING THE CRAFT, COMPARATIVELY

Before defending his PhD in Cambridge in 1979, Hann had already started a postdoc project in Poland. The aim was to compare rural social organization in a socialist state that had failed to push through collectivization with what he had found earlier in Hungary. As a Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, he then launched a project to investigate how subsistence-oriented smallholders had adapted to a lucrative cash crop (tea) in a remote region of capitalist Turkey. Later work in the east Black Sea region was carried out jointly with Ildikó Bellér-Hann.



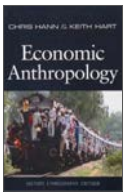




MIGRATIONS

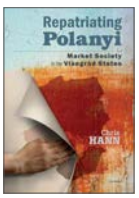
Needing to escape from Oxbridge, Hann spent most of the 1990s at the University of Kent (Canterbury). In 1999 he became a hireling in Halle. His first Focus Group at the new Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology was rooted in work he had initiated in Canterbury on "property relations". The primary context for the empirical research was postsocialist Eurasia, many facets of which were explored at an early conference held at Halle's *Frankesche Stiftungen* (right). A more expansive concept of Eurasia became the departmental brand.

Karl Polanyi (Photo: courtesy of Gareth Dale and Don Grant)



COMMEMORATING AN ANCESTOR

Not every conference leads to a satisfying publication but the meeting that Hann organized in Halle in 2006 with his former Cambridge colleague Keith Hart resulted in two. The aim was to assess the renewed pertinence of Karl Polanyi, revered founder of the guild of economic anthropologists, in the era of neoliberalism. In addition to the volume of proceedings, the position paper prepared by the conference conveners morphed into a widely translated introductory volume.



ROUTINIZATION

In an eclectic sequence of postdoctoral research groups since 2009, Hann has shared responsibilities with Stephen Gudeman, Catherine Alexander, Jonathan Parry and Don Kalb. For theoretical inspiration in his own research, he has continued to look in the first instance to Polanyi, whose concepts he applies in investigations of both rural Hungary (left) and Xinjiang, China (together with Ildikó Bellér-Hann, right).

Ürümchi, 2013

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Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia (2003–2023)

Editors: Chris Hann, Burkhard Schnepel (2003–2023); Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres, Thomas Hauschild, Richard Rottenburg, Dittmar Schorkowitz, Shingo Shimada, Lale Yalçın-Heckmann (for varying durations)

"… anthropology needs a broader vision. It needs to shake off its strong association with the primitive and the exotic and become genuinely global in its comparisons. From this perspective, more sustained attention to Eurasia and a renewed focus on its underlying unity might launch the transformation of our parochial scholarly traditions into a mature cosmopolitan science."

– Chris Hann, in his Preface to this series

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Vol 46 Deniz, Ceren, 2021: **The Formation of Provincial Capital.** Value Regimes and the Politics of Labour in Anatolia.
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Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy

Series Editors: Stephen Gudeman and Chris Hann

Definitions of economy and society, and their proper relationship to each other, have been the perennial concerns of social philosophers. In the early decades of the twenty-first century these became and remain matters of urgent political debate. At the forefront of this series are the approaches to these connections by anthropologists, whose explorations of the local ideas and institutions underpinning social and economic relations illuminate large fields ignored in other disciplines.

The primary goal of the series is to disseminate the results of collective projects at the Max Planck Institute. Works by external scholars on related themes are also eligible for consideration.

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Vol 2 **Oikos and Market**: Explorations in Self-Sufficiency after Socialism (edited by Stephen Gudeman & Chris Hann, 2015)

Vol 3 **When Things Become Property**: Land Reform, Authority, and Value in Postsocialist Europe and Asia (Thomas Sikor, Stefan Dorondel, Johannes Stahl and Phuc Xuan To, 2017)

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Vol 8 **Moral Economy at Work**: Ethnographic Investigations in Eurasia (edited by Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, 2021)

Vol 9 **Wine Is Our Bread**: Labour and Value in Moldovan Winemaking (Daniela Ana, 2022)

Vol 10 **Thrift and Its Paradoxes**: From Domestic to Political Economy (edited by Catherine Alexander & Daniel Sosna, 2022)

Volume 1
Economy and Ritual

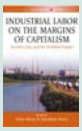
According to accepted wisdom, rational practices and ritual action are opposed. Rituals drain wealth from capital investment and draw on a mode of thought different from practical ideas. The studies in this volume contest this view. Comparative, historical, and contemporary, the six ethnographies extend from Macedonia to Kyrgyzstan. Each one illuminates the economic and ritual changes in an area as it emerged from socialism and (re-)entered market society. Cutting against the idea that economy only means markets and that market action exhausts the meaning of economy, the studies show that much of what is critical for a people's economic life takes place outside markets and hinges on ritual, understood as the negation of the everyday world of economising.

Volume 2
Oikos and Market

Self-sufficiency of the house is practiced in many parts of the world but ignored in economic theory, just as socialist collectivization is assumed to have brought household self-sufficiency to an end. The ideals of self-sufficiency, however, continue to shape economic activity in a wide range of postsocialist settings. This volume's six comparative studies of postsocialist villages in Eastern Europe and Asia illuminate the enduring importance of the house economy, which is based not on the market but on the order of the house. These formations show that economies depend not only on the macro institutions of markets and states but also on the micro institutions of families, communities, and house economies, often in an uneasy relationship.

Volume 3
When Things Become Property

Governments have conferred ownership titles to many citizens throughout the world in an effort to turn things into property. Almost all elements of nature have become the target of property laws, from the classic preoccupation with land to more ephemeral material, such as air and genetic resources. *When Things Become Property* interrogates the mixed outcomes of conferring ownership by examining postsocialist land and forest reforms in Albania, Romania and Vietnam, and finds that property reforms are no longer, if they ever were, miracle tools available to governments for refashioning economies, politics or environments.



Volume 4
Industrial Labor on the Margins of Capitalism

Bringing together ethnographic case studies of industrial labor from different parts of the world, *Industrial Labor on the Margins of Capitalism* explores the increasing casualization of workforces and the weakening power of organized labor. This division owes much to state policies and is reflected in local understandings of class. By exploring this relationship, these essays question the claim that neoliberal ideology has become the new 'commonsense' of our times and suggest various propositions about the conditions that create employment regimes based on flexible labor.

Volume 5
Market Frictions

Based on ethnographic research conducted over several years, *Market Frictions* examines the tensions and frictions that emerge from the interaction of global market forces, urban planning policies, and small-scale trading activities in the Vietnamese border city of Lào Cai. Here, it is revealed how small-scale traders and market vendors experience the marketplace, reflect upon their trading activities, and negotiate current state policies and regulations. It shows how "traditional" Vietnamese marketplaces have continually been reshaped and adapted to meet the changing political-economic circumstances and civilizational ideals of the time.

Volume 6
Financialization

Beginning with an original historical vision of financialization in human history, this volume then continues with a rich set of contemporary ethnographic case studies from Europe, Asia and Africa. Authors explore the ways in which finance inserts itself into relationships of class and kinship, how it adapts to non-Western religious traditions, and how it reconfigures legal and ecological dimensions of social organization, and urban social relations in general. Central themes include the indebtedness of individuals and households, the impact of digital technologies, the struggle for housing, financial education, and political contestation.

Volume 7
Work, Society, and the Ethical Self

Primarily on the basis of ethnographic case-studies from around the world, this volume links investigations of work to questions of personal and professional identity and social relations. In the era of digitalized neoliberalism, particular attention is paid to notions of freedom, both collective (in social relations) and individual (in subjective experiences). These cannot be investigated separately. Rather than juxtapose economy with ethics (or the profitable with the good), the authors uncover complex entanglements between the drudgery experienced by most people in the course of making a living and ideals of emancipated personhood.

Volume 8
Moral Economy at Work

The idea of a moral economy has been explored and assessed in numerous disciplines. The anthropological studies in this volume provide a new perspective to this idea by showing how the relations of workers, employees and employers, and of firms, families and households are interwoven with local notions of moralities. From concepts of individual autonomy, kinship obligations, to ways of expressing mutuality or creativity, moral values exert an unrealized influence, and these often produce more consent than resistance or outrage.

Volume 9
Wine Is Our Bread

Based on ethnographic work in a Moldovan winemaking village, *Wine Is Our Bread* shows how workers in a prestigious winery have experienced the country's recent entry into the globalized wine market and how their productive activities at home and in the winery contribute to the value of commercial terroir wines. Drawing on theories of globalization, economic anthropology and political economy, the book contributes to understanding how crises and inequalities in capitalism lead to the 'creative destruction' of local products, their accelerated standardization and the increased exploitation of labour.

Volume 10
Thrift and Its Paradoxes

Thrift is a central concern for most people, especially in turbulent economic times. It is both an economic and an ethical logic of frugal living, saving and avoiding waste for long-term kin care. These logics echo the ancient ideal of household self-sufficiency, contrasting with capitalism's wasteful present-focused growth. But thrift now exceeds domestic matters straying across scales to justify public expenditure cuts. Through a wide range of ethnographic contexts this book explores how practices and moralities of thrift are intertwined with austerity, debt, welfare, and patronage across various social and temporal scales and are constantly re-negotiated at the nexus of socio-economic, religious, and kinship ideals and praxis.

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For organizational reasons, publications by Research Group Leaders Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres and Dittmar Schorkowitz, together with those of their group members, all of whose research was sponsored and fully funded by this department until September 2021, are listed separately. Publications by researchers associated with the Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change are also absent from this list.

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Ana, Daniela. 2022. *Wine is our bread: labour and value in Moldovan winemaking*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 9. New York; Oxford: Berghahn.

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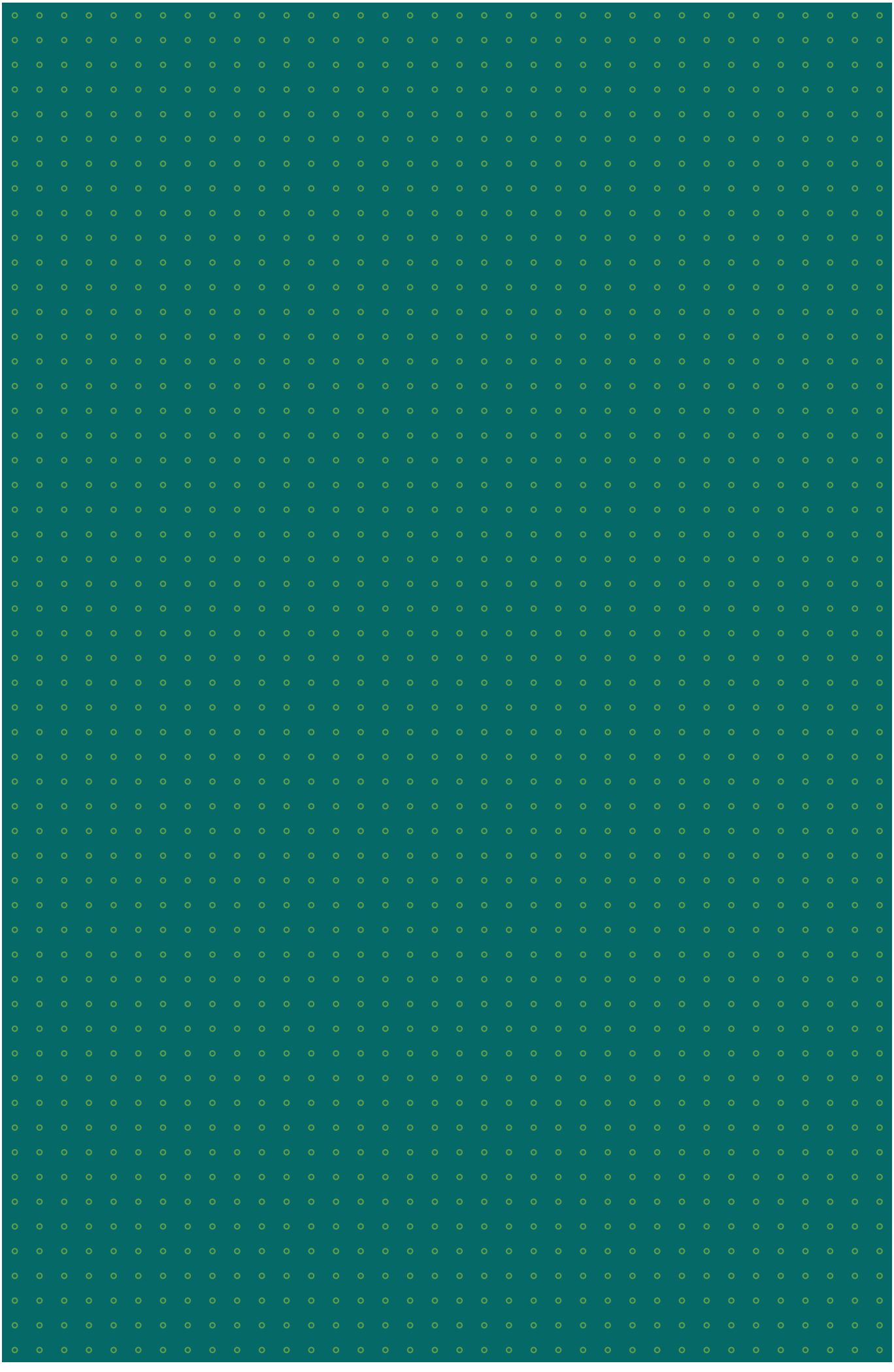

DEPARTMENT ‘INTEGRATION AND CONFLICT’

194 DIRECTOR’S REPORT

202 PUBLICATIONS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director emeritus:
GÜNTHER SCHLEE

The Department 'Integration and Conflict' formally came to an end with my retirement for reasons of age on 31 July 2019. As a vibrant network of scholarly exchange, it lives on. Retirement has not affected my level of activity, but it has changed my whereabouts and institutional affiliation. I have continued to supervise doctoral students in Halle. Eight of them successfully completed their doctorates in the report period. They are listed in a separate section of this report. My own centre of life has shifted to Ethiopia, where I found employment.

Links to Halle, where the Institute still provides me with an office and where I keep an apartment, remain strong. I thank Biao Xiang for giving me space on his Migration website, Marie-Claire Foblets for taking care of and co-supervising one of the above-mentioned doctoral students, and above all Ursula Rao, who not only did the same with another one of those students and helped yet others, but also joined the editorial board of our book series with Berghahn, Integration and Conflict Studies, which, also thanks to her serious intellectual input, continues to thrive. She was also helpful in bringing into being our partner group in Jimma, Ethiopia, more about which can be found in a separate section of this report. She has strengthened this group with organizational support and critical advice, and by giving it space in her doctoral colloquium. I also play an advisory role for that group and am therefore indebted to her. I have also continued to enjoy library services, secretarial help, and have benefited from an effective administration.

Much has been written in earlier reports about the theoretical development of our research framework 'Integration and Conflict'. Here I abstain from yet another summary, because now, after the closure of the Department (or the loss of its institutional shell), this would sound too much like an obituary. It is an ongoing discourse, and the latest developments have been summarized by John Eidson, Echi Gabbert, and Markus Hoehne more eloquently than I could have done (see their introduction and epilogue to the volume *Dynamics of Identification and Conflict: Anthropological Encounters*, Berghahn 2023).

After my retirement I accepted a UNDP-financed professorship of social anthropology at Arba Minch University in the south of Ethiopia, a part of the country familiar to me from some of my earlier research 38 years ago, but mainly through doctoral students I had the privilege to visit and learn from, and through cooperations like SORC (South Omo Research Centre) and LoF (Lands of the Future) discussed in earlier reports. It is also located between my long-term research areas in northern Kenya and along the Blue Nile in Sudan. The free, easy, and frequent movements between these regions did not quite materialize as envisaged because of the pandemic and violent conflicts. In this report, however, I am going to focus on achievements and not on dreams which did not mature.

EDITORSHIP

In Ethiopia part of my time was also filled with editorial work on our series Integration and Conflict Studies, an activity which has been quite rewarding. In the report period, my former doctoral student Florian Köhler made the start with the volume *Space, Place and Identity: Wodaabe of Niger in the 21st Century*. By that time, he had joined Carolin Goerzig's Research Group 'How "Terrorists" Learn' and by now he has become a sought-after specialist on Boku Haram, the movement perceived as the major security risk in much of West Africa.

That volume was followed by *On Mediation: Historical, Legal, Anthropological and International Perspectives*, edited by Karl Härter, Carolin Hillemanns, and myself. It is the second volume of a planned trilogy resulting from our research programme REMEP (Retaliation, Mediation, and Punishment). It follows the volume *On Retaliation* edited by Bertram Turner of Marie-Claire Foblet's Department and myself, and will be followed by a volume *On Punishment*. I am

looking forward to contributing a theoretical synthesis of all three thematic components for that third volume.

In the following year, 2021, *Lands of the Future: Anthropological Perspectives on Pastoralism, Land Deals and Tropes of Modernity in Eastern Africa* appeared. It was edited by Echi Christina Gabbert, Fana Gebresenbet, John G. Galaty, and myself and deals with traditional, collective land rights under the threat of expropriation for large-scale investments.

The next book in the series is Christian Straube's *After Corporate Paternalism: Material Renovation and Social Change in Times of Ruination*, a study of a former mining town in northern Zambia. It is the published version of a doctoral dissertation which I had the pleasure to supervise. It has been awarded a grant by Knowledge Unlatched to make it available through Open Access and has since also appeared in paperback for those who insist on buying it although it can be had for free.

Moving on to 2022, we come to Christoph Günther's book *Entrepreneurs of Identity: The Islamic State's Symbolic Repertoire*. The book addresses a recurrent topic of the (former) Department: the construction of group identity in violent settings or situations of accelerated change. It focuses on boundary markers like visual emblems, speech, and social conventions and their symbolic use.

Aleksandar Bošković and I edited the volume *African Political Systems Revisited: Changing Perspectives on Statehood and Power*. It takes up the 1940 classic edited by Meyer Fortes and Evans-Pritchard, *African Political Systems*. Contributors discuss the reception of this earlier volume and subsequent theoretical developments; they question the dichotomy between 'early states' and 'segmentary lineage systems' and pursue the topic into modern times, both in terms of relating it to recent discourses in anthropology and applying it to present-day African politics.

TEACHING

At Arba Minch, I taught several iterations of two MA-level courses on political anthropology and ethnographic analysis. In early 2020, the first of these courses was interrupted by the incipient COVID pandemic. The university was closed and the students were sent back to their hometowns scattered across a large section of Ethiopia. I remained in email contact with the students and asked them to keep 'corona dairies' as a practical exercise – i. e., to write down their observations about the real and believed spread of the disease and the reactions of people in their various settings.

An interesting aspect was the allocation of guilt. The spread of the disease was blamed on various categories of people along religious and ethnic lines. There are also connections between COVID and politico-military events. Elections which had been postponed because of the pandemic and were held in the Tigray regional state in defiance of the rulings of the federal institutions were among the causes or pretexts that led to civil war later that year. With the outbreak of that devastating war, which was to cost about half a million lives, COVID suddenly ceased to be the most important concern of Ethiopians.

The results of this exercise were published in the form of blog posts for the Coronavirus and Mobility Forum (University of Oxford) and the ReCent-Globe-Blog (Leipzig University).

↘ *https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2020/coronavirus-and-mobility-observations-from-northeast-africa/*

↘ *https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/zentrum/detailansicht/artikel/blog-corona-diaries-from-northeast-africa-part-1-a-question-of-morality-and-religion-2020-09-1/*

↘ *https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/zentrum/detailansicht/artikel/blog-27-corona-diaries-from-northeast-africa-part-2-the-plight-of-migrants-in-times-of-corona-2/*

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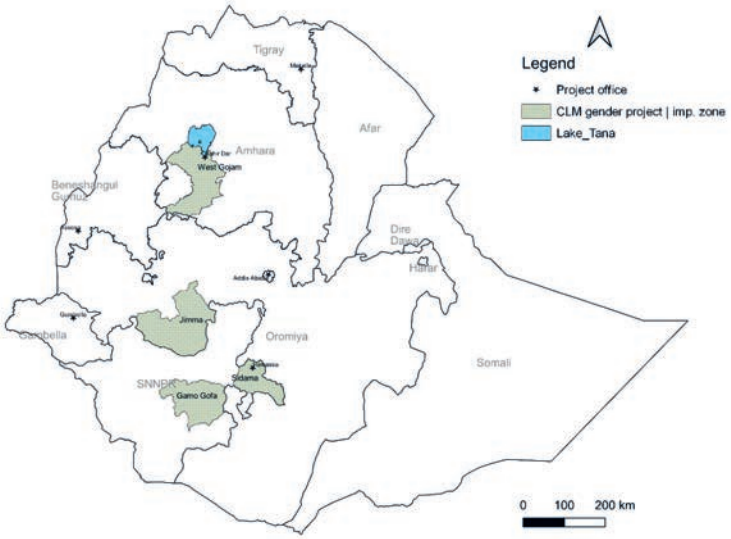

Map of the administrative regions where field research for "Women in Agriculture" is carried out.

RESEARCH

In 2021, John Markakis, John Young, and I published the book *The Nation State: A Wrong Model for the Horn of Africa* (Berlin: Edition Open Access[1]). This book benefited from earlier research in Kenya and Ethiopia, but above all from field research in Sudan, which I have carried out nearly annually between 1996 and 2020. In addition to contributions to co-authored chapters, I have a substantial chapter on "Borderlands and Transborder Processes in the Blue Nile Region" in this volume. The emergence of South Sudan as a separate state in 2011 and the civil war and general insecurity there since 2013 have had detrimental effects on the movements of pastoralists, but also led to interesting arrangements on the local level, like northern nomads paying 'taxes' to southern militias. The fact that many nomads were blocked from moving to the south led to increased competition for land on the northern side of the boundary, which often took on violent forms. Flooding of land because of the heightening of a hydro-electric dam and land grabbing by the ruling class under the dictatorship of Omar al Bashir, which only came to an end in 2019, did nothing to ease the situation. The revolution in 2019 led to a democratization process which was nipped in the bud and followed by another military regime. The economic situation is catastrophic.

Apart from brief visits to Kenya and Sudan and keeping up with events there through intermediaries, and desk work on material collected earlier, my major activity in the field of research was setting up the project "Women in Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Promoting Gender Equity within and by Agricultural Programs". The project, with nine researchers in four regions and me circulating between them, has a planned duration of 18 months with possible extension. It is financed by the German development organization GIZ (Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit) and administered by OSSREA (Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa).

The examples I use in the following text are drawn from the work of these researchers.

Gender is a very special dimension of collective identity. The discourse on women differs a great deal from the discourse on other collective identities, such as nations, ethnic groups, age categories, religious affiliations, corporate actors, political parties, and so forth.

Much of my earlier work was not on gender but on these other dimensions of social identification. And when gender came in, it was more often in relation to masculinity – assertive masculinity in the context of conflict and rivalry in particular. But in every analysis of a conflict I invariably first described the actors, individuals and groups, with their histories, their aims and their strategies, and then proceeded with their manifold interactions and changing alliances. It was like introducing the dramatis personae before proceeding with a theatre play. Seen against this background of (somewhat male-focused) conflict studies and political anthropology, it is surprising to see how often in the world of policymakers and development agents assumptions are made about what is good for women without asking them first.

States in the Global South have made commitments to report to supranational agencies like the African Union or the United Nations Development Program about the progress they have made towards reaching development goals. Gender equity is one of these development goals, and to measure progress towards it one needs indicators.

This form of communication (high level political aggregations like states being responsible to yet higher ones) directs the gaze of administrators and development agents upwards and outwards, and certainly diverts it from rural women and their highly localized life worlds.

As we wrote in our research proposal for this project:

"Indicators about progress related to gender equality in Ethiopia (and other countries) often do not tell much about rural women as they are taken from an urban setting. In order to formulate better indicators that really help to improve the situation of women in agriculture, more needs to be known about their life situation and aspirations. Success would need to be measured against the ambitions of both genders in life, but what women expect from their lives has often not been put on the record."

[1] https://pure.mpg.de/rest/items/item_3322107_2/component/file_3322745/content

The research teams in each region are as follows (from north to south):

Western Gojjam

Tirsit Sahledengle

Yohannes Yitbarek

Jimma

Lidia Assegid

Zera Alo

Sidama

Betel Begashaw

Sileshi Mengistu

Gamo

Emebet Demelash

Wengelawit Ayka

Desalech Daniel

As an example of an indicator that does not fully reflect the realities of women in rural and deep rural settings, one may look at the GII (Gender Inequality Index) of the UNDP: "GII is a composite metric of gender inequality using three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. A low GII value indicates low inequality between women and men, and vice-versa."[2] A key measurement of reproductive health is maternal mortality, which mainly depends on access (or lack thereof) to a modern hospital, and does not address differences between rural settings in which such hospitals are equally unavailable. Empowerment might be measured in terms of proportion of women in parliament, an institution about which rural women might have little knowledge or concern. As hard-working rural women have no formal employment, their life realities are not reflected by labour statistics either. Useful as this indicator might be for comparisons between nation-states, it hardly captures the differences between different local settings and ethnic cultures within rural Ethiopia.

Our research goes beyond such indicators 'from above'. We try to find out what rural women want to achieve in life. Put more generally: 'development' is about improving people's lives (for all genders); and in order to define the direction of progress towards improved lives, we first have to locate the aims and goals of the people concerned.

AIMS IN LIFE: METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

But how do we find out about our female interlocutors' aims in life? To ask them directly might cause embarrassment rather than yielding good answers. As a method to find out about what gives a sense and a purpose to the life of a woman, we have given priority to a softer method: the biographical interview.

A biographical interview typically starts with year and place of birth and some remarks about the parents and the social background and then continue with early childhood memories. The order of presentation is simply chronological. When the narrator stops, one does not need to pose a question, but simply encourages the interlocutor to continue by saying 'hm' or 'and then?' If one continues like this until the narrative reaches the present, it necessarily touches all important junctions in life: education, job, migration, the various stages marriage (potentially including its dissolution or widowhood), etc. The choice of topics and the space given to each topic follow the criteria of relevance for the woman who is talking about her life, not the categories of a questionnaire or the preconceptions of the interviewer.

Whether a given turn in life was good or bad and what would have been regarded as a success invariably shines through in such accounts.

An example from Desalech's research site in highland Gamo illustrates how ideas about what is a good life become clear during such conversations. Desalech's neighbour (pictured below) narrated in fluent Amharic (the official language and the school language, not the local one) that she had gone to school for ten years and then did not have enough points to continue to college. Although her account was purely factual and unemotional, a measure of disappointment was clearly evident. Instead she became a construction labourer in Addis Ababa. She said that that phase of her life was better than her present work as a farm wife. As carrying stones and cement on a construction site seems to be physically more demanding than most chores on a farm, the reasons for this preference may relate to life after working hours and urban amenities like electricity.

At Wengelawit's field site, her host told us that she had never gone to school but that all her children had, and one of them is now at college studying accounting. To enable her children to go to school, she had to take over work that would otherwise have been done by them. Rural versus urban living conditions seem to be an important consideration, and in line with a livelihood approach in a broader sense we should not focus exclusively on agricultural production and products. Other aspects of life may be just as relevant for understanding the hopes and aims of the women we study.

For this method it is recommended to let the narrative account flow and to interrupt as little as possible. In the unlikely case that the evaluation of events as good or bad does not become clear, one can later ask questions like "What was the most fortunate/unfortunate turn in your life?" Later in the interview, or coming back to it after listening to the sound recording, summarizing it, and transcribing the most illustrative parts which one might wish to quote, one can still ask the more specific questions one previously abstained from asking in order not to interrupt the flow of the autobiographic narrative. All specific questions can be asked at a later time.

Resuming a dialogue after an interruption often works surprisingly well. When interlocutors are sceptical or hesitant during the first conversation, one should not push too hard. Simply thanking the person, taking one's leave, and coming back some other time often helps a great deal. Just having been there before creates a lot of familiarity and may make the second visit very different from the first.

[2] https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII, accessed 25/02/2023

Desalech's neighbour

MALE AND FEMALE CROPS

One often finds a rough dichotomy between crops that are planted in the garden and those planted in the fields. This dichotomy roughly reflects that between those cultivated with a hoe and those cultivated with a plough, and those primarily serving the purpose of subsistence (household consumption) versus cash crops. The former element in each of the binaries tends to be associated with women, the latter with men.

THE WOMAN-ENSET-COW TRIANGLE

Enset (*Ensete ventricosum*), also called false banana, is an important subsistence crop in the southern highlands of Ethiopia; in our sample of regions this is represented by Sidama and Gamo.

Enset is planted in the immediate vicinity of the house, where one also finds the stable with one or two dairy cows and their calves, if they are not sold young. The enset plants require constant fertilization and the material used for this purpose mostly consists of cow dung, although the horse, mule or donkey dung (if part of the household's livestock) and kitchen offal also find their way into the compost.

Enset stems are used for the production of various staple foods. They are harvested, prepared, fermented, and ultimately cooked by women, while the banana-like long leaves are chopped into palatable pieces and fed to the cow. Everything related to the enset and the dairy cattle kept at the homestead – often just one cow – is the responsibility of the woman. Thus, there is a constant exchange of substances between the enset plants and the cow, mediated by the energy of the woman. There is also a flow of substance from both the cow and the enset to humans (the household members, and, if there is a surplus, customers at the market). These flows, too, are caused and directed by the woman, who does the milking and the marketing of milk and the preparation of enset-based food like *qocho*.

The triangular flow of energy and substances between enset, woman, and cow describes much of this production system but not all of it. The triangle is open to input from outside. Grass is also cut for the cow and straw from the fields tilled primarily by the husband. One woman we visited with Wengelawit also bought pellets or feed cubes for her cow. Proceeds from the sale of milk and enset products belong to the woman. As our research progresses, we will learn more about the level of separation between the budgets of husbands and wife and to what extent the household is, as some definitions have it, an income-sharing unit. But there is this notion of the wife's income, and it would be interesting to know whether monetary inputs into the described triangle, like the purchase of feed cubes, are to be covered exclusively by the wife.

THE ENCROACHMENT OF CASH CROPS

Coffee has long been an important cash crop in Sidama. It is typically grown by smallholders who sell it in a rather monopsonic arrangement to a large parastatal organization. Another cash crop is khat (*Catha edulis*; *qaad* in Somali), the leaves (and in some varieties the bark) of which are chewed as a 'mild stimulant' (as the common explanation has it), although the psycho-social and economic effects of its consumption can be quite severe.

These are valuable crops grown close to the homesteads, adjacent to the enset plants and the vegetable gardens. With the expansion of coffee and khat groves on limited land, 'male' cash crops intrude into the space of 'female' subsistence crops. This comes at the expense of food security, for a variety of reasons. One is possible fluctuations of the market

Enset leaves on their way to the market. The leaves on this donkey cart will no longer help the plants to grow, and their sale reduces food production.

prices for these products, another one the fact that men often make inadequate provisions for their families. 'Male' income is often spent on feasting in the company of other men and on raised standards of clothing.

(The often quite distinct male and female social spheres in African societies, already pointed out by Evans-Pritchard but not much studied since, need to be explored in this context. How are the ambitions and the performance of people shaped by the fact that they largely live in own-gender company and act in front of an own-gender audience? What are the bridges between these spheres? How does this combine with the general observation that the genders gender each other – that masculinity largely develops in response to female expectations and vice versa? Does the status of a woman in a female group reflect on her standing with men and vice versa? How about the different aspects of manhood? Is there a role conflict between being a good provider, an attractive mate, and a good chum? The questions raised by this perspective are myriad.)

Apart from competition for the same garden land, there is another way in which enset and khat interact. Enset leaves (like banana leaves in other places) are use to wrap the bundles of khat twigs. Khat dealers provide a market for them. Cutting some of the leaves slows down the growth of the enset trunk, the main source of food.

Another expanding cash crop, possibly affecting the power balance between the genders, is wheat. Like other grains, it is a typical government crop, storable, standardizable, and taxable. The war in Ukraine has greatly increased its market value.

KINSHIP NETWORKS AND SPLIT LAND RIGHTS

Biographical interview also include mentions of relatives – brothers and sisters, or affinal relatives like in-laws. This can be taken as an entry point for a more systematic record of kin relations.

When kin relations are recorded, for our purpose it is essential always to record full sibling sets. In the first ascending generation of the interlocutor, asking about all his father's siblings (or all siblings of her husband's father in the case of a woman) and their descendants reveals how many patrilineal uncles and first cousins he has who might be farmers in the neighbourhood because they all inherited a share of their father's land. Other brothers and sisters might have gone to town and taken up other jobs, but might still have claims on the land tilled by those who have remained farmers. For household economics and farm management it might be important to identify such people by placing them in the diagram, and recording their names and (approximate) years of birth. Later all kinds of questions about the relationship to them can be asked. If land rights are shared with non-farmers, they might demand payment in money or in kind, or they might contribute to maintaining a farm in times of stress. If they live in town, they might also be bridgeheads for later migration by others.

When a man dies, his land is divided among his heirs in equal proportions. In patrilineal inheritance, only men inherit. But this rule is no longer universally followed and female land ownership and its consequences are a topic of growing importance.

One of our researchers, a young woman whose father is not a farmer, told me that he has transferred his land rights to his daughters, who now have a claim in the land of some of their father's patrilineal relatives in accordance with modern law but in violation of the patrilineal mode of inheritance prescribed by tradition. (A woman, of course, also has a patrilineage and patrilineal relatives and therefore there can be patrilineal transmission to a woman, but if the good is then passed on to her children as would be the case with land, there will be a uterine link which interrupts the patrilineal chain.)

Another of our researchers, whose father is not a farmer either, told me that her father owns land (tilled by others) and that this land will be inherited by her brothers only.

Equal inheritance splits property into smaller and smaller units, and the innovation of letting not only sons but also daughters inherit land, laudable as it is in terms of gender justice, only accelerates this process. Do holdings and claims in land tilled by relatives just become smaller and smaller until they become insignificant and people forget about them, or is there some mechanism of consolidation? At the time of writing this is a question which still awaits clarification.

CONFLICT OF VALUES: UNIVERSALISM VERSUS LOCAL 'CULTURE'

Human rights, comprising equal rights for women, and cultural pluralism are both part of the discourse of policymakers, activists, and all those with a post-colonial or de-colonial agenda.

Human rights are universal values, sadly not empirically but on the normative level. Those who proclaim them want them to be universally applied. Others deny them this universal quality and denounce them as particular, namely 'Western'. Often this goes hand in hand with the exaltation of collectives, authoritarianism, and the proclamation of alternative forms of 'democracy'.

In the community of development agents and policymakers and broad sections of the public in liberal democracies, both 'gender equity' and 'cultural rights' have a positive ring. Contradictions between them tend to be brushed over. What if the representatives of local 'cultures', typically men of advanced age, deny women the right to hold property or to participate in the political arena?

In Ethiopia both gender equity and cultural rights have constitutional rank. Women have the same rights as men, and ethnic groups ('nations, nationalities, and peoples') are assumed to have contiguous territories in which they have special rights. What if a daughter insists on inheriting a piece of land and then with equal insistence marries a man from another ethnic group, with the consequence that in the next generation the land will be inherited by children who, according to patrilineal descent reckoning, are ethnic 'others'? No amount of eulogy on universal rights and cultural rights in the same breath can conceal the fact that there can be contradictions between the two and there may be hard choices to be made.

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Ambaye Ogato, former researcher in the Department 'Integration and Conflict' at this Institute and, in the framework of MaxNetAging, at the MPI for Demographic Research in Rostock, is now one of eleven members of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC), an independent federal body established by the House of People's Representatives (HoPR). This is a position at ministerial level. The commission is tasked with finding an institutional framework for Ethiopia's transition into a peaceful country.

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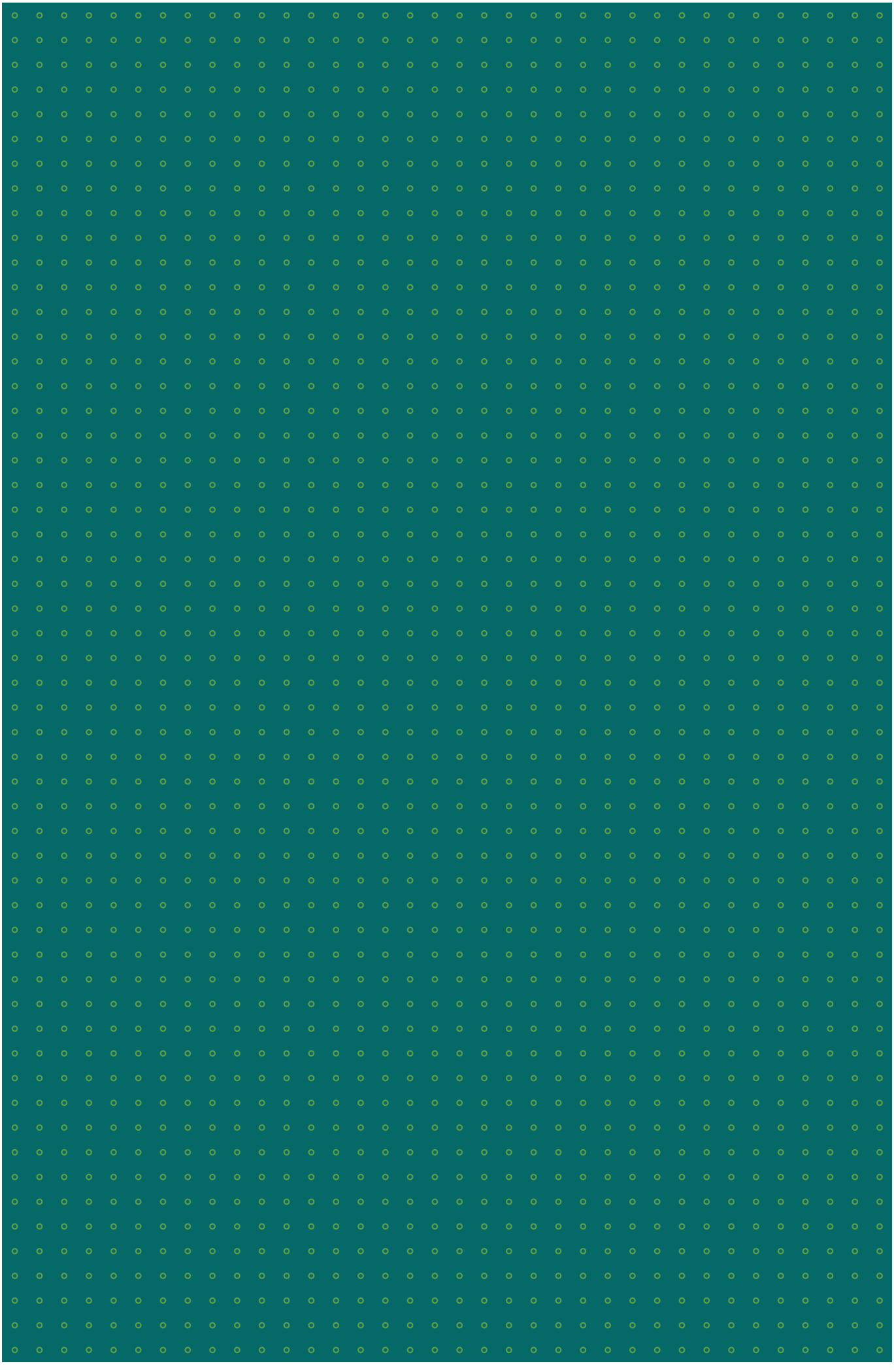

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

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REPORT OF THE MAX PLANCK FELLOW

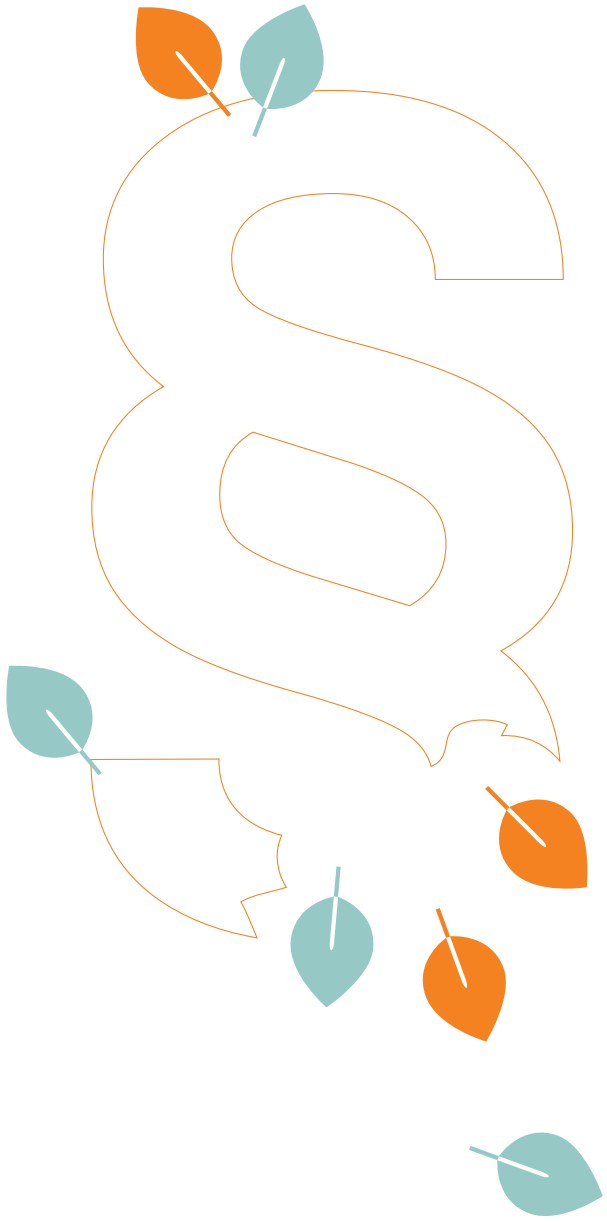
Max Planck Fellow: Dirk Hanschel

The research programme of the Max Planck Fellow Group 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context' (ERCC), founded in 2019, is located at the juncture of legal analysis and environmental anthropology and hence draws intensively on methods from anthropology, most notably ethnographic fieldwork. As such, it relies on close cooperation with scholars in the Department 'Law & Anthropology' and beyond. The project is designed to identify and understand normative beliefs and behaviours within local communities that are exposed in particular ways to environmental challenges such as climate change, extractivism, and large-scale infrastructure development. The driving research questions are: In addressing experiences of injustice, to what extent do people refer to state law which promotes environmental rights in their various facets, be it a right to a sound or healthy environment for individuals or groups, or rights of nature that put people in the position of trustees? Conversely, to what extent do they refer to completely different environmental norms that have their origins in local cultural traditions and customs?

During the reporting period of 2020–2022, the Max Plank Fellow Group was consolidated and started generating various research results. In spite of the pandemic, ERCC doctoral students were able to conduct extensive fieldwork in Ethiopia, Mongolia, Ecuador, Finland, Senegal, Guadeloupe, France, and other places. Their doctoral theses are now nearing completion. In addition to Max Planck Fellow Dirk Hanschel and doctoral students Abdulatif Kedir Idris, Bayar Dashpurev, Marie Courtoy, Jenny Garcia Ruales, and Jenni Viitala, the group has been supported by research partners Mario G. Aguilera Bravo and Yong Zhou, as well as by Viktoria Giehler-Zeng and now Sophie Schreyer who provide valuable secretarial support. Furthermore, Clara Geilen, Adelgard Lange, Amira Klute, Alessio Piccoli, and Valentin Tanczik have aided the group in various phases of the reporting period as student assistants. In addition, Maria Angelica Prada Uribe joined as a Climate Fellow funded by the Humboldt Foundation for one year in 2020/21. Whilst Idris and Dashpurev are resident scholars at the MPI, other members have affiliations with different research institutions, but are associated with the project, visit the Institute periodically, and contribute immensely through their individual perspectives. Aguilera Bravo joined the group for a time as a post-doctoral scholar. Together with Hanschel and post-doc researcher Annette Mehlhorn, he submitted a successful application for a €350,000 grant by the Volkswagen Foundation for a project on rights of nature in Ecuador and Columbia. Thanks to this grant, the group was able to welcome Mehlhorn for a period of two years.

This new project, which is embedded in the ERCC project, will focus on interpretations of rights of nature, as they place particular challenges upon constitutional courts in Ecuador and Columbia. The research will concentrate on the question how such rights of nature are interpreted or even construed by courts and how, in that process, judges engage with local perceptions of environmental justice. When deciding cases on the basis of such rights, judges have to perceive, absorb, understand, and digest local realities and they have to deal with norms whose origin may or may not be related to local, often indigenous notions of the human–nature relationship. For instance, when deciding a mining case, it will be incumbent upon judges to establish the facts, i.e. to understand how claimants are affected by such a development project. On a deeper level they may need to engage with perceptions of environmental injustice prevalent within a local community and how these perceptions can be captured by guarantees in the state law that may have (or claim to have) a relation to or be at completely odds with community notions.

The reporting period also saw the presentation of research findings in numerous publications and talks at conferences and workshops. The output and impact of the group was greatly nurtured by regular informal online meetings and talks by visiting scholars in a series of ERCC digital talks. Speakers



ranged from senior academics and seasoned human rights practitioners to early-career researchers, including doctoral candidates. To stay true to the ideal of interdisciplinarity, the speakers were chosen to include perspectives from both lawyers and anthropologists as well as other disciplines such as philosophy and political science. The empirical topics covered a wide range of countries and legal systems from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe. These and other engagements made it possible to refine and even to reshape certain aspects of the initial research concept, adding further layers of complexity that result from the intense exposure to concepts from environmental anthropology.

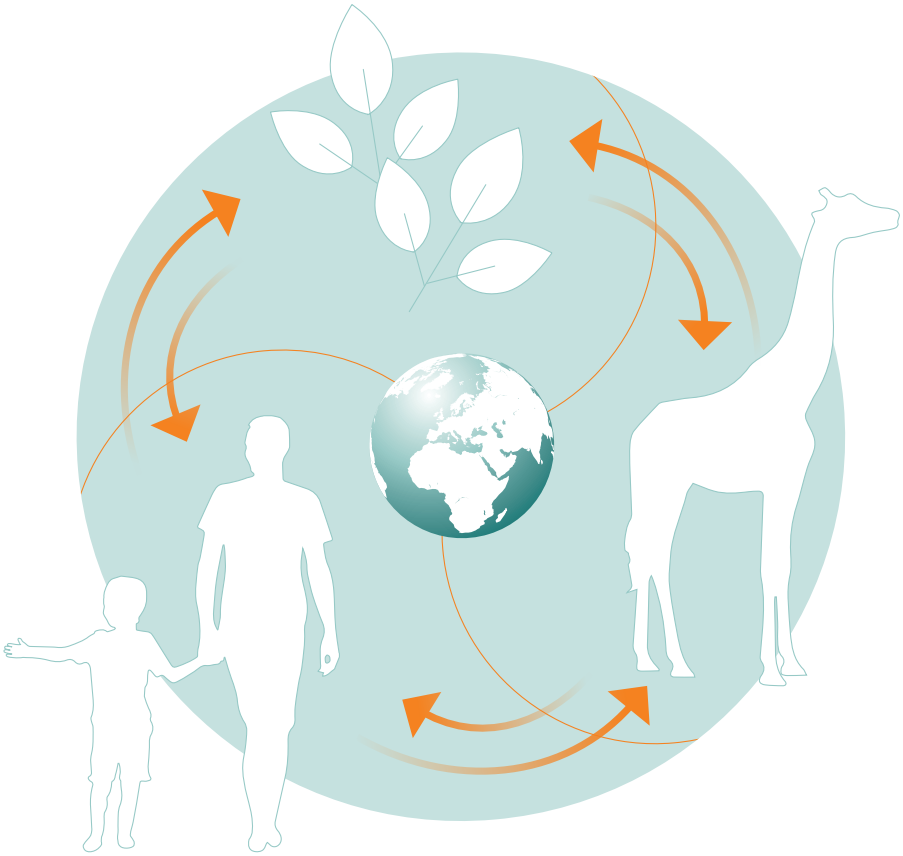
Publications during the period included book chapters, articles, and a forthcoming edited book in the field of environmental rights. Hanschel, Aguilera Bravo, Daspurev, and Idris outlined their findings in an article for a special issue on Law and Anthropology in the *German Law Journal* titled "Environmental Rights Between Constitutional Law and Local Context: Reflections on a Moving Target" (2022). This represents a key publication for the group as it provides critical perspectives on how environmental are used or not used in local contexts, revealing heavy discrepancies between local realities and legal promises by the state. Another highlight publication is the chapter "Environmental Justice" by Hanschel together with Elizabeth Steyn in *The Oxford Handbook on Law and Anthropology* (ed. Mark Goodale, Marie-Claire Foblets, Maria Sapignoli, and Olaf Zenker 2022). The authors outline fundamental thoughts of how notions of justice in relation to human-nature relationships and between different groups have developed and transformed historically and in different places. Hanschel further published the article "Climate-Caused Migration" in *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Constitutionalism* (ed. Javier Cremades and Cristina Hermida del Lano, 2022), which addresses the critical junction of migration and climate change and the role of various normative regimes related to it. Finally, Hanschel and Mehlhorn submitted a special report for the topic "Globalisation and Legal Pluralism – Rights of Nature" chaired by Daniel Eduardo Bonilla Maldonado and Ralph Michaels at the 2022 General Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law in Asunción, Paraguay, which provides a critical account of the proliferation of rights of nature ideas.

These publications show how diverse local views and articulations of environmental justice are and how they depend on specific manifestations of culture, traditions, material conditions of life, and cosmovisions, as well as individual preferences. Environmental rights as entrenched in many constitutions around the world may well correspond to those notions, but often this is not the case. In addition, constitutions often promise more than they can deliver, as remedies are often limited and court decisions not always implemented. At the same time, in light of increasingly wide-spread deterioration and destruction of our natural living space, environmental rights are increasingly demanded in the political sphere, whether at national or international levels. These political demands and resulting efforts of juridification may be well justified, as they generate important additional tools for necessary transformation and for protecting interests and needs of those who are most vulnerable. But one should be aware of all the other legal guarantees that already exist (and often not implemented effectively) and of the fact that the rights discourse as well as law as such can only afford a limited contribution to overcome the impasse that we are currently facing on many fronts. To be sure, one key aspect of progress is recalibrating the human-nature relationship and showing why environmental protection is not simply an onerous duty to be fulfilled, but some-

thing that may actually enhance our quality of life. That being said, we must not romanticize or forget that investing in a better environment is often not the first thing that comes to mind where people have to satisfy very fundamental short-term needs such as food, water, housing, etc. This means that while environmental rights can be a powerful instrument that may help to empower those who would otherwise not have a voice, they should not be considered a cure-all, detached from their political context, or distract from the actual living conditions and struggles of people who are most severely exposed to environmental degradation.

High-profile events of the ERCC group included a roundtable entitled "Environmental Rights in Cultural Context: Perspectives from Law and Anthropology" at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, held online due to the pandemic. Additionally, Aguilera Bravo presented a synopsis of themes and case studies researched by ERCC members and associates at the Max Planck Law Annual Conference in October of the same year. Both events were of high significance for promoting the project and establishing valuable contacts to expand the group's networks. In collaboration with colleagues from the Anthropology department at the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana in Ecuador, ERCC members conducted an online workshop on environmental rights and territory in Latin America, which is intended to lead to a book publication. At the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association in Lisbon, several ERCC group members delivered a presentation on the topic "Exploring Pluralistic Environmental Rights" during a panel on "Nature, Rights and the Law". Furthermore, Courtoy and Idris delivered a joint presentation entitled "Solidarity and Multiperspectivity in Law, Society and Legal Research" at the Max Plank Law Annual Conference in November 2022. Finally, Hanschel gave a talk at the renowned Human Rights Institute at University of Connecticut as a result of a three-year visiting professorship that he won on the basis of his Max Planck Fellowship.

In sum, the group used this time to advance its work substantially, based on fieldwork, training, academic exchange and discussion, leading to a number of prominent publications as well as manuscripts nearing completing. The period has furthermore served to develop the research agenda further, with a view to focusing increasingly on the full variety of local human-nature norms that include rights of nature, in particular by critically analysing relevant court decisions and their recourse to local realities. This will enable the group to carry the work into the future whilst continuing the research that it set out to undertake from the start.



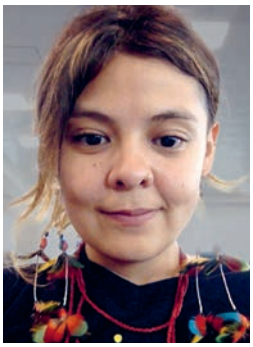
PROJECT MEMBERS

Dirk Hanschel is Professor of German, European, and International Public Law at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). At the MPI Halle, he leads the Max Planck Fellow Group 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context'. Hanschel is a member of the directorate of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies at MLU due to his engagement at the MPI. He has also used the Max Planck Fellowship to strengthen links in the field of teaching and supervision between the MPI and the Faculty of Law at MLU, e.g. by co-teaching undergraduate students and supervising as well as examining doctoral students. Since autumn 2021, he has held a visiting professorship, the Global Law Professorship, at the University of Connecticut, discussing topics of law and anthropology with colleagues such as Richard Wilson. Finally, he is now a member of the newly established International Max Planck Research School "Global Multiplicity: A Social Anthropology for the Now".

Abduletif Kedir Idris's doctoral project is provisionally titled "Who Gives a Dam: Contextualizing Environmental Rights to Participation and Information in Ethiopia". Although the Ethiopian Constitution guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment, local communities have not made recourse to these constitutional rights in connection with the increasing environmental challenges they are facing. This project attempts to understand why. The focus of the research is on how the construction of a dam that interrupts the natural flow of the Omo River affects an agro-pastoralist community – the Dassanech – whose way of life depends on access to the waters of the river. The three guiding questions are: 1) Are environmental rights sensitive to the specific sociocultural, legal, and political contexts in which they must operate? 2) What is the utility of environmental rights in ensuring the resilience of vulnerable communities, especially in comparison to alternative legal and political strategies? And 3), what factors inform the choice among different alternatives? He completed a total of seven months of ethnographic field work between September 2021 and May 2022 in Dassanech district and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Coming from an exclusively legal background, he was able to get acquainted with theories and methods in anthropology through various activities organized within the ERCC research group. He also benefited from guided reading sessions and short trainings on methods organized by the Department 'Law & Anthropology' before departing for fieldwork. Moreover, attending seminars, lectures, and workshops within the Department as well as the wider Institute were very valuable in both learning new ideas and networking with scholars.

Bayar Dashpurev's doctoral project is titled "Mining Environmental Rights in Mongolia: A Legal Ethnography". He investigates why there is a lack of cases claiming environmental rights from herding families and local communities in the vicinity of large-scale mining activities and associated developments in South Gobi, Mongolia.
South Gobi is home to the largest number of mining licenses and operations and it contains strategically important mineral deposits for the Mongolian state. In addition to the arid climate of the region, excessive mining and mining-associated developmental activities impose a heavy burden on the environment. Nevertheless, very few of the legal cases arising from these conflicts base their claims on environmental rights. Dashpurev presents three major ethnographic findings regarding environmental rights claim-making at the local level. The first is that environmental rights are often used to claim property interests. Second, South Gobi is a strategically important space that trumps environmental rights claims. Third, environmental rights language that formulates claims in terms such as healthy, safe, pollution-free, and balanced fails to encapsulate the ecological injustice experienced by local herders and communities.
The project uses the method of extended court-case-based research. After identifying cases that have used the language of environmental rights in South Gobi and Mongolia more generally, his fieldwork was primarily focused on tracing the actors, places, and governmental institutions involved in these cases. The fieldwork took place over five months at multiple sites. These include the Nariin Sukhait coal mining complex in the eastern part of South Gobi and the Oyu Tolgoi and Tavan Tolgoi mining sites in the western part, where the nation's largest coal and copper deposits are located. The goal is to understand how environmental rights as a legal concept fail to communicate, correspond, and be contested on a local level.

Jenny Viitala holds a master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Tampere, Finland and has also studied at the University of Texas at El Paso, USA. In her MA thesis, Viitala studied political agency and resistance against a gold mining project in rural Cajamarca, Peru. She has also conducted research on a housing dispute in London, UK, and on state funding of indigenous leadership in Palomino, Colombia. She is currently a doctoral researcher in social and cultural anthropology at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and an affiliated member of the ERCC group. Her doctoral project focuses on gold supply chains between Ecuador and Finland with an emphasis on the legal and moral responsibilities of European companies. In 2021–2022, she completed sixteen months of ethnographic fieldwork at a gold mining site in Los Encuentros, Ecuador, and at a metal smelting town in Harjavalta, Finland. She has mostly been a remote member of the group, but in July 2021, she was able to visit Halle for a month-long research visit that was partly funded by the MPI.



Jenny García Ruales is an Ecuadorian doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Marburg, an associate researcher in the ERCC group at the MPI, and a doctoral fellow of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. Her doctoral project is situated in the fields of environmental anthropology, anthropology of nature, and legal anthropology. Her goal is to contribute to the processes of pursuing an ecocentric legal system in the (Ecuadorian) Amazon and recognizing the rights of natural entities. To this end, she supports with her *quehacer antropológico* (anthropological doing) the legal proposal of the Kichwa People of Sarayaku in the Ecuadorian Amazon.
As an Ecuadorian anthropologist approaching the law, being part of the ERCC project has given her many lessons. One is *how to feel, speak, and "corazono"*[1] *about the law* woven in Amazonas, in which a living forest is the source of law. This means not considering the law as only a human affair. During her research, she has (un)learned *from* and *with* the Kichwa People of Sarayaku in the Ecuadorian Amazon and brought into dialogue the collective reflections in the spaces offered by the ERCC group. Furthermore, funding from the Heinrich Böll Foundation has allowed her to conduct several projects and create synergies. Such projects include working on an edited volume on applying the rights of nature to a European context and contributing to a symposium and book project "beyondbios". She experienced the pandemic as an opportunity to do a unique ethnography and experience the vulnerability and resilience of an Amazonian territory. She has written about this in blogs and articles, including a co-authored piece "Sharing Messages, Not Meals" in *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* (2022), that reflects on fieldwork possibilities in times of crisis when our interlocutors are part of the more-than-human realm.

With her work on climate change, **Marie Courtoy** is a member of the ERCC group as well as the Department 'Law & Anthropology'. Her profile can be found in the report for the Department under Associated PhD Candidates.

[1] This is a play on words from the Kitu Kara People in Ecuador and means "thinking with the heart".

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Max Planck Fellow Group 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context'

Gold Open Access = 🔓 *Green Open Access* = 🔓 *Hybrid Open Access* = 🔓

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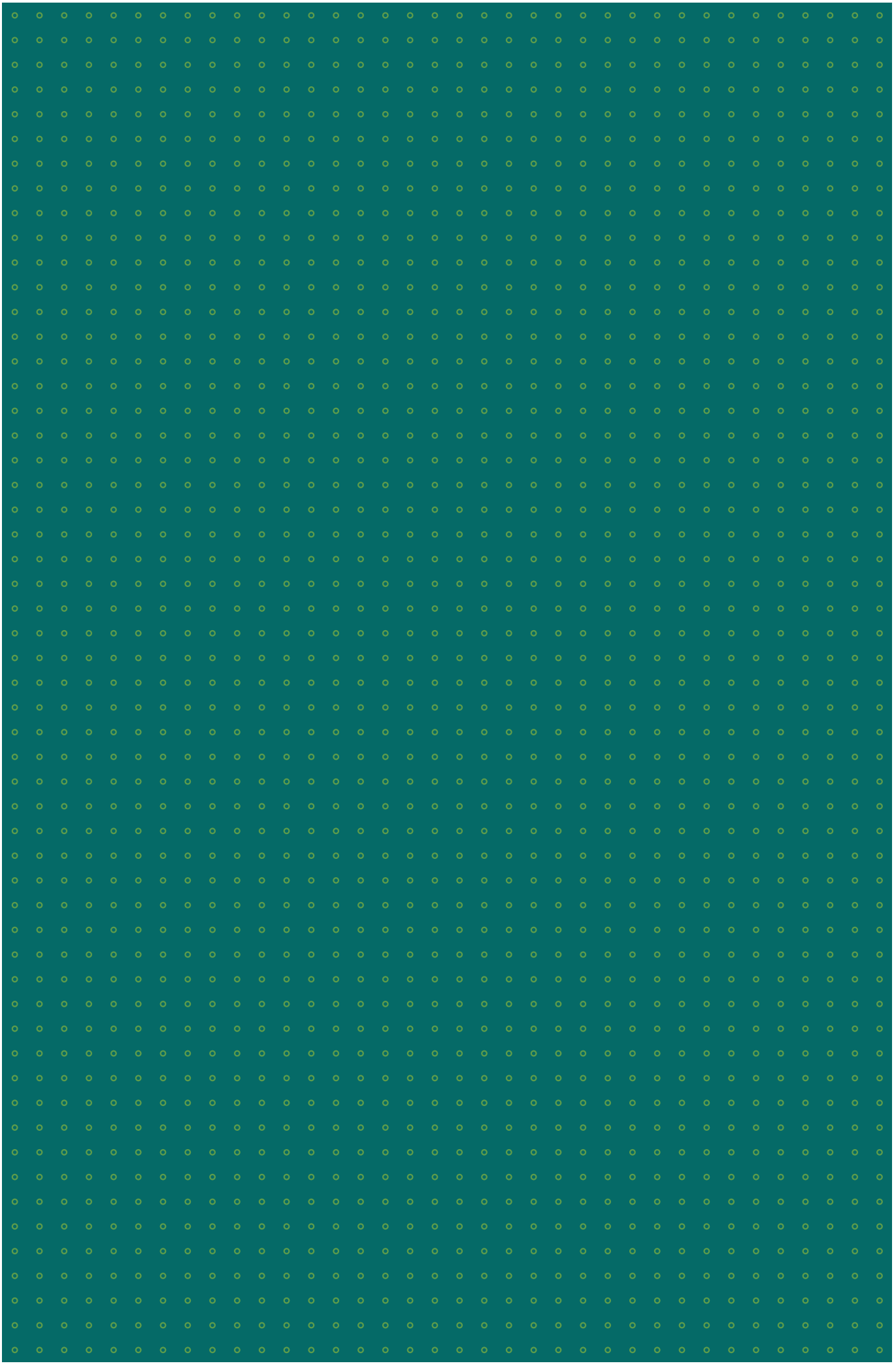

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HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Carolin Görzig

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

Michael Fürstenberg
Florian Köhler

RESEARCH FELLOW

Imad Alsoos

COMPLETED PHDS

Almakan Orozobekova (3/2020)
Regine Schwab (4/2021)

HOW ‘TERRORISTS’ LEARN

Carolin Görzig and Michael Fürstenberg

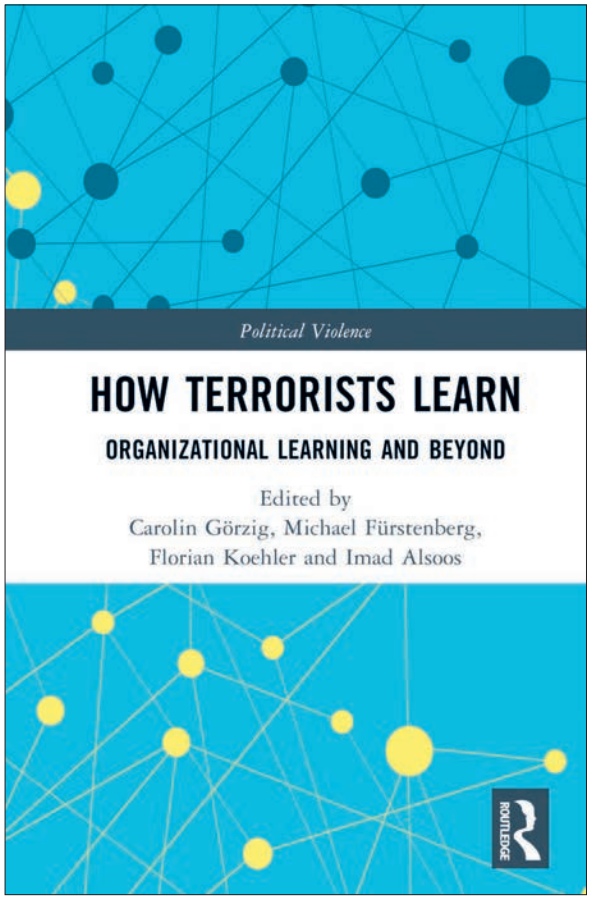
OPENING THE BLACK BOX OF TERRORISM

So-called terrorist groups are often treated as a sort of black box – visible only in the destruction they wreak, while the organizational practices that shape their actions often remain unexamined and seemingly incomprehensible. This especially includes the ways in which they digest, understand, and make use of experiences and information – in other words, how they learn. Much like the term “terrorism”, there is no single clear definition of “learning”, but very broadly it can be understood as the acquisition and processing of knowledge to improve behaviour in the future. The Research Group ‘How “Terrorists” Learn’ has been dedicated since its beginnings in 2015 to exploring this question. The reporting period saw the completion of dissertations by the doctoral students and a funding extension that allowed three postdocs and the head of the group to continue their work. As part of wrapping up the group’s research activities and synthesizing the findings of the previous years, one major activity during this time was the preparation of an edited volume titled *How Terrorists Learn: Organizational Learning and Beyond*, which will be published by Routledge in 2023 and contains, in addition to collaborative works by group members, contributions from authors from six different countries. The following discussion outlines some of the main conclusions discussed in the book as representative of the activities of the Research Group during this period.

The volume addresses the group’s main research questions about various forms of terrorist learning and argues for a nuanced and sober view of the phenomenon, which is often treated with a certain bias in the literature. While learning is commonly seen as positive, in the case of terrorists it is often either argued in a normative sense that they do not learn at all, or that their learning is purely destructive – accordingly, terrorist learning is rarely regarded as a remarkable phenomenon in its own right but often reduced to the concrete threats it may produce. Thus, more complex questions about variations in learning between and within terrorist groups and wider networks, different kinds and mechanisms of learning, and the ability of terrorist organizations to also learn on deeper levels and reflect on their approaches, are often missed. As the work of this group shows, however, terrorist groups and collectives can be analysed just like other types of organizations (both violent and non-violent ones).

By arguing for such a de-exceptionalization of terrorists, we do not deny that terrorist groups have a number of characteristics that distinguish them from other types of groups – we merely argue that these particularities do not make them fundamentally different. Thus, theories of organizational learning from other contexts can be applied to terrorist groups, albeit with certain modifications due to their secretive and violent nature. For example, one central aspect that is often defined as a prerequisite for successful organizational learning is openness and flexibility. Terrorist groups, however, are often governed by uncompromising and rigid radical ideologies. Moreover, their situation is usually not conducive to openness because they operate clandestinely and underground. This limits free exchange with the outside and encourages sticking to tried-and-tested opinions and solutions. Moreover, the need to maintain secrecy and avoid detection by security forces puts restraints on the ability of terrorist structures to organize and communicate, making it harder to exchange information. And yet, some terrorist organizations have managed to survive for decades despite all obstacles, clearly indicating an ability to learn and adapt.

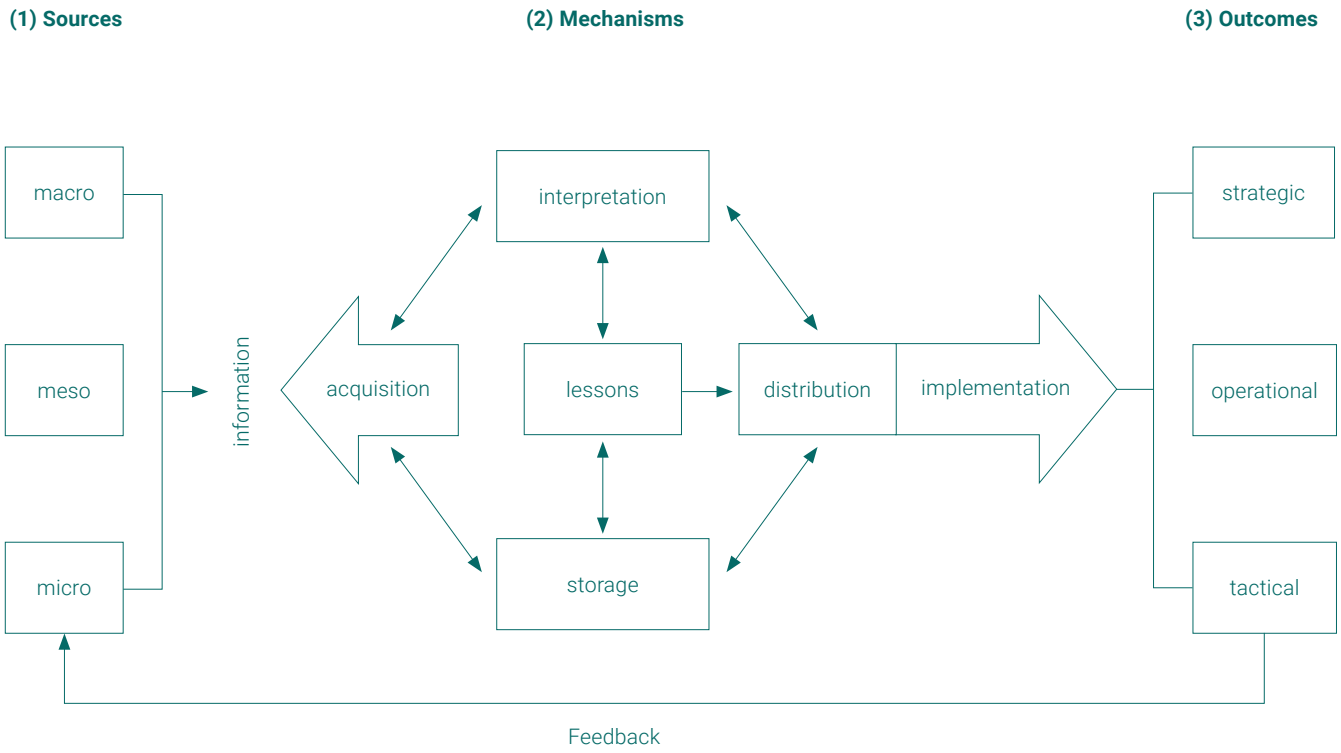
In order to understand the factors that influence these multifaceted processes and the different ways organizations deal with the issues described above, it is necessary to take a look at the inner life of terrorist organizations. Important group-internal factors include the way it is structured (as a hierarchical organization, a network of groups, or even completely decentralized), the relation between the core group and its follower base, the role of personality



traits of the leaders, potential leadership challenges, and ideology. However, analyses that focus only on the internal level run the risk of examining the organization in isolation from its environment. The learning of terrorist groups does not take place in a vacuum, but in dynamic and often hostile situations. Development and learning processes are thus fundamentally influenced by complex interactions between internal organizational dynamics and external circumstances and relationships, both adversarial and cooperative. Therefore, the learning of terrorist groups has to be contextualized by examining both endogenous motivations and capabilities and exogenous conditions and influences for change. The contributions to the edited volume consider this empirical complexity and look in detail at the actual subjects and mechanisms of learning.

A COMPARATIVE, HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE

Looking at learning processes in this way means going beyond focusing on tactical changes and innovations or the use and spread of particular skills and technologies. It means taking into consideration the whole spectrum of processes of learning, the strategic evolution of violent organizations, including internal debates, and the construction of knowledge in interaction and exchange with an environment of partners, supporters, competitors, and enemies. The contributions in the edited volume draw on empirical research on terrorist actors from several continents and a variety of ideological backgrounds, analysing different aspects of the learning process, from the transfer of knowledge via recruitment of members with experience in military or criminal organizations to the adaptation of overall strategies to the changing realities of the environment. They go beyond a singular focus on organizations and consider the wider networks of groups and decentralized collectives. The authors look at the phenomenon from different angles and from different disciplinary backgrounds, revealing the surprising variety of ways in which terrorist groups and movements seek to gain and spread knowledge, adapt, and improve. There are important lessons that can be drawn from this: for example, a renewed argument for the applicability of the analytical toolkit of organizational learning to investigate learning processes in violent organizations, while at the same time recognizing the need to broaden the focus on wider collective dimensions. Looking at the cognitive dimensions of learning and tracing internal processes of interpretation and debates also helps gain a more differentiated picture of terrorism. Investigating the learning of terrorist groups in such a holistic manner opens up possibilities for alternative modes of understanding, and eventually responding to, terrorism. It allows for re-politicizing conflicts and broadening the perspective beyond a narrow focus on kinetic counter-terrorism. For example, depriving militant organizations of certain sets of skills could be as important as feeding them information and positive incentives. The potential of terrorist groups to question their strategic and violent approaches also calls into question the main argument driving the no-concessions doctrine, namely that states should not negotiate with terrorists because this only encourages more violence.



Conceptual Framework of the Learning Process

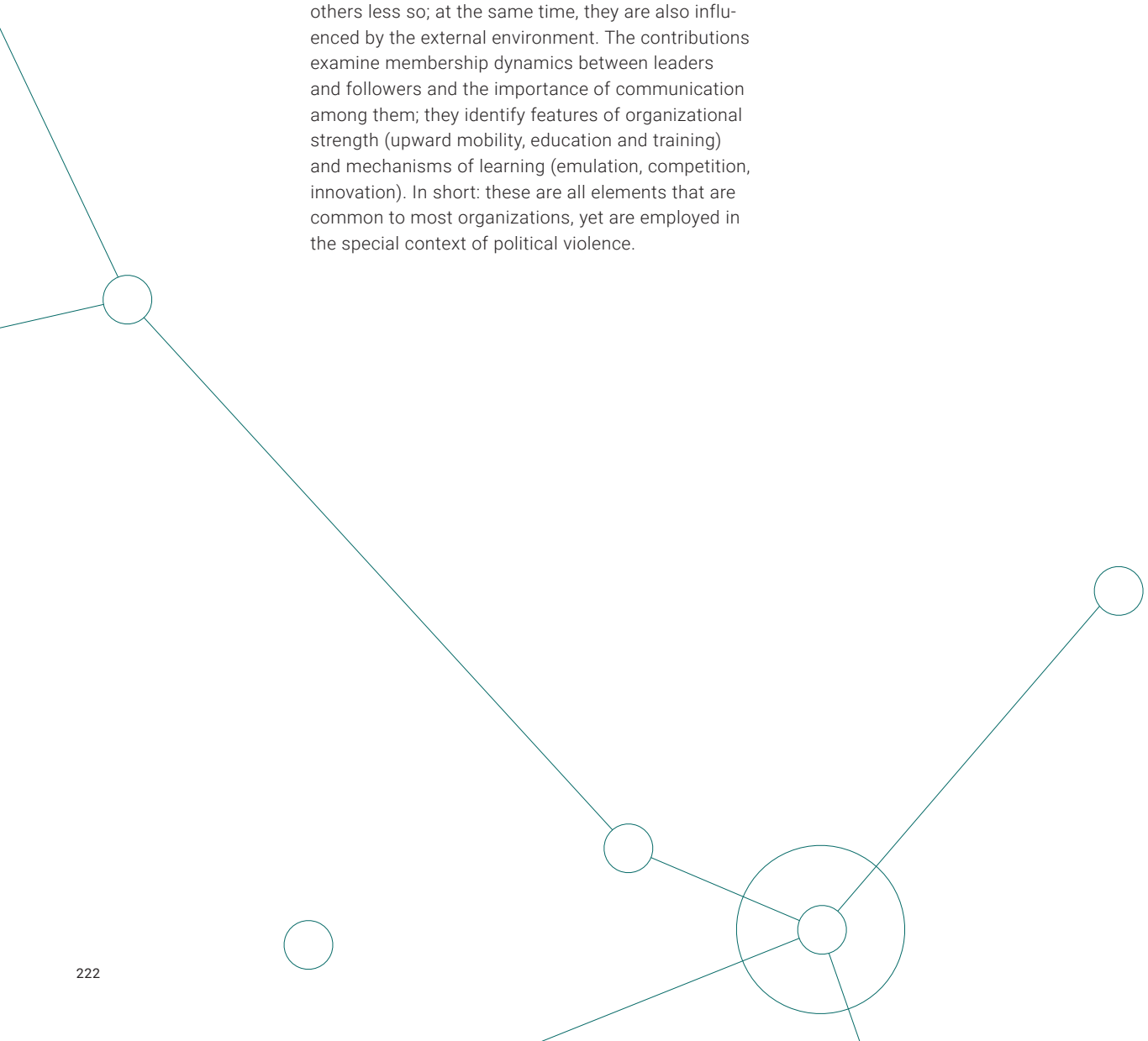
UNDERSTANDING THE DIMENSIONS OF LEARNING

The Research Group argues that it is crucial to study learning processes of terrorist organizations in a comprehensive way. To this end, the contributions to the volume cover internal and external aspects of the entire learning process, from the acquisition of information to its interpretation and conversion to (collective) knowledge to the actual implementation of changes in a variety of areas. Drawing on existing literature and the field research of the group members, the book presents a refined conceptual framework that considers terrorist learning as consisting of three interrelated dimensions, covering 1) the sources (from what or whom do they learn?), 2) mechanisms (in what ways do they learn?), and 3) outcomes of learning (what do they learn?). Concerning the first dimension, organizations can capitalize on their own experiences, be they successes or failures (micro-level), as well as those of other non-state actors (meso-level). Additionally, information can be gleaned from the historical and geopolitical environment and in particular through adverse, or sometimes friendly, relationships with states (macro-level). Importantly, information on all levels does not just passively 'flow in' but is actively sought out by organizations. The second dimension interacts with the first insofar as potential knowledge resources are already shaped by internal dynamics and established routines of learning – for example, when groups ignore available data for ideological reasons. Information is converted into knowledge in processes of interpretation, in which input is assessed against standards based on competition and emulation. For example, organizations have to rigorously analyse their own mistakes as well as those of others, and they aim to emulate past successes, both their own and those of "role models" – in other words, they change what does not work and keep or adopt what does. As in all collective endeavours, such processes are not easy and often entangled with power struggles and conflicting perceptions and interests within both the leadership and the follower base, and between these two. Once identified, lessons have to be disseminated among members and supporters and stored in organizational memory, which is not an easy task given such groups' requirement for secrecy. Whether learning in the sense of the construction of knowledge has a discernible impact ultimately depends on the third dimension, the actual implementation of lessons, both inside the group and in relation to the environment. In this sense, it is important to distinguish between learning that has taken place in the organization (for example among a certain group of members) from learning of the organization (which implies that lessons are actually applied and become tangible for the collective as a whole). On the tactical level, improvements address the concrete *means* of the struggle, be it techniques of bomb construction or plans for armed assault or propaganda operations. The strategic level, by contrast, is concerned with the *ends* of the fight; it includes shifts in doctrine or the overall objectives of the campaign, and

potentially the complete abandonment of terrorism or violence in general. The operational level bridges these aspects and is concerned with matters such as the organizational structure or propaganda activities of the group, which have to be adapted according to the tactical and strategic focus. This dimension of learning outcomes then relates back to the first dimension in a feedback loop, as changed cognitions and behaviours in connection with the reactions of the environment lead to new information on what we call the micro-level.

This model serves as a heuristic framework for the book, within which a variety of different theories and conceptual approaches are used to study the empirical reality of different aspects of learning. The contributors address the guiding question in different ways, but they all deal with the complexities of the internal and external context of terrorist learning. Through qualitative and quantitative research, they manage to look inside the black box and gain insights into a range of learning processes of various militant groups and movements. The case studies discover organized collectives that have their own particular internal structures and mechanisms of decision-making, some highly hierarchical, others less so; at the same time, they are also influenced by the external environment. The contributions examine membership dynamics between leaders and followers and the importance of communication among them; they identify features of organizational strength (upward mobility, education and training) and mechanisms of learning (emulation, competition, innovation). In short: these are all elements that are common to most organizations, yet are employed in the special context of political violence.

While the work of the Research Group during the last three years was hence characterized by a broader, comparative look at the phenomenon of terrorism, members also expanded upon their previous research. Thus, their work increasingly focused on right-wing terrorism as well as non-organizational learning exemplified by a network or generational approach. From the beginning, the research framework of 'How "Terrorists" Learn' was always concerned with understanding current societal challenges; thus, members increasingly turned their attention to issues like right-wing extremism. Looking ahead, there are a multitude of avenues for future research, for example in the context of the war in Ukraine.



ACTIVITIES 2020–2022 OF **RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS**

Carolin Görzig

As Head of Research Group, an important part of Carolin Görzig's work during the last three years was organizing the comparative analysis of the different forms of terrorism and different regions of field research of the team members in order to disseminate the research findings gathered since the group's inception.

On major project was editing the volume titled *How Terrorists Learn*. The volume adopts a comprehensive view on the learning processes of terrorist groups. It analyses not only the evolution of actual violent behaviour, but also strategic deliberations and the domain of internal and external communication. The book assembles contributions by international scholars from different academic disciplines. The variety of their methodological approaches ranges from quantitative data to the analysis of primary sources such as field interviews and official documents. Görzig and her co-editors Michael Fürstenberg, Florian Köhler, and Imad Alsoos finalized the volume during the reporting period; it will be published by Routledge in 2023.

In addition, Görzig published contributions to publications by the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, the European Institute for Counter Terrorism and Conflict Prevention, *Journal of Muslim Minority Studies*, and *Perspectives on Terrorism*; she also gave several presentations online and offline. These included a lecture on alternative facts and science for Kiel University and participation in the roundtable "A Dialogue with Max Planck: Truth – What Can Still Be Believed?" She also continued her commitment to public outreach, appearing in several interviews with magazines, newspapers, and radio and TV stations.

Michael Fürstenberg

In his project, Michael Fürstenberg studied the collective learning of right-wing extremists, specifically a subset he refers to as "militant accelerationists". This movement is embedded in global networks and acts within a strategic framework aimed at revolution and targeting the liberal order. Ideologically combining antisemitism, racism, and anti-feminism/anti-LGBTQI, adherents see modern societies as degenerate and weak, with the only solution being a violent collapse that they attempt to accelerate with terrorist attacks designed to polarize and destabilize. In contrast to Islamist terrorism, which at least in principle has central authorities, those extremists are almost entirely decentralized and lack formal leadership structures. Terrorist attacks are committed by individuals who act on their own but are integrated in a conscious and strategic collective structure that is based on the internet. For example, the terrorist who attacked the synagogue and a kebab shop in Halle in October 2019 identified with this transnational community and situated his act deliberately as part of a series of attacks in the past decade.

The project analysed the interactive processes that connect and shape the decentralized and heterogeneous online milieu of extremists into more than the sum of its parts, forming a structure which facilitates a certain degree of cohesion, strategic agency, and learning. Drawing on theoretical models of collective learning outside formal organizations, Fürstenberg conceptualized militant accelerationists as a community of practice engaged in generating propaganda and acts of death and destruction. Using documents produced by this community, such as terrorist manifestos and propaganda publications, and publicly accessible online communication on forums like 4chan or Telegram-channels, he traced how collective knowledge is constructed, framed, and disseminated.

Florian Köhler

In the framework of the Research Group's joint focus on terrorist learning, Florian Köhler investigated internal processes in Boko Haram from an organizational learning perspective. Mainly based on the analysis of primary source material in the form of published and leaked messages from Boko Haram members and leaders that document internal controversies about ideological justifications of violence as well as strategic deliberations, his research traces

the reflections behind processes of internal differentiation that finally led to the fragmentation of the movement. Applying a comparative lens, he further examined the results in relation to similar processes in other terrorist groups and movements to identify generalizable mechanisms.
Beyond this comparative work, Köhler is also interested in interactions between local rural populations in Eastern Niger and the jihadist armed groups Boko Haram and ISWAP. These violent groups' choice of the Lake Chad region as a base of operations has created a dilemma for the local populations: since avoiding the occupied areas would mean losing access to crucial economic resources, some inhabitants choose to enter into risky agreements with the militants. Where the state cannot guarantee safety and economic survival, dangerous alliances with questionable non-state actors often appear as the lesser necessary evil. In the eyes of the state, however, herders and other rural residents who allow themselves to engage in any form of interaction with non-state militants are considered 'terrorists' themselves and are treated accordingly.
Starting in 2022, Köhler has extended this thematic focus through a scientific cooperation with a researcher from Benin as part of a Volkswagen Senior Fellowship. The research, which looks at how Fulbe youth navigate uncertainties, involves field research in northern Benin.

Imad Alsoos
Imad Alsoos's research focuses on the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Basque leftist-nationalist movement (ETA). In the case of ETA, his work highlights the role of organizational factors to explain the rise and the fall of Basque group. He argues that the way the movement organizes relations of power can explain its continuity as much as its demise. Hamas, by contrast, has more stable relations of authority. To explain this, Alsoos examines Hamas's internal structures, formation of human capital, and local organs of mobilization. Alsoos also examines how Hamas adapts its ideological discourse to changing realities to meet mobilization demands. This study of Hamas's organisation and discourse explains the group's continuity and public outreach, mainly its electoral victories and ascendance to office. Alsoos further explores Hamas governments in the occupied Palestine between 2006 and 2007 and the internal and external reasons for their failures. Between 2020 and 2022, Alsoos published three peer-reviewed articles in *Mediterranean Politics*, *Middle East Studies*, and *Siyasat Arabiya*. In addition, he also published two book chapters, a book review, and newspaper essays on Hamas and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
The reporting period also saw the completion of a first draft of his book manuscript, *Hamas in the Opposition and in Office: Organisation, Governance and Discourse*. This study explains how in recent times Muslim Brotherhood groups such as Hamas have shown a remarkable ability not only to reconstitute themselves after periods of repression, but also to leverage their organizational comebacks into subsequent electoral victories and ascend to office – especially in the context of the Arab Spring. Hamas in Gaza constitutes a unique case to the extent that it not only continued to exist once it gained political office, but also built a completely new administration (except for the health sector). The manuscript explains how Hamas translates its organizational structures and human capital into the state administration and forms of local governance that facilitated its rule of Gaza since 2007 in a highly volatile environment. The book also examines the challenges Hamas has faced in the opposition and in office and how it mitigated the impact of these challenges.

Regine Schwab
In early 2020 Regine Schwab finalized and successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on the dynamics of interaction between armed opposition groups in the Syrian civil war. Multiparty civil wars are often portrayed as zones of anarchy in which numerous actors with different loyalties and goals battle each other. At first sight, this seems to eminently apply to the Syrian civil war, which has been one of the worst internal wars of the twenty-first century: some reports speak of more than 1,000 opposition groups that have been supported by an array of competing foreign sponsors.
In contrast to the common view of this conflict, Schwab found that various forms of cooperation between insurgent groups were not only ubiquitous, but in some cases even surprisingly long-term and stable. Rather than to the Hobbesian scenario of constant fighting, shifting alliances, and fragmentation, this led to an overall process of defragmentation, recurrence of alliances between the same core actors, and centralization.
How do groups manage to cooperate under such circumstances? And once they have established cooperative relationships, how do they prevent them from violently disintegrating? In her dissertation, Schwab developed a new typology of insurgent relationships in multiparty civil wars, and traces the emergence, stabilization, and eventual breakdown or transformation of three distinct relationships, namely alignment, alliance, and partnership. Each is characterized by distinct patterns of interaction (cooperation, conflict, conflict management) and potentials for transformation and disintegration. The study relies on the triangulation of various sources of data: primary-source written documents are complemented by over 80 interviews conducted with participants in the Syrian insurgency and data on local ceasefire and peace agreements that rebel groups concluded with each other. It also uses data compiled about important military operations in the Syrian civil war since 2011 in which Jabhat al-Nusra, ISIS, and other prominent groups were involved.

Almakan Orozobekova

In March 2020 Almakan Orozobekova defended her doctoral dissertation "The Making of Foreign Fighters: The Case of Kyrgyzstan" at the University of Freiburg, receiving the degree Magna Cum Laude. Recruitment of foreign fighters has been crucial to the survival and development of Islamist militant groups, as can be seen from the exponential upsurge in recruitment since the beginning of the twenty-first century. Using interviews with returnees, families and relatives of fighters, and local experts in Kyrgyzstan, Orozobekova examined the networks, methods, and motivations of recruitment to conflict zones in Syria and Iraq. Important factors were labour migration, kinship and family ties, and religious arguments. After completion of her dissertation, Orozobekova continued her membership with the MPI as an associated researcher. In 2020 and 2021, she revised her dissertation for publication with the University of Freiburg. During this period, she also wrote a book chapter "Women Joining Violent Islamist Non-State Actors in Syria and Iraq: The Case of Central Asia" for the volume *From Territorial Defeat to Global ISIS: Lessons Learned* (NATO Science for Peace and Security Series, IOS Press, 2021). From January to May 2022, she worked as a monitoring officer for the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and in January 2022, she completed the OSCE's Hostile Environment Awareness Training programme in Vienna. From September 2022 to January 2023, Orozobekova joined the Research Division of the NATO Defense College (NDC) in Rome as a Fellow. While with the NDC, she conducted research on the security problems in Afghanistan, regional/international security risks posed from Afghanistan, and the potential for cooperation between the Central Asian countries and NATO to mitigate those risks.

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Max Planck Research Group 'How 'Terrorists' Learn'

Gold Open Access = 🔓 *Green Open Access* = 🔓 *Hybrid Open Access* = 🔓

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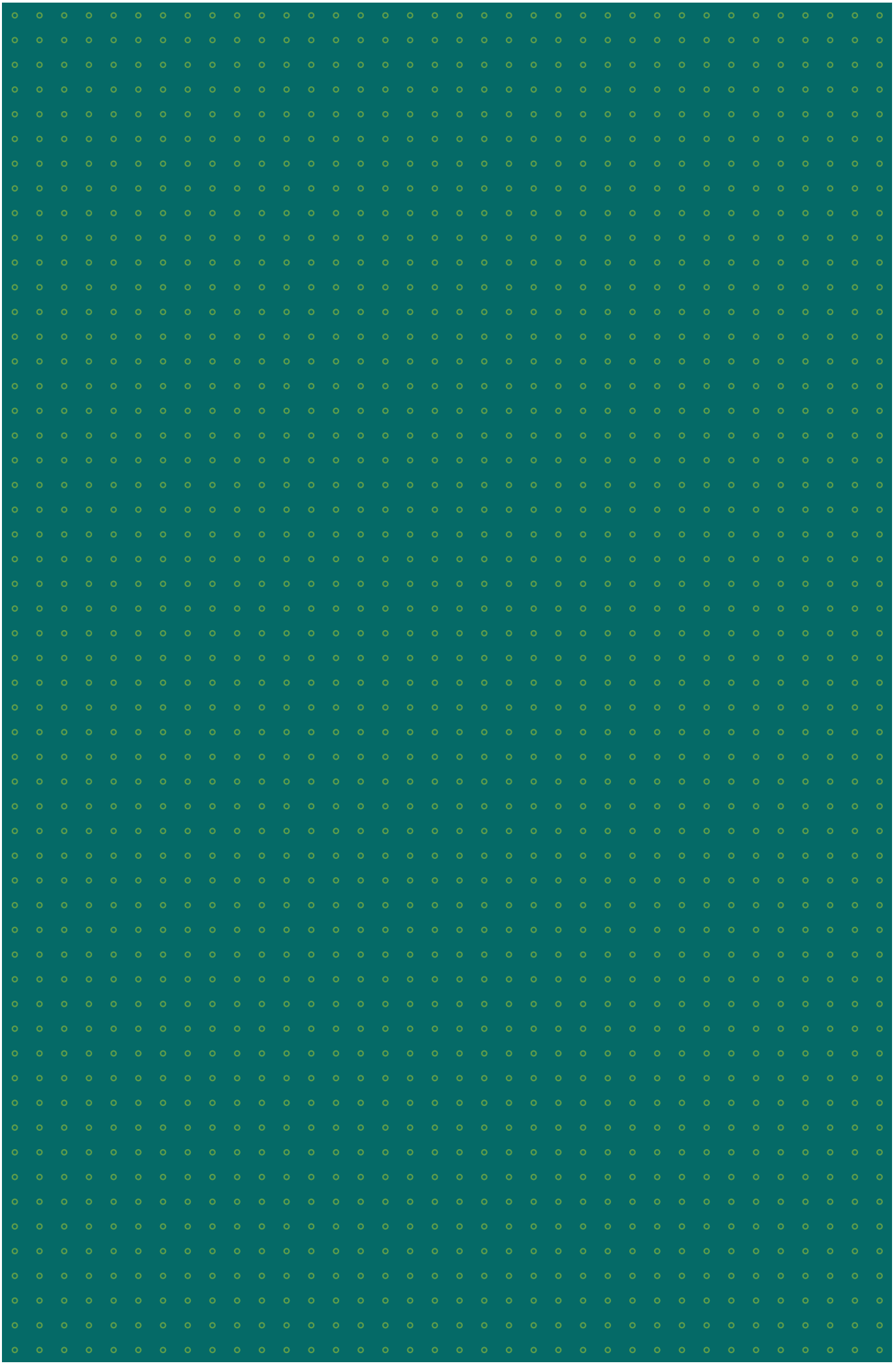

MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP ‘ALPINE HISTORIES OF GLOBAL CHANGE’

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Annika Lems (until 12/2022)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Danaé Leitenberg (since 12/2021)
Christine Moderbacher (since 6/2019)
Paul Reade (4/2020 – 9/2022)
Markus Wurzer (since 11/2020)

ALPINE HISTORIES OF GLOBAL CHANGE

Annika Lems

INTRODUCTION: TRACING THE SOCIO-CULTURAL GENEALOGIES OF ANTI-COSMOPOLITAN PRACTICES

Over the past decade, Europe has faced a multitude of transformation processes which have initiated seismic socio-political shifts. Refugee movements, the global COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, escalating costs of living, extreme weather events, and the climate crisis have contributed to the increased spread of a sense of political unease. Affecting an ever-growing number of people in Europe and across the world, this unease often translates into deeply antagonistic engagements with values and ideas that have long formed the pillars of liberal democratic societies. From the UK's Brexit to Orban's illiberal Hungary or the German anti-COVID protests – Europe is marked by political divides that make conversations across ideological boundaries increasingly difficult. Scholars have mainly tried to make sense of these processes of societal fragmentation by connecting them to the social and economic uncertainties that are the result of an accelerated and aggressive form of global capitalism and to the political mobilization of these anxieties by right-wing populist parties. Yet, as important as these political analyses are, they often fail to address the underlying social dynamics propelling this sense of unease in the everyday.

What are the social and historical conditions that create a breeding ground for societal fissions? How do people living in one and the same country, city, or village and who have long shared basic common grounds become estranged from one another to the point that they can no longer envisage a shared space of belonging? How does this sense of alienation, of losing one's place in the world, emerge? Or, asked differently: How do people attempt to create a sense of belonging in a world of accelerated change and uncertainty?

These are some of the core conundrums the Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change' engages with. By focusing on everyday life in mountain communities in the Swiss, Italian, and Austrian Alps, the group explores the social and historical dynamics underlying antagonistic place-making practices. The communities where the four interrelated research projects are located occupy an ambiguous position within Europe's political makeup. On the one hand, they are characterized by long histories of cross-border movements and cultural exchange; on the other hand, they have long been the heartlands of anti-cosmopolitan political movements. Throughout the centuries the region has interchangeably been depicted as Europe's rural, backward periphery or as the last locus of authentic values and traditions. It has been marked by fractious relationships with urban centres of power and a historically engrained opposition to the decisions being ordered from "above". By taking these ambiguities as points of departure, the Research Group can make important observations about the consequences of histories of belittling, looking down on, or simply forgetting rural communities in political decision-making, and the sedimented anti-cosmopolitan practices the inhabitants of these regions have developed in response. Based on the collaboration between three social anthropologists and a historian, the group is particularly interested in tracing the sociocultural genealogy of exclusionary ideas of belonging to place.

Understanding contemporary appearances of exclusionary placemaking in their specific local and socio-historical contexts is important, as it makes it possible to move beyond dominant portrayals of the success of nativist movements as "unexpected" or "out of the blue". To examine how people expressing anti-cosmopolitan sentiments experience and make sense of notions such as tradition, belonging, and estrangement – themes right-wing parties have successfully turned into their main concerns – the Research Group has a focus on local, everyday engagements with history and the past. Through in-depth empirical studies based on the experiences and perspectives of people living in mountain villages

at the crossroads of Europe, the group aims to make sense of the often-contradictory ways people try to create a sense of temporal continuity and place attachment in an era of accelerated global change. While ethnographic fieldwork turns the spotlight onto the micro-dynamics of social and political co-existence, historical approaches help to zoom out again and embed these everyday dynamics in wider processes of societal transformation.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

'Alpine Histories of Global Change' was established in April 2019. It is headed by Annika Lems and currently employs three postdoctoral researchers: anthropologist Christine Moderbacher, who joined the group in 2019, historian Markus Wurzer, who joined in 2020, and anthropologist Danaé Leitenberg, who joined in 2021. Between 2020 and mid-2022, the team was complemented by the anthropologist and trained photographer Paul Reade, who assisted the group in its visual and public outreach endeavours. Given the societal importance of their research, the group members established early on that they wanted to explore visual and storytelling methods that would allow them to also communicate their work to non-academic audiences. This creative focus has been an important shared theme and has translated into a range of exhibitions, film projects, and public engagement activities. This included guided walking tours for students through Italy's fascist and colonial history (organized by Wurzer), film screenings followed by discussions engaging the public (Moderbacher), co-curating exhibits with members of the *Heimat* (homeland) club in the heritage museum of one of the field sites (Lems and Reade), collaborations with large-scale exhibition projects such as the critically acclaimed "Disposing of Hitler: Out of the Cellar, Into the Museum" at the House of Austrian History (Wurzer), and the MPI exhibition in the state parliament of Saxony-Anhalt in Magdeburg (all group members).

The reporting period of 2020–2022 was designed as the group's core research phase. Given that the envisaged start of fieldwork correlated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, these plans encountered significant obstacles and slow-downs. While some researchers were able to adjust to a stop-and-go type of fieldwork approach early on, others had to sit out the worst of the pandemic before they could start fieldwork. However, this enforced halt did not mean that they were sitting idle. After an initial phase of perplexity, the researchers were able to productively make use of this new situation. They deployed creative means to shed light on the general sense of disorientation and paralysis marking their research sites – as evidenced in the short film *The World is Blue at Its Edges*, which Christine Moderbacher created during the 2020 lockdowns in collaboration with the Austrian artist Iris Blauensteiner. The film deals with dystopian future imaginaries caused by the lockdown experience and has been screened across the world. Other researchers used the lockdown times to create digital outlets for their work – be it through online workshops and conferences or other creative means. One outcome of these lockdown activities is Markus Wurzer's collaborative (with Daphné Budasz from the European University Institute) project "Postcolonial Italy", an interactive website that maps Italy's colonial heritage. Furthermore, throughout the past two years, the Research Group organized seven online workshops, all of which attracted large audiences, and, in the case of the workshop "Colonialism and Transgenerational Memory in Europe", even the interest of a journalist who wrote an extended piece on it for the German newspaper *Tagesspiegel*. By initiating online platforms for academic exchange, the group was able to work on core theoretical, methodological, and epistemological questions.

Despite the COVID-induced delays and setbacks, the Research Group has been able to accomplish most of its research plans. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, when vaccines became widely available, the researchers could return to their field sites and spend extended periods of time there. Furthermore, the group was able to organize two excursions that gave team members the opportunity to visit the research sites in Austria and South Tyrol, talk to key informants, and establish shared themes. During their excursion to the field site in the Austrian Nock mountains (Lems' sub-project) in May 2022, the team was accompanied by Distinguished Professor Ghassan Hage, whom they had invited as part of the MPI's guest programme. His expertise in conducting ethnographic research with people expressing anti-cosmopolitan sentiments offered important guidance to the researchers about how to navigate difficult research relationships. The debates and ideas initiated during this excursion did not just lead to an on-going collaboration with Hage on several publication projects, it also kicked off an in-depth exchange with the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' (Xiang) on their common-concerns approach and the decision to co-organize a conference on alienation. In 2023, Head of Research Group Annika Lems was appointed a position as senior lecturer in anthropology at the Australian National University. She remains connected to the MPI as a research partner of Biao Xiang, who now co-supervises the Research Group with her.

THREE KEY THEMES

While it is too early for generalized findings, it is possible at this stage to summarize three key recurring themes that have preoccupied the Research Group over the past two years. Some of these themes have featured in the first publications emanating from the research activities, while others will be subject to further elaboration.

First, the group's historical and ethnographic research has highlighted the importance of understanding remote Alpine villages as inextricably entwined with histories of globalization and cross-border mobility. While the European Alps are often described as a culturally and politically isolated space, the Research Group found the opposite to be the case. The (present and past) movements of labour migrants from and to Alpine valleys, the cultural significance of key trading routes that historically connected Alpine villages with other parts of Europe, the involvement of mountain villagers in colonial wars, the establishment of tourism as a key source of income, the settlement of refugees, and the increased presence of lifestyle migrants – all of these findings show that seemingly remote Alpine villages are not and never were removed from geopolitical events. Instead, questions of belonging and non-belonging have always been established in conversation with the wider world.

Second, modern political discourse in the German-speaking Alpine region is marked by a rebellious attitude that is directed towards urban centres where political decisions are being made. In historical documents, the regions where the four sub-projects are located are portrayed again and again as backward, left-behind peripheries, leading to fractious relationships with cultural and political elites in cities. This has provoked the self-identification of the inhabitants of Alpine villages as proud, independent defenders of a common-sense approach to the world – conceptualized as the counterpart to scientifically founded expert knowledge. The group's research shows that current appearances of societal fission did not appear out of the blue, but are anchored in anti-cosmopolitan currents of thought that have been widespread in the German-speaking Alpine region for at least two centuries.

Third, the Research Group found that attachment to place and local identity continue to be of crucial importance in a globalized world order. Historically anchored ideas of belonging to place act as a social glue that keep communities together. At the same time, these ideas are often based on imaginaries about "otherness" that is perceived to be existentially threatening. One central trope resonating through all four research sites is a collectively shared fear of cultural extinction – instigated by foreign people (such as migrants or refugees), technologies (such as wind turbines), ideas (such as multiculturalism), or animals (such as the wolf) whose otherness is seen to be so all-encompassing that it risks displacing historically entrenched connections to place. While right-wing populist parties have successfully absorbed some of these anxieties, the researchers found that they also circulate beyond the realm of party politics.

As the following sketches of the sub-projects making up the Research Group will show, these three themes resonate through all of the field sites, turning them into key ideas that the group will work on in the coming years.

*Member of a heritage (shooting/**Schuetzen**) club in South Tyrol, 2022.*

Sub-Project 1: On What Grounds? Attachment and Belonging to Contested Soils in the Alps

By Christine Moderbacher

Christine Moderbacher joined the research group in June 2019. Her research is based in two German-speaking villages in Italy's northernmost region Trentino Alto Adige: Kastelruth/Castelrotto and Schlanders/Silandro. After the pandemic lockdowns and one year of maternity leave, Moderbacher was able to pick up fieldwork again for an extended stay between February and November 2022. Aiming to explore exclusionary ideas of attachment and belonging to one's soil, Moderbacher worked with mountain farmers as well as members of the South Tyrolean *Schützenkompanie* – a heritage club based on a former infantry of the Austrian monarchy that ceased to exist when South Tyrol became part of Italy after its defeat in World War I. Working closely with a regional *Kompanie* revealed that the *Schützen* narrate their ongoing rebellious attitude towards the urban centres – mostly Italian speaking – as a result of the club being banned from public life under the Fascist regime in 1922, reactivated under the Nazi occupation from 1943–1945, and only re-established in 1958. Similarly, the mountain farmers Moderbacher worked with show a strong anti-Italian, anti-EU, and anti-globalist attitude that they recount as consequence of a long history characterized by heteronomy. This hostile attitude towards "others" is taken up by right-wing populist parties, addressing the scepticism towards political decision-makers and the fear of South Tyroleans being "sold out again". Moderbacher's findings point at the importance of combining ethnography with research focused on history when trying to understand the role of social inclusion and exclusion in the German-speaking Alpine region.

Sub-Project 2: (Not) So Far and Distant: Colonialism in Visual Family Memories in the Alps

By Markus Wurzer

In his sub-project, **Markus Wurzer** examines how German-speaking families in Italy's northernmost province of South Tyrol remember Fascist colonialism. Between the 1920s and 1940s, the Fascist regime occupied large parts of North and East Africa in atrocious wars. For these endeavours, the regime also called German-speaking men to arms. From their time in the colonies, these men brought home photographs as supposedly authentic testimonies. Many families keep these mementos to this day. In his research, Wurzer worked with South Tyrolean families and their photo archives. He found that these images are neither apolitical nor harmless: they are still shaping imaginations about colonial pasts and "white" supremacy. Not only the soldiers themselves, but also their families use colonial image collections to negotiate questions of social belonging. While the veterans appropriated the "foreignness" on the African continent by means of photographic technology, for their children and grandchildren, the Italian cosmos formed the background against which colonial experiences had to be interpreted. Well into the twentieth century, German-speaking families perceived the Italian state as hostile – a result of the rigorous denationalization and Italianization policies pursued by the Fascist regime in the interwar period against the German-speaking population with the aim of cultural extermination and complete assimilation. Against this backdrop, the fact that members of their own family had gone to war for the "enemy" state represents a challenge for the children and grandchildren generations. They meet this challenge by fitting the narrative of their father's war involvement into the collective narrative of German-speaking society in South Tyrol, in which German speakers generally appear as "victims" rather than "perpetrators" of Fascism. The result is a transgenerational complicity that obscures questions of colonial perpetration.

Colonial and fascist memories in South Tyrolean family photo albums.

Alpine (mass) tourism industry in Grindelwald, Switzerland, 2022.

Sub-Project 3: Stranger in the Swiss Village: Celebrating and Contesting Globalization

By Danaé Leitenberg

Danaé Leitenberg's research is based in the touristic resort of Grindelwald in the German-speaking Swiss Alps. After joining the group in December 2021, she conducted five months of fieldwork, which complemented her previous research in the region (thirteen months between 2017–2020). Leitenberg's work examines the entanglements between globalized tourism and anti-cosmopolitan sensibilities on multiple levels for various categories of villagers ("natives", migrants, tourism lobbyists).

First, Leitenberg shows how the village became a contact zone between various forms of mobility. Following the Romantics' rediscovery of the Alps at end of the nineteenth century, Grindelwald became a popular destination, and tourism enabled many locals to find new means of subsistence and stay in the valley. Virtually all inhabitants now financially rely on international tourism to make a living, but this state of dependence is often marked by instability and conflicts.

Second, despite this globalized context, Leitenberg's findings reveal the ongoing importance of local nativist politics of belonging. Nativism defines who can claim nativity (i.e., locals with native surnames, who speak the dialect) and wants preference to be given to those considered native. In Grindelwald, the figure of the free mountain villager, as opposed to the urban dweller or the foreigner, embodies the Alpine roots of a Swiss identity in a world of increasing disorder. Global connectivity and technological development, if necessary to the development of the economy, are also perceived as threats to the Alpine natives' heritage.

While the coexistence of globalized tourism and nativism is often strained, Leitenberg's work thirdly shows how they interlock to shape labour distribution. Swiss locals have historically avoided the most tedious forms of tourism labour and outsourced them to migrant workers. Leitenberg shows how these workers have been both marginalized and exploited in the hospitality industry.

Sub-Project 4: Everyday Histories of Placemaking: Time, Self and the Other in the Austrian Nock Mountains

By Annika Lems

Annika Lems

This sub-project explores the role of local, everyday understandings of history, tradition, and belonging to place in the Nock Mountains in the Austrian state of Carinthia. The Nock Mountains are part of the Alpe-Adria region, which forms an Alpine border triangle between Austria, Slovenia, and Italy. This region has thus always been linked into a history of movement and interconnection: the centuries-old trading routes between the Mediterranean and Central Europe that criss-cross this region are often described as symbolic of European integration. Yet throughout the centuries, Carinthia has often been depicted as a rural backwater, leading to a deeply entrenched protest stance towards urban cultural and political elites. The Nock Mountains region in Upper Carinthia has been an epicentre of support for far-right and fascist parties for a long time, even though this support has not always been stable and is counterpoised by the success of the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ). Lems takes this difficult positioning as a point of departure to interrogate the ways people in the region actively engage with questions of history and belonging to place. Through participant observation in heritage clubs (*Traditionsvereine*), with members of the local food sovereignty movement, and with farmers, she has explored how exclusionary place-making feeds into a longer history of anti-cosmopolitan ideas and practices. Lems conducted twelve months of ethnographic research, regularly attending the events and gatherings of clubs that have a distinct focus on the preservation of local cultural heritage and collaborating with farmers and local grassroots activists who promote ideas of food sovereignty. Zooming in on their activities, she has been able to draw out the ambivalent relationship to place and history encapsulated in the current rediscovery of the *Heimat* movement. By revisiting debates about the antagonisms of placemaking in hypermobile capitalist societies, her research shows how exclusionary worldviews link into historically embedded anxieties of loss and ruination.

Fascist village war memorial in the Austrian Nock mountains, 2022.

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Gold Open Access = 🔓 *Green Open Access* = 🔓 *Hybrid Open Access* = 🔓

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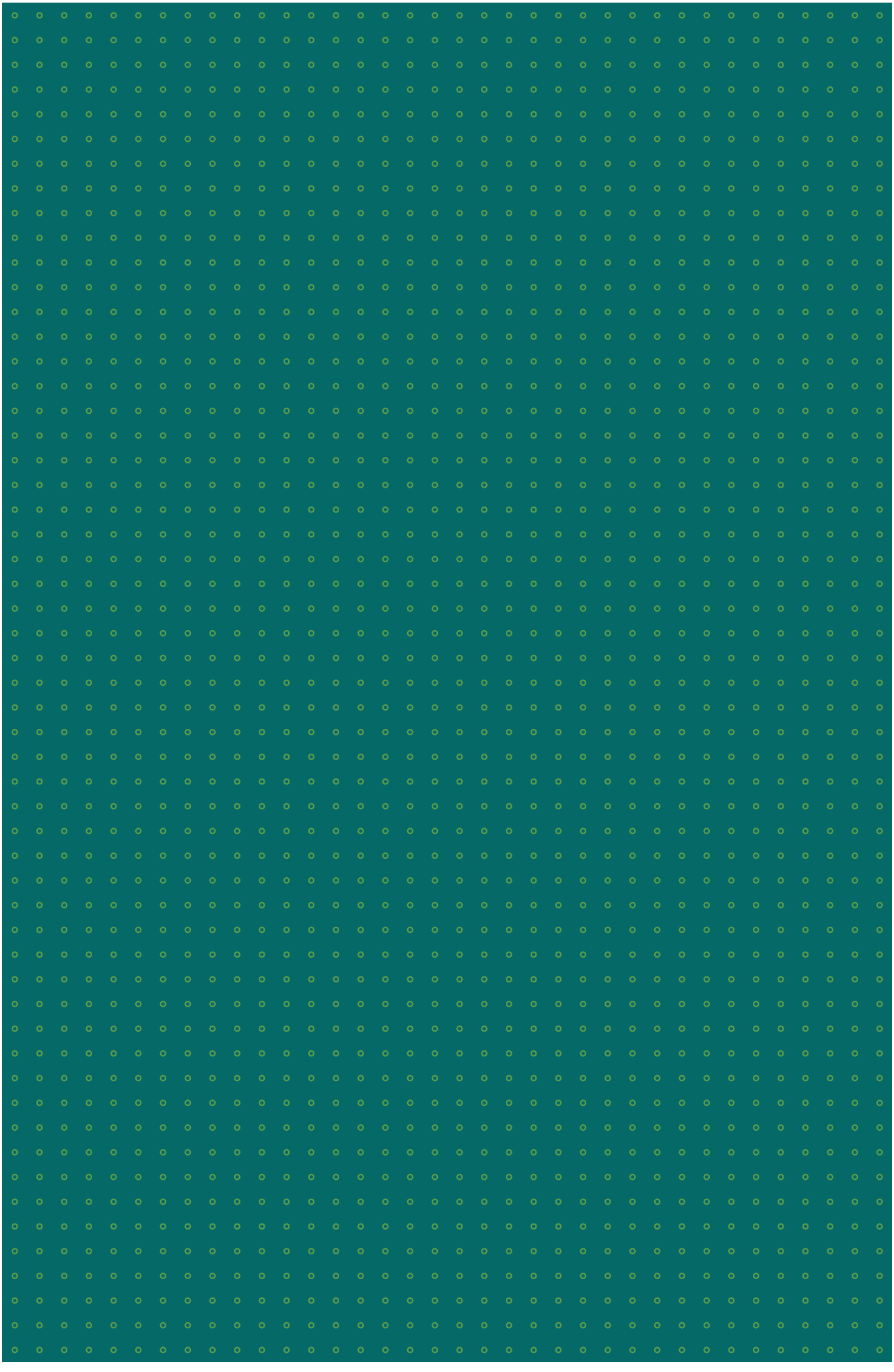

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Anaïs Ménard (since 5/2022)

DOCTORAL STUDENT

Kezia Ayikai Aryeetey (since 10/2022)

VISITING FELLOW

Dumitrita Lunca (University of Hamburg, Germany) (10/2022 – 12/2022)

ASSOCIATED MEMBER

Andréa Lobo (University of Brasilia) (since 5/2022)

GENDER, MIGRATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Anaïs Ménard

The Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility' explores the gender dimensions of social mobility within international migration and the way(s) gendered strategies of upward social mobility materialize transnationally. With an ethnographic focus on West African women who have migrated to the Global North, it aims at identifying local and transnational strategies developed by women as they seek to move, economically and socially, up the social ladder while facing difficult migratory environments. It will show how women shape and sustain transnational social fields, including diasporic networks, through strategies of individual and collective empowerment.

The members of the group, which was established in May 2022, will analyse the strategies of social mobility and empowerment among West African women living in Europe. It explores the gender differences in building and investing in transnational networks. Transnational social fields emerge from the ability of individuals to forge and maintain connections in various (national) spaces, and to link those spaces by creating networks of sociality and economic activity. Transmigrants maintain connections with their country of origin and build connections with other migrants in their countries of immigration. This research project explores the ways in which West African migrant women use transnational connections as opportunities for social becoming and economic improvement. From this perspective, women's involvement in networks of care and reproductive labour (on which analyses of transnational fields have largely focused) may also appear as a possibility to expand their networks and enhance their influence and status.

This approach is relevant to understanding the wider role of migrant women in consolidating and expanding transnational networks between countries of origin and of immigration, and between various countries of immigration. The gender lens confirms the existence of *alternative transnational social fields*, which emerge as women create their own socio-economic pathways and which may be less visible and separated from men's activities. West African women are often perceived as being more vulnerable in migration than their male counterparts, and they usually evolve in sociocultural spaces dominated by gender hierarchies. Those hierarchies thus frame their possibilities for social mobility in migratory contexts and their consequent strategies.

The research programme builds on conceptualizations of social mobility in both the West African and the migratory contexts. Collective social values that are assimilated early in life inform the ways people understand their own post-migration "success" stories. Thus, West African women who migrate carry with them culturally informed expectations of what they need to achieve *with* migration. These expectations shape their aspirations around social mobility in migration and the strategies they develop to achieve it.

Two approaches to the concept of social mobility in the West African context are relevant here. The first approach focuses on the analysis of local imaginaries about the Global North. These analyses tend to give voice to young men with no prospects of social becoming in their country of origin, who dream of an "elsewhere". Recent literature stresses aspirations to modern consumption and values, as well as local performances of modernity. Some of these studies acknowledge gendered aspirations in relation to urban life and modern identity among women (e.g. Spronk 2012). Yet, the study of women's aspirations with regard to social mobility in West African contexts remains under-researched – and this includes not only neglect of their visions of modernity, but also their strategies for achieving social substance without necessarily engaging in reproduction.

The second approach applies the concept of "wealth-in-people". It refers to the local processes by which men and women accumulate subordinates and build networks to achieve and sustain positions of power. Here, the construction of female power is vital: Bledsoe (1980), for example, has analysed women's

production of networks of dependence via initiation practices. Most subsequent literature tended to focus on the strategies and performances of *big men*, elder men who secure their position by controlling youth labour and other economic and social assets. The "big men" literature relies on the analysis of neo-patrimonial politics and is highly gendered: it gives little or no space to examinations of how women achieve power.

This gap is problematic, as the construction of female power in West African contexts depends on gendered factors, such as the type of marriage or relationship that a woman can build, the number of her children (and her success at educating them), and family assets. Inheritance and ownership are important to women building their power, as are the number of their female dependents (who assist with childcare and domestic labour), their roles in ritual practices, etc. Women build their positions of power in ways very different to those of men.

In the processes of migrating and acquiring enhanced social status, West African women retain their culturally specific understandings of social mobility, while transposing and transforming the meaning of becoming and acting as *big women* in new contexts. As they migrate, they face constraints that men do not: gender norms, such as control of their professional lives by husbands or partners, or childcare duties that render access to educational opportunities difficult. Therefore, they may choose different strategies at different stages of their lives to advance and secure their own social position. Hence, the social and economic resources and networking practices that women use differ from those used by men, be they investment in their children, business or NGO creation, or purchase of assets in their countries of origin.

Social mobility in migratory contexts means the movement of individuals (or groups) between social classes: people may change their social status upward or downward vis-à-vis their initial social group of belonging. Membership in a social class is highly relational: it is situated within specific societies and is acknowledged by other social groups. For West Africans who migrate to the Global North, upward social mobility becomes a reality (allowing them to access to regular income and consumption), but their situation may still remain precarious.

In countries of the Global North, research on processes of social mobility has mainly focused on labour migration and its economic drivers. In West African countries, the hope to escape poverty and achieve better material conditions has been, and is, central to migration dynamics. However, recent scholarship has moved beyond merely economic rationales to explore and analyse the role of expectations, aspirations, hopes, and desires in those processes (see Bal and Willems 2014, Carling and Collins 2018, Ménard and Bedert 2021). Some authors examine strategies of class-making in Europe – the ways in which people consolidate membership of the middle class via the adoption of a lifestyle, the acquisition of properties (land, houses), or investment in businesses or their children's education, etc. (see Coe and Pauli 2020).

Such strategies involve differentiated and situated performances of the self, particularly when migrants return home: their social positions in their countries of origin are consolidated by sending remittances or container loads, by building houses, or by returning home for holidays. Back in their country of origin, other signs become critical: language and accent, dress, car hire, residence in hotels, feeding families, buying gifts, and so on. Women in particular use these instruments in specific ways shaped by culturally informed gender relations.

Sierra Leone Women's Association in France.

Participants of the Inaugural Workshop of the Otto Hahn Research Group.

By looking at the West African and migratory contexts concomitantly, the research will explain how and why West African women build gendered practices of social mobility, and how those practices shape the transnational field by creating, solidifying, or fragmenting existing networks. The transnational perspective on gender offers new ways of understanding the elaboration of strategies of female empowerment within migration and the maintenance of a higher social status, as it happens (often simultaneously) in multiple countries and social environments. Taken together, the various individual research projects use the lens of gender to theorize concepts such as social mobility, success, status, influence, recognition, and power.

The Research Group has four main objectives. The first is to understand how gender impacts the strategies that women deploy to access and maintain social mobility in migration contexts. Group members will explore how social mobility is achieved, experienced, and sustained both in women's host countries and in their transnational networks. Social mobility links to social becoming, to how social substance is acquired within networks of peers, friends, and relatives. An understanding of the constraints that women face in their attempts to establish livelihoods abroad requires an intersectional approach. Despite the socioeconomic capital that enabled them to leave West Africa, they usually occupy precarious professional positions and navigate a social world that confronts them with oppressions based on race and gender. Women who migrate often face specific challenges linked to their status as mothers and wives (or intimate partners). In their countries of immigration, gender norms continue to structure their professional and educational opportunities. One aim of this project, therefore, is to identify how women circumvent or use gender norms in their own interests as they move upwards socially.

The second objective is to understand how women shape transnational fields by investing in them, thus reinforcing or subverting existing diasporic networks. Women may mobilize various resources and resource-people (kin, friends, business partners) who are located in different parts of their transnational networks. The project asks: How do they access (or fail to access) certain resources due to gender? How, more broadly, do female-based networks offer opportunities to achieve social mobility? In situations of migration, gender (as opposed to, or in combination with, origin) can create solidarity, as women share issues around marriage, motherhood, and the constraints they face in cultural worlds dominated by gender hierarchies. In mobilizing gender-based resources, women create spaces differentiated from men's spaces.

The third objective is to understand how and in which arenas women aim at achieving social recognition. Migrants can become part of the local precariat in their host country if they see no possibility for improving their socioeconomic situation. However, other social or economic activities, such as small-scale entrepreneurship, may still allow them to win recognition by their co-nationals as important actors in the diaspora. Thus, transnational organizations and networks allow people to enter processes of upward social mobility in both host societies and diasporic arenas. As women turn to business or entrepreneurship, they may aspire to social

recognition. For example, some of them may become known in their countries of origin for their charities, NGOs, or advocacy work abroad. This project will identify those aspirations and how and why they relate (or not) to the status of being a high achiever.

Finally, the group will look into performances of social mobility in different cultural and social environments – i.e., in the various social and cultural arenas in which women carry out their activities, such as countries of immigration, diaspora associations, transnational and business networks, and networks of kin and acquaintances in countries of origin. This may involve processes of class-switching, in which women adapt their behaviours to the sociocultural context. The purpose is to show how performances may be specifically related to gender, inasmuch as women choose to comply with or, conversely, challenge gender norms of success. In doing so, they also subvert the usual power boundaries that frame and reproduce transnational social fields.

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‘Successful’ Women of the Transnational Field: Sierra Leonean *Big Women* in Europe

Anaïs Ménard started as Head of Research Group in May 2022. She is a recipient of the Otto Hahn Award of the Max Planck Society (2015) and she has been a postdoctoral fellow at the EHESS and the Catholic University of Louvain. Her research has focused on transnational networks and the construction of diasporic identities among Sierra Leonean immigrants who live in European countries that are not their original destination. This ethnographic approach has led her to work on ideals of success, social mobility, and power and on the construction of social hierarchies between people and spaces of the diaspora. Since 2019, she has been working on gender issues and on changing patterns of intimate relationships, love, and marriage/partnership in relation to ageing in migration. Her current research project focuses on processes of social achievement and recognition among Sierra Leonean women living in Europe. Taking as its point of departure the concept of “big men” in West African literature (a form of power based on patronage and wealth-in-people), the project explores the dimensions of power, status, and social recognition from a gendered and migratory perspective. It analyses the ways in which migration changes the opportunities and means for Sierra Leonean women to build and perform a social status as *big women*. Do women identify as *big women*, or wish to be identified as such, and by whom? Does the migratory context offer them opportunities to become *big women*, and what strategies do they pursue to achieve this status? For women, recognition may not only depend on their economic success, but also on normative assessments about their family achievements and their respectability and morality. The objectives are to understand the weight of gender norms in processes of recognition, to investigate how imaginaries of power are redeployed in migratory contexts, and to theorize the link between gender and power within migration.

Social Mobility in an Intersectional Perspective: Strategies of Ghanaian Women in Germany and the Netherlands

Kezia Aryeetey joined the Research Group as a doctoral student in October 2022 with a project entitled "Social Mobility in an Intersectional Perspective: Strategies of Ghanaian Women in Germany and the Netherlands". She received her bachelor's in Economics and French as well as her master's in Migration Studies from the University of Ghana. She worked at the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, between 2013 and 2019 in various capacities, including as a graduate assistant. Her research project seeks to narrow the knowledge gap on African women as economic migrants in Europe by focusing on how Ghanaian women in Germany and the Netherlands strategize their upward mobility. By looking at female-led or women-centred economic and social networks that Ghanaian women migrants belong to (such as diasporic churches, women's associations, and female-led businesses), the project intends to identify the transnational (gendered) resources that women mobilize in order to become upwardly mobile. The purpose is to see how gender influences (e.g., allows or restricts) the kind of opportunities that women have in migrant communities. The hypothesis is that certain networks may provide alternative pathways to "success" for Ghanaian women migrants. For instance, women may use their prominent roles in Ghanaian churches in Europe to gain recognition and be viewed as "successful" migrants. Furthermore, the project will analyse women's strategizing of their identity – namely, how they organize, use and manage their multiple identities (gender, age, marital status and motherhood, religious belonging, race, ethnicity, etc.) in order to seek social mobility in various arenas, both in the host society and diasporic networks. In this line, the project will look at the social markers that are important for women to gain in order to display higher status vis-à-vis other migrants. This implies that strategies of "integration" into the host society may also play a role in those processes.

Mothers and *Mamans*: Gender, Race, Mobilities and Family Dynamics in the Experiences of Maternity in the Global South

Professor **Andréa Lobo** from the University of Brasilia joined the group as an associated researcher. She works in Cape Verde and Senegal on family dynamics, kinship, generation, gender, government policies on the family, global flows and mobilities, migration, and women's trade flows. Her recent publications include an article "As meninas de hoje em dia" in *Revista De Antropologia* (2022) on moral attitudes towards love and sex across generations in Cape Verde. In 2022, Andréa Lobo began a new research project entitled "Mothers and *Mamans*: Gender, Race, Mobilities and Family Dynamics in the Experiences of Maternity in the Global South". Taking as its starting point the concept that maternities are socially constructed, the project undertakes a systematic and comparative investigation of the family dynamics that constitute and are constituted by the multiple experiences around maternity. This project has three main research foci: 1) the critical crossing between an "external" and normative vision that establishes a moral value of the "ideal mother' and the perspectives of women-mothers who experience maternity in their daily lives; 2) the mapping of care networks that involve "geographies of maternity" and that connect women to each other and women and their children in national and/or transnational networks of affection, with a focus on the networks between women from the African continent who migrate; and 3) the interfaces between maternity and conjugality that allow us to reflect on the third element of this relationship, the man-father. Andréa Lobo is also a member of the project 'Migrations et Changement climatique' – a multi-university partnership between Belgium, Brazil, and Cape Verde. The research aims at showing how Cape Verdean society, affected by climate disruption, but rich in a culture and traditions of mobility, sheds a new light on the adaptation strategies of societies faced with climate changes.

LAUNCHING OF THE OTTO HAHN RESEARCH GROUP

The Otto Hahn Research Group was launched successfully with an inaugural workshop co-organized by Anaïs Ménard and Jacqueline Knörr entitled "Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women" and held from 26–28 October at the MPI in Halle. This event brought together an international group of social scientists to investigate the experiences of West African migrant women in Europe and the challenges they face in establishing their livelihoods abroad. Drawing on various case studies, participants discussed the strategies that women employ to access economic and social assets in host countries and implement projects and businesses "back home".

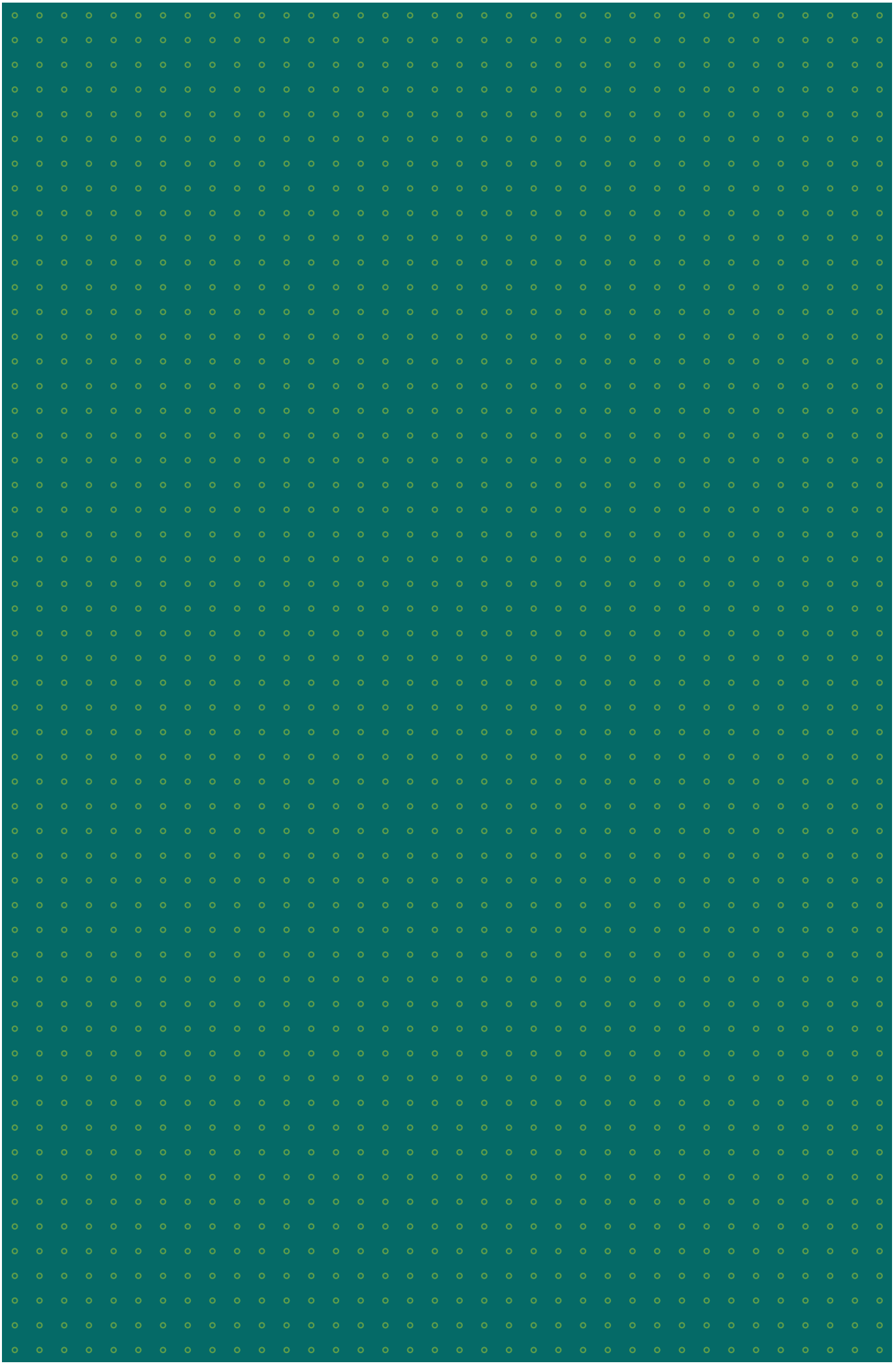
Anaïs Ménard presented the five-year research programme of the group in her introductory talk, as well as her own research in her presentation "'Social Circles' and Generational Entanglements: Upholding Social Status among Sierra Leonean Women in France". Kezia Aryeetey presented her doctoral project in her talk "Integration of Ghanaian Women Migrants in Europe: An Intersectional Feminist Perspective." The workshop was covered by the broadcaster Deutschlandfunk as part of their programme *Aus Kultur- und Sozialwissenschaften* ("Verzerrte Wahrnehmung?", 27 October 2022), which ensured visibility and marked general public interest in the topic of gender and migration.

Anaïs Ménard also presented her research at the International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) conference in 2022. She is a member of IMISCOE's Standing Committee "Gender and Sexuality in Migration Research". She is also actively involved in international collaborations in African Studies and co-organized panels in 2022 on activism and political subjectivity in West Africa at the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), the Swedish Anthropological Association Annual Conference (SANT), and the Rencontres des Études Africaines (REAF).

PUBLICATIONS

Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility'

Since the Research Group began its activities in May 2022, it has not yet produced any related published work. However, publications springing from Ménard's activities as a research associate are listed as part of the publications of the Research Group "Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast". A complete list of her publications is available on her personal profile on the Institute website.



EMMY NOETHER RESEARCH GROUP ‘PERIPHERAL DEBT: MONEY, RISK AND POLITICS IN EASTERN EUROPE’

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Marek Mikuš

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Balázs Gosztonyi (since 10/2020)
Mathias Krabbe (since 10/2020)

VISITING FELLOW

Ágnes Gagyi (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) (9/2021)

PERIPHERAL DEBT: MONEY, RISK AND POLITICS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Marek Mikuš

INTRODUCTION

The overarching objective of the Emmy Noether Group 'Peripheral Debt: Money, Risk and Politics in Eastern Europe' is to complete the first comparative anthropological study of household debt and retail finance in four Eastern European countries: Croatia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. The group's work builds on and contributes to a number of lively current debates in anthropology and social sciences, connecting more 'economic' debates on credit/debt, finance, and household economies with more political ones on the state, civil society, and politics in the region and beyond. The historical focus is on the development of market-based retail finance in post-socialist Eastern Europe, understood here as part and parcel of the process of financialization – the increase in scope, power, and penetration of finance in recent decades.

The group's name refers to the concept of peripheral financialization, which describes distinct and less studied forms of financialization in peripheral sites of global finance. These forms of financialization are generally theorized as marked by dependence on foreign capital inflows, increased instability, and more costly and risky credit than in financial cores. 'Peripheral Debt' especially develops dimensions of peripheral financialization that have been thus far neglected due to the origins of the concept in economics – the social relations, practices, and experiences of affected individuals and households, as well as the relevant practices of state and non-state actors such as welfare agencies, social movements, creditors, intermediators, or legal and judicial actors. It also updates the knowledge of financialization in Eastern Europe by examining its most recent stages, in which there has been a shift away from some of the features of the credit boom-and-bust cycle that took place in the early 2000s to the mid-2010s.

The basic research question of the project is how relevant actors engage with household debt and market-based retail finance and what this reveals about the impact of financialization on their lives. This was elaborated into three thematic clusters:

- the ways in which individuals and households engage with debt and retail finance more broadly, covering their decision-making, ways of coping with repayment and over-indebtedness, financialized accumulation strategies, etc.;
- politicization and contestation of household debt and other financial services, including activism, litigation, party politics, etc.;
- the management and governance of debt – the efforts of governments, lenders, NGOs, and other actors to prevent and resolve issues with household debt (defaults, over-indebtedness, etc.) and induce appropriate forms of engagement with retail finance through financial education, debt advice, credit regulation, debt collection, personal bankruptcy, etc.

In addition to describing this variety of social practices concerned with debt, the group seeks to understand how and with what effects these practices intersect as well as how they reflect and transform moral, political, and pragmatic ideas and attitudes to market-based debt and finance more broadly.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020–22

'Peripheral Debt' began its work in October 2019 when Marek Mikuš took up the position of Research Group Head. The group's activities in a better part of the 2020–22 period were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the anti-pandemic measures adopted in Germany and the countries under study. However, the original plan of work was followed, with some inevitable adjustments. In 2020, Balázs Gosztonyi and Mathias Krabbe were recruited for the two doctoral candidate positions and enrolled into the doctoral programme at Martin Luther University (MLU) Halle-Wittenberg. Mikuš and project cooperation partners Ágnes Gagyi and Petra Rodik co-organized the workshop "Foreign-Currency Housing Loans in Eastern Europe: Crises, Tensions and Struggles" in Zagreb in February 2020. Mikuš also conducted follow-up fieldwork in Zagreb in the summer of 2020. The year from fall 2020 to fall 2021 was dedicated to training and preparation for team members' main fieldwork. Gosztonyi and Krabbe developed their research proposals, described below, under the supervision of Mikuš and Asta Vonderau (MLU) with further input from the group's cooperating scholars. Mikuš taught the undergraduate course "The Anthropology of Finance" at MLU and prepared a series of sessions on research methods for Gosztonyi and Krabbe, some with external collaborators. In September 2021, Ágnes Gagyi came to Halle as a Visiting Scholar. From fall 2021 to fall 2022, the team members conducted their fieldwork in Hungary (Gosztonyi), Poland (Krabbe), and Slovakia (Mikuš). In November 2022, Mikuš organized the panel "The Anthropology of European Finance" and delivered a paper on relationships between mortgage debt, wealth, and debtors' agency in Zagreb at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) in Seattle.

ENGAGING WITH DEBT

The remainder of this introduction presents selected publications that resulted from the work of the group in 2020–2022. The publications are grouped according to the thematic cluster that provides their main analytical focus, although they tend to address the other clusters to some extent as well. *Households and Financialization in Europe*, a collection co-edited by Mikuš and Rodik (2021), is mainly preoccupied with the ways in which households in Eastern and Southern Europe have been engaging with debt in recent decades. In framing this as part of the macro-process of financialization, it inevitably engages also with the governance of debt. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, in their introduction to the volume, Mikuš and Rodik address the tendency of much scholarship on household financialization to over-emphasize macro-trends gleaned off statistics and to uncritically reproduce their underlying concepts of the household. As an alternative to this, they theorize the household as a micro-level, activity-oriented social institution embedded in wider social relationships and institutions, cultural and legal norms, and ideational and ideological frameworks. Further responding to the dominant focus on global economic cores in the scholarship, they formulate a set of theses about the specific features of household financialization in Eastern and Southern European semi-peripheries, thereby also highlighting similarities between these typically compartmentalized regions. The case studies on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, and two Spanish regions develop three important aspects of household financialization in Eastern and Southern Europe: the use of "social collateral", its impact on housing access and urban geographies, and the management of problematic outcomes by public discourse and policy.

Mikuš's (2022b) article in *Critique of Anthropology* looks more closely at one major way in which individuals and households use debt – to acquire owner-occupied housing. In the Global North, mortgaged homeownership has been identified as an attribute of established middle classes "squeezed" by financialization and neoliberalization, while in the Global South it is associated with up-and-coming "new" middle classes. Taking a historical approach, the

article shows that the coupling of the middle class and mortgages in Croatia followed a different, post-socialist trajectory. Namely, bank credit policies and government housing schemes afforded middle-class households privileged access to mortgages, which enabled them to achieve homeownership as the normative housing tenure in the postsocialist ownership-based housing regime. While the classed nature of these processes was largely obscured during the credit expansion in the 2000s, it became visible in public discourse after the Global Financial Crisis, when many mortgagors faced the consequences of rampant predatory lending while the middle class was framed as a victim of recession and austerity more broadly. This delayed recognition of the classed experiences of mortgage indebtedness has shaped the subjectivity of the Croatian middle class as peculiarly new and squeezed at the same time – more self-aware than before, but also disappointed and troubled.

POLITICIZING AND CONTESTING DEBT

Mikuš's (2022c) chapter on the struggles over the deservingness of Croatian debtors likewise examines the protracted aftermath of the 2000s debt boom but directs attention mainly to the politicization and contestation of debt. The study explores the efforts of Croatian debtor activists and their opponents to represent troubled debtors as deserving or undeserving of public assistance. This took the form of competing claims about the debtors' status as victims (in either a legal or humanitarian sense) or their belonging to other social categories, namely war veterans, or, again, the middle class, valorized as the productive backbone of the nation. The discourses of debtor (un)deservingness thus drew on the grammar of Croatia's hegemonic struggles – the competing socio-political coalitions, narratives, and popular common sense – while re-energizing these struggles by taking the rise of household debt as their new focus.

In a complementary manner, an earlier chapter by Mikuš (2020) looks at another nexus of debt politics in post-boom Croatia: the system of debt collection and enforcement. During the 2010s, this apparatus expanded in scope while assuming a highly disciplinary and exploitative character, becoming a target of debtor movements and party politics alike. This dysfunctional institutional development was a result of a strong influence of the interests of financial and legal industries on the government's approach to tackling the consequences of predatory credit expansion and satisfying EU integration requirements in this area. Beyond contributing to a better understanding of the Croatian case, the study underscores the need for anthropological research on debt collection, which is a crucial part of the life-cycle of debt and debt's critical state-backed infrastructure. Gosztonyi's doctoral research thus promises to be pioneering.

GOVERNING DEBT

The 2022 special issue of *Critical Housing Analysis* co-edited by Gagyi and Mikuš is the first set of publications originating from the 2020 Zagreb workshop. The issue traces the most recent stages of development of Eastern European housing finance in the aftermath of the foreign-currency (FX) loan crises that dominated the agenda in the early-to-mid 2010s. The focus is mainly on the governance of debt in its interplay with contestations from below. The case studies on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (Mikuš 2022d), Hungary, Latvia, and Romania show that governments and lenders took a variety of approaches to resolving the FX loan crises, ranging from a neoliberal laissez-faire approach to non-orthodox interventions in credit-debt relations and the financial sector. Despite these differences between the political and institutional articulations, the introduction (Gagyi and Mikuš 2022) underscores that a common post-crisis tendency was a relaunch of household lending based on a bifurcation of the credit market into more secure, often subsidized mortgage lending aimed at better-off debtors and more risky non-mortgage loans used for housing purposes by more precarious households. The continuation of revamped processes of household and housing financialization suggests that a shared element of the different varieties of 2010s debt politics in the region was a lack of interest and/or capacity in achieving more substantial changes.

Finally, Mikuš's (2022a) short article in *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* looks at the intersections between the governance of household debt and the COVID-19 pandemic in Croatia and Slovakia. Ethnographic data is employed to show how the extraordinary pandemic measures interfered with the rhythm of debt repayment, leading to severe hardship for individual debtors. The governments sought to mitigate these disruptions with moratoria on debt repayment and enforcement, thereby avoiding new severe crises of household debt. Household debt thus continues to establish itself as an increasingly central focus of public policymaking in Eastern Europe, and statistics suggest that the combination of tighter regulation and pandemic measures has so far averted the kind of household debt crises seen in the early-to-mid 2010s. But they also point to continued financial vulnerabilities of Croatian and Slovak households, which have in the meantime been taken up as important issues on the policy and public agenda once again due to the surge of interest loans and inflation since early 2022.

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In addition to Mikuš's ongoing research on Croatia, 'Peripheral Debt' is based on the following three research projects on Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, the main fieldwork for which was conducted in 2020–21.

Houses in a Northern Hungarian former mining town: debt collection exacerbates the economic vulnerabilities of low-income households.

Valuable Defaults: Collecting Household Debts in Hungary

Balázs Gosztonyi

Gosztonyi's doctoral project explores peripheral financialization with a focus on debt collection and over-indebtedness in Hungary. While the nature of credit and debt as social relations has been widely recognized in anthropology, debt collection as a central, yet hidden institution for governing these financialized relationships has been neglected, despite its growing economic and social relevance in East-Central Europe in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. The primary aim of this doctoral project is to understand creditor-debtor relationships by focusing on the processes and institutions of debt collection. The theoretical approach combining political economy, anthropology of markets, and social studies of finance allowed for diverse research strategies. In 2021–2022, Gosztonyi completed a year-long "study-up" ethnographic fieldwork period "at home", where he engaged with "hard-to-reach" debt collectors through participant observation at vocational finance schools, work shadowing, and attending industry events. He also conducted elite interviews with executives of debt collection companies, bankers, financial regulators, and lawyers. The project was further extended to examine the relationships between debt collectors and debtors and uncover how precarious households cope with debt collection through ethnographic interviews, attending legal advice sessions, and accompanying debtors to debt collectors' customer service offices. Gosztonyi is currently in the writing-up phase of the project and preparing to present his findings at seminars, workshops, and conferences.

The waiting hall of a debt enforcement office in Budapest where the local bailiffs receive their involuntary "customers", Budapest, Hungary.

Supreme Court of Poland, Warsaw, Poland.

The Finances, Futures and Fights of the *Frankowicze*

Mathias Krabbe

In 2021–22, Mathias Krabbe completed 13 months of ethnographic fieldwork in the capital of Poland, Warsaw. He studied the ongoing, and largely successful, mass litigation by mortgagors colloquially known as *frankowicze*. From the mid-to-late 2000s, they took out loans indexed to or denominated in the Swiss franc but payable in the local currency, which exposed them to exchange rate instability and opaque banking practices. These risks materialized after the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 mainly due to the strong appreciation of the franc. This led the debtors to establish several associations to gather political support through public protests, conferences, and media appearances. Unlike the governments of most Eastern European countries affected by Swiss franc loans, Polish policymakers failed to enable the debtors to convert the loans at below-market rates, leaving them vulnerable and politically disillusioned. After a favourable European Court of Justice judgment in 2019, mortgagors can more successfully contest their loan contracts based on European consumer protection rights, relying on the services of specialized for-profit law firms to do so. However, litigation also exposes mortgagors to the modus operandi of national and European judiciaries and the politics that inform their workings and mutual relationships. At the same time, public financial institutions and banks present the legal "victories" of *frankowicze* as the main risk for Poland's financial stability, ranking it above the war in Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current high inflation. Krabbe's doctoral research contributes to the existing anthropological literature on the credit/debt dyad, and more specifically the burgeoning studies on the socio-economic ramifications of financialization in (semi-)peripheral contexts, with an explicit focus on the financial, legal, and political dimensions of Polish Swiss franc loans.

New housing block in Warsaw, Poland.

Housing Finance, Problem Debt and Financial Literacy in Slovakia

Marek Mikuš

Slovakia has had a unique experience with the post-socialist expansion of household finance. While the growth of household debt was less intense than elsewhere in Eastern Europe in the 2000s, in the next decade it was the fastest in the entire EU and resulted in the highest level of household indebtedness in the region. This was coupled with soaring, increasingly unaffordable housing prices, especially in the capital Bratislava. Predatory lending practices, defaults, and debt enforcement have been also rampant. Marek Mikuš's research seeks to understand the manifestations, causes, and outcomes of these processes with a particular focus on three significant aspects of household indebtedness in Slovakia. The first of these is housing finance, encompassing the decision-making, strategies, and experiences of mortgagor households as well as the roles of financial and real estate industries, financial regulators, and policymakers in shaping the ongoing mortgage boom. The second focus is on institutions and procedures for tackling problem debt – debts in default, debts not being repaid in an orderly manner, or simply excessive debts. This covers the institutions and practices of debt enforcement and debt collection, personal bankruptcy, and debt advice, all of which have been rapidly evolving in recent years in response to the growing recognition of problem debt as an important policy and political issue. The third focus is on financial literacy and education, another rapidly developing field of activity with parallel initiatives of state institutions, the financial industry, and NGOs. In 2021–2022, Mikuš collected relevant data during ten months of fieldwork in Bratislava and other sites in Slovakia, relying on interviews, participant observation of public events and bureaucratic encounters, and collection of documentary, media, and secondary data.

Waiting room of a free debt advice office Bratislava, Slovakia.

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Emmy Noether Research Group 'Peripheral Debt'

Gold Open Access = 🔓 *Green Open Access* = 🔓 *Hybrid Open Access* = 🔓

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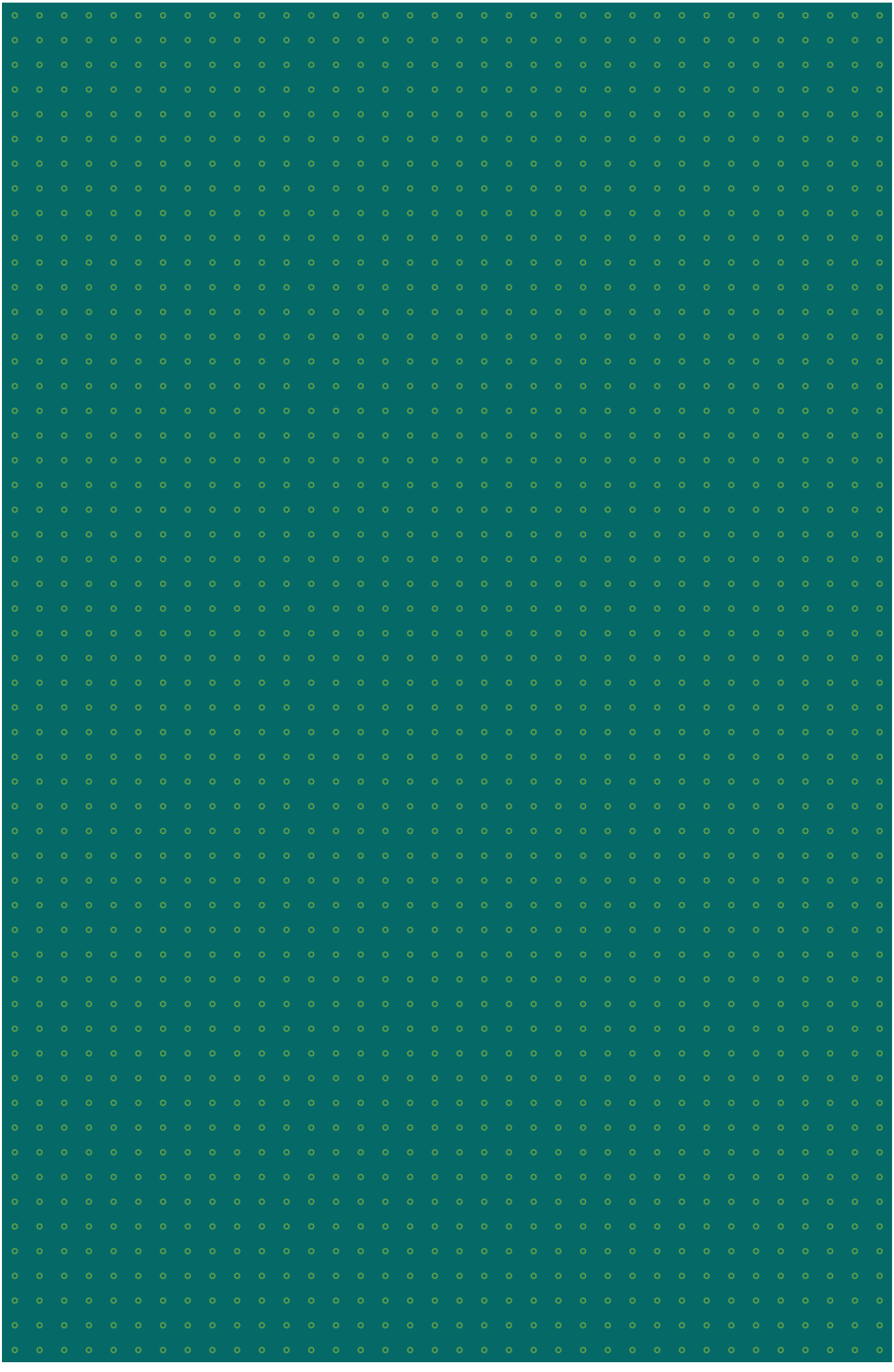

EMMY NOETHER RESEARCH GROUP ‘SAND – THE FUTURE OF COASTAL CITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN’

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STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Emmy Noether Research Group 'SAND'
(funded by the German Research Foundation – DFG, since 1/2022)

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Lukas Ley (since 1/2022)

SAND – THE FUTURE OF COASTAL CITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Lukas Ley

INTRODUCTION

The DFG-funded Emmy Noether Research Group 'SAND: The Future of Coastal Cities in the Indian Ocean World' kicked off on 1 January 2022. During the first year, Head of Research Group Lukas Ley set up core elements of the team's working infrastructure. At the time of writing this report in early 2023, three doctoral students and one student assistant have been hired in accordance with the original work programme (for a team profile, see below). Since the group is still consolidating, this report mainly summarizes the scholarly rationale, key objectives, and work programme of the project.

SAND proposes to write granular material into the social history of Indian Ocean port cities: as a substance oscillating between motion and stability, sand is quietly informing the human experience of sinking cities and sociotechnical responses to climate change. Investigating the fundamental role of sand in place-making and coastal earthwork in four different cities, this project will shed light on discrete acts of coastal maintenance to better understand the vitality of sand. By shifting the lens to sand itself – a material "thing" with infinitely flexible, destructive, and augmentative capacities – the project will think in new ways about human problems of territory, politics, ecosystem, and survival. More importantly, it proposes new ideas and methods for the study of emerging socionatures in the Anthropocene. In thinking with historical and contemporary economic and ecological conditions and the material faculties of sand, this project asks: (a) how does sand organize and govern coastal protection in the Indian Ocean World and (b) how might thinking with sand inform our theories of urban nature?

SAND AND SOCIAL THEORY

Urbanization and global population growth rates are fuelling a surge in demand for sand, especially in Asia and Africa. Land loss and the spectre of climate change result in fortification practices that require ever larger quantities of sand. Sand has thus become *the* material for protecting urban property and assembling land as a resource for global investment. However, excessive use in the context of land reclamation projects and construction not only depletes resources but also causes serious ecological damage by interfering with coastal sedimentation, clouding seawater, and disrupting terrestrial ecosystems. This global sand crisis has been mainly considered through a quantitative lens, and the discourse continues to be dominated by political economists and natural scientists. While anthropologists have criticized the disruptive and exploitative use of mined sands in coastal megaprojects (Padawangi 2019; Arnez 2021), what is still missing is a detailed study of the role of sand in building and protecting coastal cities and its social consequences. To date, little is known about urban processes, social practices, and political formulations that rely on sand, not just in the Indian Ocean but in the Mediterranean or Pacific as well. Existing studies do not address how sand relates to social organization and urban governance. Given the central role of sand in building port cities, SAND proposes to fill this gap and think social and political relationships through sand use. Thinking with matter makes it possible to foreground sand as an integral part of social and political relationships and a co-constitutive element of urban ecologies.

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

The Indian Ocean is an ideal site for examining the role of sand in building and protecting coastal cities. In the form of dunes, mudflats, or cliffs, natural deposits of sand provided the material basis of Indian Ocean port cities, moderating subsequent infrastructural development that allowed the ocean to become a veritable maritime crossroads. And during the deadly 2004 tsunami that destroyed inhabited coastlines and lastingly changed human relations with the sea, sand dunes acted as

"bio-shields" to alleviate flooding in many places. The geological foundations of port cities like Chennai and Mombasa are overlaid and entangled with human-made infrastructures crafted from sand, such as concrete docks, breakwaters, and asphalt roads. Streamlined port infrastructure built from concrete and the spatial management of coastal populations allowed for unparalleled levels of interconnectedness in the region, shaping coasts' relationship to a wider oceanic world (Dua 2019; Hofmeyr 2022). Along the coasts of the Indian Ocean, adjusting to sand movements is an important strategy for securing existence (Lahiri-Dutt and Samanta 2013; Kothari and Arnall 2020) and navigating ecological "chokepoints" (Carse et al. 2020). Using sand as a tool, coastal dwellers improvise roads or breakwaters, reclaim land from the sea, or fix seeping riverbanks. Sand also plays a central role in the growing economic sector of beach and mangrove tourism. When coastlines crumble or rivers choke with sediment, maintenance work becomes necessary. Rather than treating sand as a mere object of maintenance practices, this project considers sand as a relational, "generative and agentive co-constituent" of lifeworlds (Krause and Strang 2016: 633). Following Elinoff et al. (2017: 581), the Research Group sees in sand a material that not just produces urban infrastructures and reshapes the physical constitution of cities, but "the political itself".

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research questions inspired by state-of-the-art work on materiality, infrastructure, and urban political ecology include:

- **Materiality**: How did/does sand come to matter in people's lives? Where, when, and how does sand become a vital substance? How are social life and cultural norms informed by fluvial, oceanic, and human-made sand fluxes (sedimentation, erosion, damming, etc.)? What are the cultural and technical discourses and infrastructural practices that accompany oscillations and accretions of sand?

- **Infrastructure**: How does the materiality of sand play into and undermine sociotechnical arrangements and infrastructures of urban shores? How does sand become a protective and destructive material and through what kinds of technological and infrastructural interventions?

- **Political Ecology**: When and how does the thing-power of sand tighten or loosen the grip of dominant actors and groups on the fate of coastal dwellers? What is the relationship between the extraction and use of sand and the formation of social class and/or gender hierarchies? How do distribution and availability of sand (re)produce social inequalities?

OBJECTIVES

Through long-term ethnographic research conducted at four different but connected sites in maritime South Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa, the project aims at gathering a rich, situated, and comparative knowledge about the challenges of living on and protecting shores. Ethnographic data surrounding sand use will allow for an unprecedented account of coastal materiality and urban infrastructure in the Indian Ocean. The projects will develop a detailed understanding of how people live with and make sense of sand as key ingredient of littoral infrastructures and in their everyday lives. Committed to collecting first-hand knowledge in coastal cities that are connected through oceanic currents, histories of empire and colonization, and the reality of climate change, the group members will explore coastal infrastructures built on/with sand as results of historical and ongoing human entanglements with volatile urban ecologies. To achieve this, the Research Group pursues five connected sub-goals:

- Conduct **qualitative research** in four port cities to produce detailed ethnographic descriptions of sand-human relations in the context of coastal protection.

- Generate an ethnographically grounded, comprehensive **model of analysis**.

- Develop a **project website** to communicate tested methods, research insights, and engagingly represent findings to wider society.

- Identify objects (maps, drawings, performances etc.) to be featured in the **final exhibition** of the Research Group.

- Develop an **anthropological theory** of coastal sand by consolidating empirical and methodological insights as well as theoretical gains from all projects.

SELECTION OF RESEARCH SITES

The research sites were chosen for reasons of comparability: all four cities experience sand-related environmental stresses (e.g., erosion, flooding) and are subject to infrastructural measures aimed at fortifying or preserving specific urban areas. The Head of Research Group, Lukas Ley, will focus on everyday entanglements with sand in Denpasar, studying local beach replenishment as well as resistance to the construction of a new liquefied natural gas terminal. The doctoral students will conduct research on coastal infrastructures built on/from sand in the port cities of Mumbai, Durban, and Bhasan Char. In the investigation of emergent infrastructural dynamics and trends, an important concern is highlighting the artisanal capacities of coastal dwellers in combining

Lab experiment on extracted calcereous deposit.

established practices and new ones, investing in continuity or valuing creativity. Sand-human entanglements will further be assessed from a power dynamics perspective – that is, how individuals and communities position themselves to exert pressure on sectors such as the global market, dominant planning schemes, and material politics. The project will then be able to relate changes in demand and use not just to the vagaries of a global sand market, but to the interplay of material, infrastructural, and sociocultural dynamics, as well as to the acceleration and intensification of environmental degradation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2022 – JANUARY 2023

Website and Public Database

The first half of 2022 focused on preliminary research in the form of compiling a database of articles, books, and other relevant material, primarily ethnographic publications, but also works from a variety of other disciplines, ranging from economic studies of sand mafias to biological and geological investigations of coastal protection measures and climate change adaptation. The references are organized by world region, which enables users to quickly find literature pertaining to a specific area or water body. Further, the database comprises published studies on cognate topics, such as the global construction industry, geology, or land grabbing. Non-academic publications related to sand were included to examine how literary and artistic works approach the topic of sand. In total, the database currently contains over 400 references. It is supposed to constantly grow to reflect the increasing interest in the material. The repository (excluding pdfs and other copyrighted material) was recently made available to the public in the interest of initiating debate and exchange on the topic and turning the research group into a hub for sand research and writing.

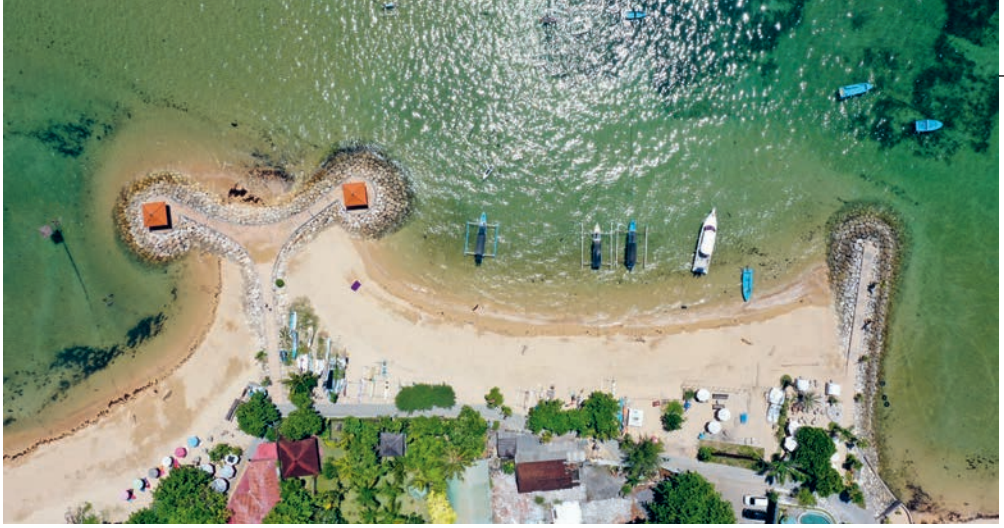
Team Recruitment

Recruitment of doctoral students began in July 2022. A joint advisory committee selected three doctoral students for the advertised positions: Mohammad Javed Kaisar Ibne Rahman holds a graduate degree in anthropology and is a senior lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, in Bangladesh. Rahman will look at the state-ordered resettlement of Rohingya refugees onto a silt island (*char*) off the Bangladeshi coast. Tarini Monga recently graduated from London School of Economics and Political Science with a master's degree in Social Anthropology. She will examine the role of sand in the construction of an expressway running along Mumbai's western coastline. Teresa Cremer has a master's degree in social anthropology from the University of Cologne and plans to conduct an ethnographic study of forms of sand appropriation in the South African port city of Durban. A research assistant, Leandra Schulz, supports the team with administrative and logistical tasks, such as organizing meetings and liaising with collaboration partners; Schulz is also responsible for the group's social media presence (Mastodon) and helped identify literature for the sand database.

FIELDWORK ACTIVITIES

Mediterranean

Over the course of the first year, Ley conducted two small-scale research projects concerned with exploring the world of geomorphology and marine science and learning to think transversally about coastal transformations. The first project focused on understanding the people and processes involved in the alteration of calcium and sediment into "natural" concrete. Following up on research started during the pandemic, this short-term fieldwork was carried out in the Mediterranean city of Marseille among the researchers and engineers of a French start-up that uses a patented electro-chemical process called Géocorail. By growing into and merging with structurally compromised concrete port infrastructures, this material is intended to help prevent erosion in coastal areas. Ley also established contacts with another company producing "ecologically active" concrete in Israel and Spain (ECOncrete).



Shoreline fortification after beach replenishment in Sanur, Denpasar.

Denpasar (Bali)

The second fieldwork journey at the end of 2022 allowed Ley to conduct one month of preliminary research in Sanur, a district of Denpasar, the provincial capital of Bali. This trip laid the institutional groundwork for long-term research to be conducted in 2024. Activities included meetings with the current director and former leader of Friends of the Earth Bali (WALHI), an NGO chiefly involved in local anti-sand mining activism and environmental advocacy, arranging collaboration with the island's first and biggest university, Udayana University, and visiting potential research sites in Sanur and Jimbaran.

REPRESENTING THE 'SAND' RESEARCH GROUP

Apart from setting up project infrastructure and recruiting additional team members, Lukas Ley presented his individual research and the planned programme of the Research Group at multiple academic workshops and conferences, as well as giving invited lectures.
These included talks about the role of sand in protecting coastal communities at the workshop "Future Environments" organized by MPI researcher Arne Harms and at the Institute's annual retreat near Rostock. Ley also collaborated with Harms on an extensive introduction piece for an edited volume entitled "Coastal Futures: Life between and at the Edges of the Sea" which is currently under consideration by University of Toronto Press. In it, they present an analytical framework that sees the coast as a geo-ontological force to think with, not a mere background stage and foil for human drama. In January 2022, Ley presented a paper on land subsidence as invited lecturer in the seminar "Dialogues entre recherches classiques et actuelles sur l'Asie du Sud-Est" at the EHESS in Paris. In March 2022, Ley was invited to present and discuss his work on tidal flooding in urban Indonesia with the members of the group 'Oceans in the Anthropocene' based at University of Oxford. In June 2022, he addressed Dutch and Indonesian engineers, development workers, and state representatives at the chambers of the Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers in The Hague. The hybrid talk was facilitated by the Netherland Enterprise Agency (RVO) and attended by many Indonesian scholars and officials. Lastly, invited by Jennifer Gaynor, Ley was a participant of the executive roundtable discussion on "Unsettling Coasts" at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Seattle, USA (November 2022).

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Kothari, Uma, and Alex Arnall. 2020. "Shifting sands: the rhythms and temporalities of island sandscapes." *Geoforum* 108: 305–14.

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Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala, and Gopa Samanta. 2013. *Dancing with the river: people and life on the chars of South Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Padawangi, Rita. 2019. "Forced evictions, spatial (un) certainties and the making of exemplary centres in Indonesia." *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 60(1): 65–79.

PUBLICATIONS

Emmy Noether Research Group 'SAND'

Since the Research Group only began its activities in January 2022, it has not yet produced any published work. However, publications springing from Ley's activities as Head of Research Group 'SAND' are listed in the Highlights Volume of the Institute report under 'Environmental Transformations'. A complete list of Ley's publications on materiality and other topics is available on his personal profile on the Institute website.

SECTION 4

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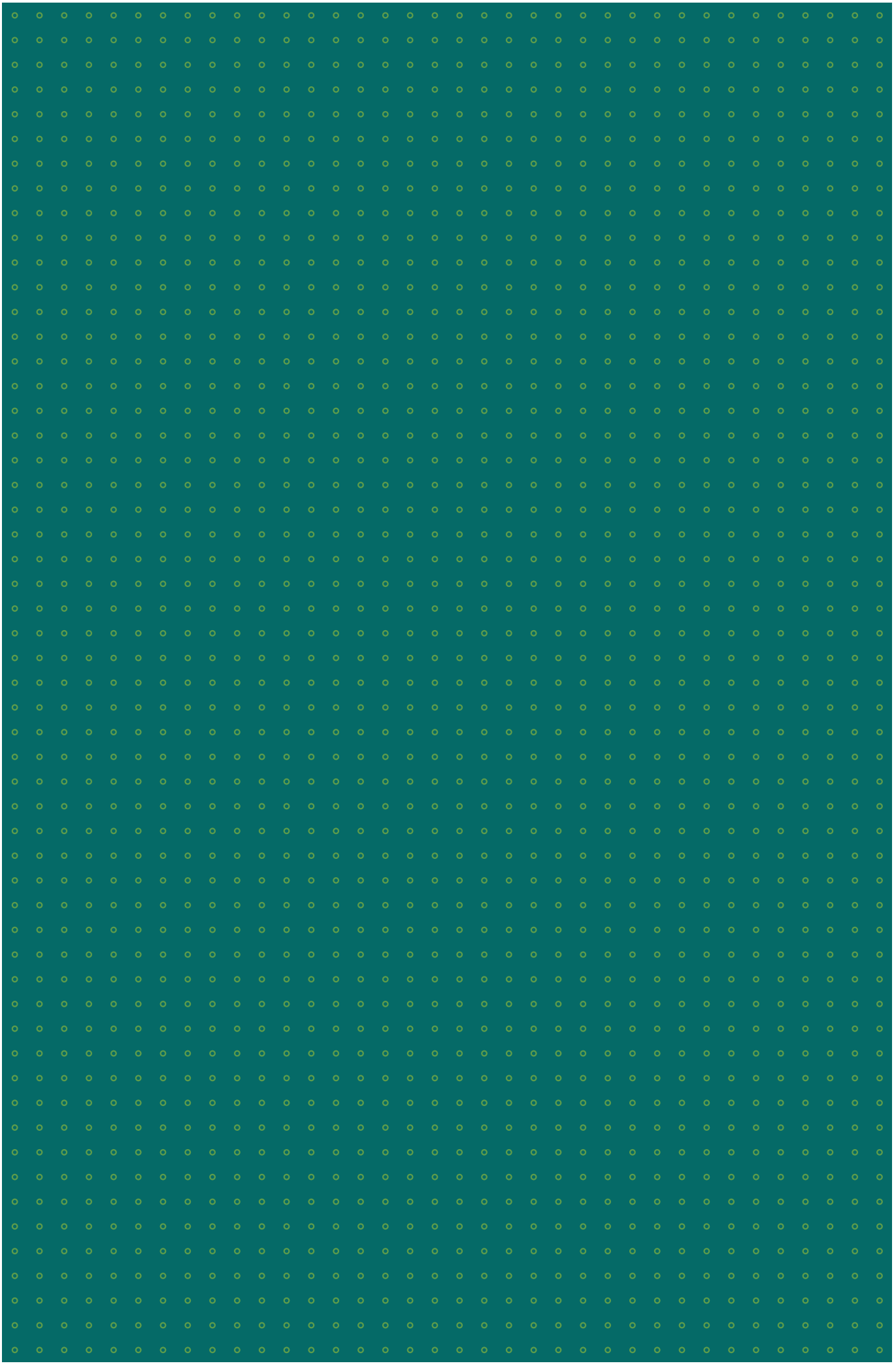

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COMPLETED DISSERTATIONS AND HABILITATIONS

Completed Dissertations

2022

Laura Lambert (Public Defence 19 December 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Everyday Externalization. The Transformations of Individual Asylum in Niger

Agathe Ménétrier (Public Defence 16 December 2022, École Normale Supérieure, Paris)
"We Have to Get LGBT Refugees Out of Here": A Study of Secrecy along a Humanitarian Resettlement Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in West Africa

Frank Rochow (Public Defence 9 December 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Architektur und Staatsbildung. Militärarchitektur als Instrument zum Ausbau der habsburgischen Herrschaft in Krakau und Lemberg um 1850

Annette Mehlhorn (Public Defence 5 October 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
With, Against and Beyond the Law: Radical Politics, Legal Activism and New Constitutionalism in Plurinational Bolivia

Hassan Hussein Kochore (Public Defence 7 July 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
(Not) Having a 'Government Age'. A Historical Anthropology of Community-State Entanglement in Northern Kenya

Ruben Davtyan (Public Defence 6 July 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Between Near East and Eurasian Nomads: Representation of Local Elites in the Lori Berd Necropolis during the First Half of the First Millennium BC

Stefan M. Millar (Public Defence 5 July 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Encamped States. The State of the Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement

Milana Čergić (Public Defence 22 June 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and EHESS, Paris, cotutelle)
City of Supermarkets. An Ethnography of Retail Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Anu Krishna (Public Defence 20 June 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
A Spice, Its Scent, and Many Lives: Situating 'Alleppey Green' in the Indian Ocean World

Katerina Ivanova (Public Defence 20 April 2022, Comenius University Bratislava and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, cotutelle)
From Trabi to E-mobility: Industrial Labour and Social Transformation in Eastern Germany

Sirin Rahel Knecht (Public Defence 8 March 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
A Vision of Visibility – The Politics of Women's Rights and International Aid in Lebanon

Luca Szücs (Public Defence 10 February 2022, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Work and Morality in Hungarian Small Businesses

2021

Shilla Lee (Public Defence 5 November 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Making Sōzō nōson: The Regional Revitalisation Movement in Tamba Sasayama and Its Use of Traditional Tamba Pottery

Pablo Ampuero Ruiz (Public Defence 29 October 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
'They Must be Represented' – The (Re)production of Social Hierarchies among Migrant Workers in Southern China

Julius Roch (Public Defence 25 October 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Die kaiserzeitliche Münzprägung Milets – Fallstudie zur Entwicklung der Repräsentation, Perzeption und Integration der römischen Autorität im kollektiven Selbstverständnis der Städte Kleinasiens

Yohannes Yitbarek Ejigu (Public Defence 22 October 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Resistance of the Hamar to the Development Imperatives of the Ethiopian State. An Ethnographic Analysis

Adrian Wesołowski (Public Defence 13 October 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and University of Warsaw, cotutelle)
Philanthropic Celebrity in the Age of Sensibility. A Comparative-Historical Study of the British, French, and Polish Examples 1770–1830

Alemayehu Debelo Jorgo (Public Defence 12 July 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Gadaa Reconsidered: The Structurationist Approach to Understand the Social System of the Borana Oromo of Southern Ethiopia

Elzyata Kuberlinova (Public Defence 4 June 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Religion and Empire: the Kalmyk Sangha in Late Imperial Russia

Markus Vollert (Public Defence 29 April 2021, Leipzig University)
Zwischen Integration und Rückzug – Der Rechtskonflikt um die Zwölf Stämme

Regine Schwab (Public Defence 12 April 2021, Goethe University Frankfurt)
Let's Fight Each Other Another Day. How Armed Opposition Groups Managed Challenges to Cooperation and Postponed Conflict in Syria's Multiparty Civil War (2012–2019)

Aida Alymbaeva (Public Defence 23 March 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Contesting Kalmak Identity in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan

Mareike Pampus (Public Defence 25 February 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Connected Heritages – The Inner-life of a Port City in the Indian Ocean World

Faduma Abukar Mursal (Public Defence 19 February 2021, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Anatomy of the State in Mogadishu. An Anthropology of Violence, Political Imagination and Social Suffering

2020

Gören Ceren Deniz (Public Defence 1 December 2020, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
The Formation of Provincial Capital, Value Regimes and the Politics of Labour in Anatolia

Sudeshna Chaki (Public Defence 26 November 2020, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Dynamics of Emergence, Functioning and (Dis)continuity: Small-scale Enterprises in Provincial India

Nadine Rea Intisar Adam (Public Defence 20 November 2020, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Designing Peace: Imagining Equality

Hannah Klepeis (Public Defence 16 July 2020, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Money, Morality, and Mistrust: Sangha-Laity Relations and Tibetan Personhood in Postreform China

Jonathan Bernaerts (Public Defence 25 June 2020, University of Antwerp and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, cotutelle)
Linguistic Diversity and Administrative Interactions in Belgium and Germany: A Legal and Empirical Analysis

Benjamin Matuzak (Public Defence 7 April 2020, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
Coping and Caring: Institutions, Transition and Families under Economic Pressure

Almakan Orozobekova (Public Defence 5 March 2020, University of Freiburg)
The Making of Foreign Fighters: The Case of Kyrgyzstan

Habilitations

Katrin Seidel

Venia legendi for Legal Anthropology,
Legal Sociology, and Comparative Law
(10 February 2021)
Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg,
Faculty of Law, Economics and Business

Habilitation thesis: Internationalised
Constitution-Making as Tool for Negotiating
Statehood and Rule of Law: South Sudan's
and Somaliland's Constitutional Genesis in the
Context of Plural Legal (Dis-)Ordering

Julia Vorhölter

Venia legendi for Anthropology (1 July 2022)
Leipzig University, Faculty of History, Art and
Area Studies

Habilitation thesis: Pioneering Psychotherapy:
Knowledge-, Class- and Meaning-Making in
Uganda

COOPERATIONS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Professorships

Christoph Brumann

- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Hatem Elliesie

- Stand-In Professor, Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany (since March 2021)

Kirsten W. Endres

- Extraordinary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Marie-Claire Foblets

- Honorary Professor, Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- Honorary Professor, Leipzig University, Germany (since April 2021)

Chris Hann

- Honorary Professor, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK
- Honorary Professor, Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany
- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Dirk Hanschel

- Chair of German, European and International Public Law, Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- Martin Flynn Global Law Professor (three year visiting professorship), School of Law, University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT, USA (since autumn 2021)

Jacqueline Knörr

- Extraordinary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- Invited Visiting Professor, École normale supérieure (ENS), Paris, France (April–May 2022)

Christine Moderbacher

- Visiting Professor, Film und Wissen, Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, Babelsberg, Germany (Winter Semester 2022/23)

Ursula Rao

- Honorary Professor, Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany
- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (since January 2023)

Günther Schlee

- Honorary Professor, Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany
- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
- Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia (since February 2020)

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann

- Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Pardubice, Czech Republic (since 2021)

Biao Xiang

- Honorary Professor, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (since January 2023)

Cooperations

AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
↘ *Faculty of Philosophy I*
↘ *Faculty of Law, Economics and Business*
↘ *Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies (ZIRS)*
↘ *Research Cluster Society and Culture in Motion (SCM)*

University of Leuven, Faculty of Law and Criminology, Belgium

Forum for the Study of the Global Condition (cooperation with Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig, Germany; Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig, Germany; Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (DI), Leipzig, Germany; Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany; Leipzig University, Germany; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany; University of Erfurt, Germany)
↘ *Forum for the Study of the Global Condition*

Leibniz Science Campus 'Eastern Europe – Global Area' (EEGA) (cooperation with Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), Leipzig, Germany; Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig, Germany; Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle/Saale, Germany; Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (DI), Leipzig, Germany; Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW), Leipzig, Germany; Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany; Leipzig University, Germany; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)
↘ *Leibniz Science Campus 'Eastern Europe – Global Area'*

TRAINING COOPERATIONS

International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) cooperation with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (until 12/2021)
↘ *International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia*

International Max Planck Research School 'Global Multiplicity: A Social Anthropology for the Now' (cooperation with Leipzig University, Germany; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany; Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany) (proposal for the establishment 2022, approved)

The Graduate School Global and Area Studies (GSGAS) (Leipzig University, Germany)
↘ *The Graduate School Global and Area Studies*

Graduate School Society and Culture in Motion (SCM) (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)
↘ *Graduate School Society and Culture in Motion*

European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), Belgium

COOPERATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MAX PLANCK SOCIETY

MAX-CAM 'Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change' (cooperation with Cambridge University, UK; MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany)
↘ *MAX-CAM*

Max Planck Law (cooperation with MPI for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg, Germany; MPI for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany; MPI for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt/Main, Germany; MPI for Innovation and Competition, Munich, Germany; MPI Luxembourg for International European and Regulatory Procedural Law; MPI for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany; MPI for Social Law and Social Policy, Munich, Germany; MPI for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Freiburg, Germany; MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany; MPI for Tax Law and Public Finance, Munich, Germany)
↘ *Max Planck Law*

Max Planck Partner Group 'Ethiopian Capital Encroached on Regional Border: Housing Development and Protest against Land Dispossesion in Oromiya' (cooperation with Ameyu Godesso Roro, Jimma University, Ethiopia) (starting 1/2022)

CUREDI 'Cultural and Religious Diversity under State Law across Europe' (cooperation with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany; University of Minho, Portugal; Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain; Complutense University of Madrid, Spain; EURAC Research, Bolzano, Italy; University of Cagliari, Italy; Maastricht University, The Netherlands; University of Hamburg, Germany; University of Wrocław, Poland; Università di Trento, Italy; Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Ghent University, Belgium; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
↘ *CUREDI*

Convivencia: Iberian to Global Dynamics, 500–1750 (cooperation with MPI for Art History, Florence, Italy; MPI for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany; MPI for European Legal History, Frankfurt/Main, Germany; University of Chicago, USA) (until 4/2020)

Research Initiative on Migration 'The Challenges of Migration, Integration and Exclusion' (cooperation with MPI for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany; MPI for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany; MPI for Social Law and Social Policy, Munich, Germany; MPI for Human Development, Berlin, Germany; MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany) (until 3/2020)

COOPERATION IN THIRD-PARTY-FUNDED PROJECTS

Anneliese Maier Research Award for Annelise Riles, Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA (funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

Infrastructure and the Re-making of Asia through Adopting, Orchestrating and Cooperating (funded by the German Research Foundation DFG) cooperation with Heidelberg University, Germany

↘ *Infrastructure and the Re-making of Asia through Adopting, Orchestrating and Cooperating*

Life, Living and Livelihoods in Satellite Cities: New Urban Forms in India (funded by the Australian Research Council) cooperation with University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

ROSA 'Religion and Its Others in South Asia and the World: Communities, Debates, Freedoms' (funded by the European Research Council GA No 817959) cooperation with Jacob Copeman (Principal Investigator), Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain

↘ *ROSA*

Sentiments of Bureaucracies (Project B07 of the Collaborative Research Centre 1171 'Affective Societies' funded by the German Research Foundation DFG) cooperation with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

↘ *Sentiments of Bureaucracies*

Digital Governance and the Respatialization of the Indian Nation State (Project A05 of the Collaborative Research Centre 1199 'Processes of Spatialization und the Global Condition' funded by the German Research Foundation DFG) cooperation with Leipzig University, Germany

↘ *Digital Governance and the Respatialization of the Indian Nation State*

VULNER 'Vulnerabilities under the Global Protection Regime: How does the Law Assess, Address, Shape, and Produce the Vulnerabilities of Protection Seekers?' (funded by the EU Horizon 2020 framework programme GA No 870845) cooperation with Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium; Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany; Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Italy; Institute for Social Research, Norway; Center for Lebanese Studies, Lebanon; Population Europe, Germany; The following partners are financed by a match funding of the Canadian Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (SSHRC/CRSH): University of Ottawa, Canada; McGill University, Montreal, Canada; York University, Toronto, Canada

↘ *VULNER*

FURTHER RESEARCH COOPERATIONS

↘ *Ankur Society for Alternatives in Education, New Delhi, India*

↘ *EVIFA, Virtual Library of Social Anthropology, Germany*

↘ *Visegrád Anthropologists' Network (V4Net) (until 8/2021)*

Teaching

Beate Anam

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Ethisch-normative Betrachtungen auf Schwangerschaftsabbrüche im Islam. Institute of Oriental Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Lebensanfang und Lebensende im islamwissenschaftlichen Diskurs. Institute of Oriental Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

Michiel Baas

- Second Term 2020 (online), Loving the (Global) City. Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- February 2021 (online), 'Muscular India', Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Gender & Sexuality in South Asia'. Yale-NUS College, Singapore.
- First Term 2021 (online), Queer Planet. Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Second Term 2021 (online), Loving the (Global) City. Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- First Term 2022 (online), Queer Planet. Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- November 2022 (online), Muscular India: Porn & Sex Work and the Question of Socioeconomic Difference, Guest lecture in a course by Radhika Gupta. Leiden University, The Netherlands.

Christoph Brumann

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Ethnologie des Buddhismus. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Summer Term 2021 (online), Stadt und Gesellschaft in Ostasien. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Milana Cergic

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Ethnografien des Balkans. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Bayar Dashpurev

- Spring 2020 (online), Natural Resource Law of Mongolia. German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology (GMIT), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Spring 2021 (online), Natural Resource Law of Mongolia. German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology (GMIT), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Spring 2022 (online), Natural Resource Law of Mongolia. German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology (GMIT), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Sreya Dutta Chowdhury

- 5 November 2022 (online), Database as Discourse: When the State is a Database, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Anthropology of State'. Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.

Hatem Elliesie

- Winter Term 2019/20, jointly with Faris Nasrallah, Islamic Finance and Banking. Berlin School for Business and Innovation, Germany.
- Winter Term 2020/21, Islamic Finance and Banking. Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany.
- Summer Term 2021 (online), Islamisches Strafrecht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.
- Summer Term 2021 (online), Islamisches Recht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), jointly with Mahmoud Jaraba, Religiöse Paralleljustiz. Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), jointly with Verena Klemm, Ursula Rao, Markus Dreßler, et al., Themenfelder der Regionalwissenschaft. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Das Recht auf körperliche Unversehrtheit im Islam (Ḥurma). Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Islamisches Recht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), jointly with Markus Dreßler, Julia Heilen, Verena Klemm and Sebastian Maisel, Die arabische und islamische Welt / MENA-Region. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), jointly with Christoph Kleine, Sebastian Schüler, Ursula Rao et al., Einführung in die Forschung zu Religion(en). Religiöse Identität. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2022, Islamisches Recht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2022, Islamisches Familienrecht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2022, jointly with Björn Bentlage, Philip Bockholt and Julia Heilen, Gesellschaft und Religion in der arabischen und islamischen Welt. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, jointly with Björn Bentlage, Julia Heilen and Sebastian Maisel, Die arabische und islamische Welt. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, Islamische Normierungen gottesdienstlicher Handlungen. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, Islamisches Recht. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

Kirsten W. Endres

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Staat und Gesellschaft in Südostasien. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Vietnam: Kultur und Gesellschaft im Spiegel ethnologischer Forschung. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Marie-Claire Foblets

- 23 January 2020, jointly with Armin Höland, Benachbart und doch anders – die Rechtsanthropologie, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Sociology of Law'. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 6–7 February 2020, jointly with Joachim Renzikowski, Strafrecht in einer multikulturellen Gesellschaft. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 27 February 2020, jointly with Larissa Vetters, Kollaborative On-the-Job-Weiterbildung zu interkulturellen Implikationen in asyl- und ausländerrechtlichen Verfahren vor Verwaltungsgerichten. Verwaltungsgericht Braunschweig, Germany.

- Spring Term 2020 (online), jointly with Jonathan Bernaerts, Law and Anthropology. Law Faculty, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

- 16 November 2020 (online), Anthropological Approach(es) to Law. Challenges and Future Prospects. European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice, Italy.

- Spring Term 2021 (online), jointly with Jonathan Bernaerts, Law and Anthropology. Law Faculty, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

- 12 November 2021 (online), jointly with Jonathan Bernaerts, Legal Anthropology in a Contemporary Context. European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice, Italy.

- 29 November 2021 (online), Diversiteit in de multiculturele samenleving. Law Faculty, Hasselt University, The Netherlands.

- Spring Term 2022 (online), jointly with Jonathan Bernaerts, Law and Anthropology. Law Faculty, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

- Winter Term 2022/23, jointly with Armin Höland, Recht & Ethnologie. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 11 November 2022 (online), jointly with Stefano Osella, Legal Anthropology in a Contemporary Context. European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA), Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice, Italy.

- 28 November 2022 (online), Diversiteit in de multiculturele samenleving. Law Faculty, Hasselt University, The Netherlands.

Michael Fürstenberg

- 22 January 2021 (online), How Terrorists Learn: Theoretical Approaches and Empirical Examples, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Dschihadismus und Rechtsterrorismus: Ideologien und Strategien'. Sozialwissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

Carolin Görzig

- Summer Term 2020 (online), How Terrorists Learn. Department of Political Science, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Balázs Gosztonyi

- 21 November 2022, jointly with Gergő Pulay and Judit Durst, Session on 'Study-Up' Methods, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Introduction to Field Research, PhD Level Course'. Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary.

Thomas Götzelmann

- 14 January 2021 (online), (Digital) Networks of Decision-Making in Germany's Migration Administration, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures'. Cultural and Social Anthropology, Institute of Sociology, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany.

Chris Hann

- 26 November 2020 (online), Civilizational Comparisons Across Eurasia, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Ringvorlesung Regionen und Regionalwissenschaften'. Leipzig University, Germany.

- 17 May 2021 (online), Land and Property in (Post)-Socialism, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Economic Anthropology'. Free University, Berlin, Germany.

Dirk Hanschel

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Grundkurs Öffentliches Recht II mit Fallpraxis (Grundrechte). Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2020 (online), jointly with Michael Germann, Seminar: Demokratie im Staats-, Europa- und Völkerrecht. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Völkerrecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Europarecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Völkerrecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Staatsrecht III – Internationale Bezüge des Grundgesetzes. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), International Environmental Law. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Allgemeine Staatslehre. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), International Human Rights Protection. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Völkerrecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Europarecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), International Environmental Law. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Staatsrecht III. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Öffentliches Baurecht II. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Umweltrechte aus der Sicht des Völker-, Europa- und Verfassungsrechts. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Summer Term 2022, International Human Rights Protection. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Summer Term 2022, Allgemeine Staatslehre. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Summer Term 2022, Völkerrecht I. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, jointly with Anne-Christin Mittwoch, Katrin Seidel, Comparative Law. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, Völkerrecht II. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, International Environmental Law. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, Staatsrecht – Internationale Bezüge. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Arne Harms

- Winter Term 2022/23, Anthropologie der Ethik. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Kutaiba Kaidouha

- 18 December 2022, Dynamics within Syrian Families in Germany, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Recht & Ethnologie'. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

David Kananizadeh

- Summer Term 2022, Ethnographie des Waldes. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Jacqueline Knörr

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Queer Anthropology. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2021/22, Language and Identity in Postcolonial Societies. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Mathias Krabbe

- 5 February 2022 (online), The Finances, Futures and Fights of the Frankowicze, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Economic Anthropology'. Department of Business and Management, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark.

Christian Laheij

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Advances in Digital Anthropology. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Laura Lambert

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), "We Didn't Cross the Border, But the Border Crossed Us" – Introduction to Critical Migration Studies. Institute for Sociology and Cultural Organization, Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany.

Luc Leboeuf

- First Term 2020/21, jointly with Enguerrand Marique, European Politics. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- First Term 2020/21, Seminar in EU Law. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Be lgium.

- Second Term 2020/21, jointly with Jean-Yves Carlier, Droit d'asile et des réfugiés. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- Second Term 2020/21, Seminar in EU Law. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- First Term 2021/22, jointly with Enguerrand Marique, European Politics. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- First Term 2021/22, Seminar in EU Law. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- Second Term 2021/22, jointly with Jean-Yves Carlier, Droit d'asile et des réfugiés. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- Second Term 2021/22, Seminar in EU Law. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- First Term 2022/23, jointly with Enguerrand Marique, European Politics. Law Faculty, Centre for International and EU Law, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

Danaé Leitenberg

- Summer Term 2022, Globalizing the Alps. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, Anthropology of the Future. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Annika Lems

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), The Friendship Paradigm in Anthropology. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Margarita Lipatova

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Anthropology of Uncertainty. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Alice Margaria

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Gender and Diversity in the International Context. Margherita von Brentano Centre for Gender Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

- July-August 2022 (online), Genders and Diversities: Old Questions, Persisting Challenges and Future Opportunities. International Summer University FubIS, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

Agathe Ménétrier

- Summer Term 2020 (online), jointly with Aube Richebourg, Social Movements: An Empirical and Theoretical Approach. Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

Marek Mikuš

- Winter Term 2020/21 (partly online), Anthropology of Finance. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Stefan Millar

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Migration, Borders and Bureaucracies. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Christine Moderbacher

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), MMA Seminar Dis-Harmonies: anthropologische Blicke und mediale Konstruktion des Anderen. Medienwissenschaft, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Introduction into Audio-Visual Anthropology. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 2020 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Ethnographie Reloaded'. Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

- 2020 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Introduction into Anthropology'. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- 2021 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Anthropology of Infrastructure'. Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.
- 2021 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Methods and ethics of anthropological research'. Unit for Social Anthropology, Université de Fribourg, Switzerland.
- 2021 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Roads: Mobility, Movement, Migration'. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Aberdeen, UK.
- 2021, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Ethnographischer Film und/als Theorie'. Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Cologne, Germany.
- 2021 (online), Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Introduction into Anthropology'. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23 (online), jointly with Johannes Schmelzer-Ziringer, Praxis-Workshop 'Ethnographic Film and Sound'. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, "Und wenn sie sagen, was wir nicht hören wollen, zerstören wir dann unsere Kamera?" Unbehagliche Beziehungen im Dokumentarfilm. Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, Babelsberg, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23, Introduction into Audio-Visual Anthropology. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Mariana Monteiro de Matos

- Winter Term 2019/2020 (online), Legal Anthropology: Accommodation of Diversity in Contemporary Societies. European Academy of Legal Theory, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Summer Term 2020 (online), Indigenous Peoples and Their Rights, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'MA in Law'. Anthropology and Development Studies, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Legal Anthropology: Accommodation of Diversity in Contemporary Societies. European Academy of Legal Theory, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Equality and Non-Discrimination in International and European Law. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- Summer Term 2021 (online), Indigenous Peoples and Their Rights, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'MA in Law'. Anthropology and Development Studies, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Legal Anthropology: Accommodation of Diversity in Contemporary Societies. European Academy of Legal Theory, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.
- Winter Term 2022/23 (online), Legal Anthropology: Accommodation of Diversity in Contemporary Societies. European Academy of Legal Theory, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

Sophie Nakueira

- 16 March 2022 (online), jointly with Julie Berg, Mega Event Security, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'MA Criminology and Sociology'. Scottish Centre for Crime and Social Justice, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, UK.
- 16 May 2022, jointly with Thalia Kruger, Governing through Contracts: A Case study of Mega Events, Guest Lecture in the 'Brown Bag Seminar to MA Commercial Law Students'. Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium.
- 17 May 2022, jointly with Elise Goosens, Laws in the East African Community, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Introduction to Foreign Law'. Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium.

Hanna Nieber

- 16 June 2022 (online), jointly with Kai Kresse, Anthropology and Theory from the South, Guest teaching for one session, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

- 24–25 June 2022, Anthropology of Interreligious Encounters in Africa: Material Approaches. Department of Intercultural Theology, University of Göttingen, Germany.

- 2–14 September 2022, Regional Ethnography: Anthropological Perspectives on Africa. Department of Anthropology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia.

Nikolaos Olma

- Summer Term 2020, Ethnographies of Post-Soviet Central Asia. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Stefano Osella

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Law and Diversity. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Louisa Piart

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Anthropologie internationaler Organisationen. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), jointly with Olaf Zenker, Blue Legalities: zur normativen Ordnung der Weltmeere. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 12 May 2021 (online), Souveränität und Neoliberalismus auf den Weltmeeren, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Politik- und Rechtsanthropologie im 21. Jahrhundert'. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, Geschichte der Ethnologie. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Floramante S. J. Ponce

- Summer Term 2022, State and Society of Southeast Asia. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Ursula Rao

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), MA Writing Workshop. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Themen der Regionalwissenschaften: Das Asiatische Jahrhundert, Hinduismus, Einführung in die Themen der Regionalwissenschaften. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- 7 January 2021 (online), Governance und Krankenversicherung in Indien, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Global Health'. Faculty of Medicine, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Themen der Regionalwissenschaften: Das Asiatische Jahrhundert, Hinduismus, Einführung in die Themen der Regionalwissenschaften. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), MA Writing Workshop. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), Themen der Regionalwissenschaften: Das Asiatische Jahrhundert, Hinduismus, Einführung in die Themen der Regionalwissenschaften. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2021/22 (online), MA Writing Workshop. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- 14 February 2022 (online), Biometric Body. Department of Social Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

- Summer Term 2022 (online), Themen der Regionalwissenschaften: Das Asiatische Jahrhundert, Hinduismus, Einführung in die Themen der Regionalwissenschaften. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Summer Term 2022 (online), MA Writing Workshop. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23 (online), MA Writing Workshop. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23 (online), Themen der Regionalwissenschaften: Das Asiatische Jahrhundert, Hinduismus, Einführung in die Themen der Regionalwissenschaften. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, jointly with Markus Dreßler, Nikolas Broy, Yemima Hadad, Klaus Fitschen, Bernadett Bigalke, Ringvorlesung Religionsforschung: Einführung in die Forschung zu Religion(en). Hinduismus, Religion und Heilung. Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

Farrah Raza

- Summer Term 2021 (online), Law and Regulation of Organ Donation and Transplantation in the UK and Germany. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 2021–2022, Constitutional Law and Administrative Law. Faculty of Law, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK.

Frank Rochow

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), "The Empire Strikes Back!" Aktuelle Ansätze und Methoden der Imperienforschung zu Ostmitteleuropa im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert. Institute for History, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Abdelghafar Salim

- Summer Term 2022, jointly with Hatem Elliesie, Aktuelle Probleme des Islamischen Rechts. Institute of Oriental Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

Günther Schlee

- Summer Term 2020 (partly online), Political Anthropology. Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Arba Minch University, Jinka, Ethiopia.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), Political Anthropology. Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Arba Minch University, Jinka, Ethiopia.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Ethnographic Analysis. Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Arba Minch University, Jinka, Ethiopia.

- Summer Term 2022, Political Anthropology. Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Arba Minch University, Jinka, Ethiopia.

Luisa Schneider

- Summer Term 2020 (online), Love, Sex and Violence: An Anthropological Critique. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), An Anthropology of 'Homelessness': Housing Precarity and Unhoused Living. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

Mascha Schulz

- 14 March 2022, Academic Writing and Publishing in International Journals. Department of Anthropology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh.

- 9 June 2022, jointly with Magnus Echtler and Yasemin Ural, Performing the Secular: Street Theatre and Songs as 'Secular Media' in Bangladesh and West Bengal, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Material Secularities – Interdisciplinary Perspectives'. Leipzig University, Germany.

Federica Sona

- July 2020, Lecturing and Seminar Moderation Administrative Law Sub (AD/2020/07) Administrative Court, Vittoriosa (MT). European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

- Winter Term 2020/21, Comparative Constitutional Law, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Rechtsvergleichung'. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 2020/21 [academic year] Comparative Law of Religion. Law Faculty, University of Trento, Italy.

- 2020/21 [academic year], Adjunct professor to the PriMed High Education Programme 'Religione, Cultura, Diritto: Islam e integrazione in Italia', University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy.

- 2021/22 [academic year], Introduction to Islamic Law, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Introduction to Islamic Law'. Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Comparative Constitutional Law, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Rechtsvergleichung'. Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 2021/22 [academic year] Comparative Law of Religion. Law Faculty, University of Trento, Italy.

- November 2021, Lecturing and Seminar Moderation Administrative Law Sub (AD/2021/11) National Administration Court, Tikkurila (FI). European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

- May 2022, Lecturing and Seminar Moderation Administrative Law Sub (AD/2022/05) Center for Judicial Studies, Lisbon (PT). European Judicial Training Network (EJTN).

Bertram Turner

- 9–12 July 2022, International Course on Legal Pluralism; Course Teaching: Science, Technology and Governance. Commission on Legal Pluralism, Faculty of Law, University of Lisbon, Portugal.

- 25–28 August 2022, Anthropology of Supply Chains. Sixth Baltic Summer School of Anthropology: "Global to local food chains: food sovereignty and climate change", Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia.

Han Vermeulen

- 3 November 2022 (online), Die Genese der Ethnographie – Ergebnis der Forschungsreisen durch Sibirien im 18. Jahrhundert, Guest Lecture in the Seminar 'Oberseminar zur Geschichte Russlands und Ostmitteleuropas in der Vormoderne'. Professur für Geschichte Ostmitteleuropas in der Vormoderne, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany.

Julia Vorhölter

- Winter Term 2022/23, Nightlife: Explorations in the Anthropology of Sleep. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

Samuel Joseph Williams

- Summer Term 2022, Anthropology and the United States. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Markus Wurzer

- Winter Term 2020/21 (online), jointly with Barbara Derler (University of Graz), Global Citizenship Education: Postcolonial Heritage in Europe. Department of History, University of Graz, Austria.

- Summer Term 2021 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz (European University Institute), Mapping Post-Colonial Florence and Italy. Department of History, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Geschichte Italiens von 1861 bis 1992. Department of Contemporary History, University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

- Winter Term 2021/22, Visual History. Institute for History, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- Winter Term 2022/23, jointly with Georg Marschnig (University of Graz), (Post) Faschistische und (Post)Imperialistische Erinnerungskulturen in Italien. Department of History, University of Graz, Austria.

- Winter Term 2022/23, Visual History als Feld der Zeitgeschichte in Österreich. Department of Contemporary History, University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

PhD Examinations

Christoph Brumann

- 16 July 2020, Hannah Rosa Klepeis, "Money, Morality, and Mistrust: Sangha-Laity Relations and Tibetan Personhood in Postreform China", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Ralph Litzinger, Kirsten W. Endres, Johannes Hübner).
- 26 November 2020, Sudeshna Chaki, "Dynamics of Emergence, Functioning and (Dis)continuity: Small-Scale Enterprises in Provincial India", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Chris Hann, Chris Gregory, Astrid Meier).
- 25 February 2021, Mareike Pampus, "Connected Heritages: The Inner-Life of a Port City in the Indian Ocean World", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Burkhard Schnepel, Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, Felix Blocher).
- 4 June 2021, Elzyata Kuberlinova, "Religion and Empire: The Kalmyk Sangha in Late Imperial Russia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Dittmar Schorkowitz, Nikolai Tsyrempilov, Francois Bertemes, Felix Blocher).
- 12 July 2021, Stefanie Adamitz, "Engagement im Wandel, Wandel durch Engagement: Eine Ethnographie des asylpolitischen Feldes in Leipzig 2015/2016", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, Asta Vonderau, Johannes Varwick).
- 5 November 2021, Shilla Lee, "Making Sōzō nōson: The Regional Revitalisation Movement in Tamba Sasayama and Its Use of Traditional Tamba Pottery", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: William Kelly, Francois Bertemes, Christian Papilloud).
- 20 April 2022, Katerina Ivanova, "From Trabi to E-Mobility: Industrial Labour and Social Transformation in Eastern Germany", Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia co-tutelle Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, Martin Kanovský, Juraj Podoba, Michał Buchowski, Ingo Schröder).
- 2 June 2022, Joseph K. Serunkuma, "Making Somaliland: Popular Culture, Identity and National Consciousness", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Günther Schlee, Olaf Zenker, Astrid Meier).
- 2 December 2022, Jaeyoung Kim, "Urban Dynamics: Everyday Life in an Industrial Sewing Community in Seoul", Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford, UK (Co-examiner: Dolores P. Martinez).
- 19 December 2022, Laura Lambert, "Everyday Externalization: The Transformations of Individual Asylum in Niger", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Marie-Claire Foblets, Olaf Zenker, Rainer Jakobi).

Kirsten W. Endres

- 29 October 2021, Pablo Ampuero Ruiz, "'They Must be Represented': The (Re)production of Social Hierarchies among Migrant Workers in Southern China", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Chris Hann, Pun Ngai).
- 20 June 2022, Anu Krishna, "A Spice, Its Scent, and Many Lives: Situating 'Alleppey Green' in the Indian Ocean World", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Burkhard Schnepel, Ursula Rao).
- 22 June 2022, Milana Čergić, "City of Supermarkets: An Ethnography of Retail Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Chris Hann, Boris Pétric, Monika Heintz, Stef Jansen, Nathalie Clayer).

Marie-Claire Foblets

- 19 May 2020, Malthe Hilal-Harvald, "Militant Constitutional Identity – A Theoretical Framework for the European Laws on Headscarves and Face Veils for Evaluation", Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Co-examiners: Jens Elo Rytter, Angelika Nussberger).

- 25 June 2020, Jonathan Bernaerts, "Linguistic Diversity and Administrative Interactions in Belgium and Germany: A Legal and Empirical Analysis", University of Antwerp, Belgium joint supervision Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Jan Velaers, Winfried Kluth, Cathy Berx, Rainer Hofmann, Sebastien Van Drooghenbroek, Frederic Vanneste).

- 29 April 2021, Markus Vollert, "Zwischen Integration und Rückzug – Der Rechtskonflikt um die Zwölf Stämme. Eine Fallstudie zum staatlichen Umgang mit religiösem Nonkonformismus in Deutschland", Leipzig University, Germany (Co-examiner: Christoph Kleine).

- 15 November 2021, Taina Cook, "Culture on Trial. An Ethnographic Study of the De/Constructing of Culture in Finnish Law Courts", Faculty of Humanities, University of Oulu, Finland (Co-examiner: Hannu Heikkinen).

- 29 November 2021, Mikele Schulz-Knudsen, "The Complex Interplay Between National Law and Practised Islam. Investigating Emergent Behaviours in Denmark", Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Co-examiners: Helle Krunke, Steven Wheatley).

- 8 March 2022, Sirin Knecht, "A Vision of Visibility – Politics of Women's Rights and International Aid in Lebanon", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Olaf Zenker).

- 12 May 2022, Louise Reyntjens, "Ex-Citizens and the European Convention on Human Rights. Citizenship Deprivation Examined under the ECHR", Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (Co-examiners: Koen Lemmens, Karin de Vries, Elise Muir, Paul Lemmens).

- 1 June 2022, Kim Lecoyer, "Belgian Muslim Women's Rights in Family Life and Conflict: A Socio-Legal Inquiry", University of Ghent, Belgium (Co-examiners: Eva Brems, Yves Haeck, Jinske Verhellen, Tom Van der Beken, Barbara Truffin).

- 5 July 2022, Stefan Millar, "Encamped States. The State of the Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Günther Schlee).

- 5 October 2022, Annette Mehlhorn, "With, Against and Beyond the Law: Radical Politics, Legal Activism and New Constutionalism in Pluranational Bolivia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Mark Goodale).

- 31 October 2022, Jonas Vernimmen, "Migratie en gelijke onderwijskansen. Een mensenrechtelijke analyse", Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (Co-examiners: Kurt Willems, Koen Lemmens, Yvonne Donders, Françoise Tulkens, Othmar Vanachter).

- 19 December 2022, Laura Lambert, "Everyday Externalization. The Transformations of Individual Asylum in Niger", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Olaf Zenker).

Chris Hann

- 26 November 2020, Sudeshna Chaki, "Dynamics of Emergence, Functioning and (Dis)continuity: Small-Scale Enterprises in Provincial India", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Christoph Brumann, Chris Gregory, Astrid Meier)

- 1 December 2020, Ceren Deniz, "The Formation of Provincial Capital, Value Regimes and the Politics of Labour in Anatolia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, Don Kalb).

- 1 October 2021, Irma Allen, "Dirty Coal: Industrial Populism as Purification in Poland's Mining Heartland", KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden (Faculty Opponent, grading committee comprised Jessica Smith, Nancy Langston, Michał Buchowski).

- 29 October 2021, Pablo Ampuero Ruiz, "'They Must be Represented' – The (Re)production of Social Hierarchies among Migrant Workers in Southern China", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Kirsten W. Endres, Pun Ngai).

- 10 February 2022, Luca Szücs, "Work and Morality in Hungarian Small Businesses", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 20 April 2022, Katarina Ivanova, "From Trabi to E-mobility: Industrial Labour and Social Transformation in Eastern Germany", Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia co-tutelle Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

- 22 June 2022, Milana Čergić, "City of Supermarkets. An Ethnography of Retail Trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Kirsten W. Endres, Boris Pétric, Monika Heintz, Stef Jansen, Nathalie Clayer).

- 9 December 2022, Frank Rochow, "Architektur und Staatsbildung. Militärarchitektur als Instrument zum Ausbau der habsburgischen Herrschaft in Krakau und Lemberg um 1850", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Elected Member of the Doctorate Committee).

Dirk Hanschel

- 20 July 2021, Björn Jünemann, "CSR-Berichterstattung und die Richtlinie 2014/95/EZ, Menschenrechtsberichterstattung in Deutschland", Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Anne-Christin Mittwoch).

- 28 June 2022, Carsten Schenke, "Bauordnungsrechtliche Anforderungen an die Rettung von Tieren", Faculty of Law, Economics and Business, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Felix Ekardt).

Jacqueline Knörr

- 16 December 2022, Agathe Ménétrier, "We Have to Get LGBT Refugees Out of Here": A Study of Secrecy along a Humanitarian Resettlement Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in West Africa", École normale supérieure (ENS), Paris, France (Co-examiners: Johanna Siméant-Germanos and Members of the Thesis Advisory Committee).

Alice Margaria

- 1 June 2020, Nola Cammu, "Multi-Parenthood, Kinship Terminology and the Role of Law", Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Belgium (Co-examiners: F Swennen, A Diduck and M Vonk).

Ursula Rao

- 15 December 2020, Desirée Kumpf, "Togetherness and Resistance: A Multispecies Ethnography of Organic Tea Plantations in India", Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany (Co-examiner: Heather Anne Swanson).

- 10 September 2021, Romm Lewkowicz, "Documenting the Undocumented. Experimenting Europe at the Biometric Alien Archive", City University of New York, USA (Co-examiners: Karen Strassler, Gary Wilder, Dagmar Herzog).

- 20 June 2022, Anu Krishna, "A Spice, Its Scent, and Many Lives: Situating 'Alleppey Green' in the Indian Ocean World", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Burkhard Schnepel, Andreas Pečar).

- 7 July 2022, Hassan Hussein Kochore, "(Not) Having a 'Government Age': A Historical Anthropology of Community-State Entanglement in Northern Kenya", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Günther Schlee).

- 29 November 2022, Jessica Steinman, "Visions of Vietnameseness: A Translocal Ethnography of Identity and Belonging among Vietnamese Migrants in Berlin, Houston and Moscow", Faculty of History, Art and Area Studies, Leipzig University, Germany (Co-examiners: Philipp Clart, Minh Nguyen).

Maria Sapignoli

- 16 December 2020, Maya Avis, "Between Recognition and Refusal: Encountering Law through Bedouin Land Rights in Palestine/Israel.", Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland (Co-examiner: Graziella Moraes Dias Da Silva, Supervisors: Grégoire Mallard, Riccardo Bocco).

Günther Schlee

- 20 November 2020, Nadine Rea Intisar Adam, "Designing Peace: Imagining Equality", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Keebet v. Benda-Beckmann, Tarja Väyrynen).

- 19 February 2021, Faduma Abukar Mursal, "Anatomy of the State in Mogadishu: An Anthropology of Violence, Political Imagination and Social Suffering", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Francesca Declic).

- 23 March 2021, Aida Alymbaeva, "Contesting Kalmak Identity in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Peter Finke).

- 12 July 2021, Alemayehu Debelo Jorgo, "Gadaa Reconsidered: The Structurationist Approach to Understand the Social System of the Borana Oromo of Southern Ethiopia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Olaf Zenker).

- 22 October 2021, Yohannes Yitbarek Ejigu, "Resistance of the Hamar to the Development Imperatives of the Ethiopian State", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Olaf Zenker).

- 22 June 2022, Joseph K. Serunkuma, "Making Somaliland: Popular Culture, Identity and National Consciousness", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Olaf Zenker).

- 5 July 2022, Stephan Millar, "Encamped States. The State of the Camp in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement", Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Marie-Claire Foblets).

- 7 July 2022, Hassan Hussein Kochore, "(Not) Having a 'Government Age' A Historical Anthropology of Community-State Entanglement in Northern Kenya", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Ursula Rao, Olaf Zenker).

Dittmar Schorkowitz

- 4 June 2021, Elzyata Kuberlinova, "Religion and Empire: The Kalmyk Sangha in Late Imperial Russia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Christoph Brumann, Nikolay Tsyrempilov).

Bertram Turner

- 27 January 2020, Juliane Neuhaus, "It Takes More Than a Village Court: Plural Dispute Management and Christian Morality in Rural Papua New Guinea", Philosophische Fakultät, University of Zurich, Switzerland (Co-examiners: Peter Finke; Mareile Flitsch).

Iain Walker

- 28 February 2022, Ibrahim Moustakim, "Recherches Archeologiques sur le Peuplement de la Grande-Comore jusqu'au XVe Siecle", Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France (Co-examiners: Manuel Gutierrez, Alastair Northedge, Nouirdine Abdallah, Benoit Poisblaut, Elysée Coulibally, Mathilde Buratti).

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann

- 1 December 2020, G. Ceren Deniz, "Formation of Provincial Capital, Value Regimes and the Politics of Labour in Anatolia", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Chris Hann, Don Kalb).

- 1 July 2021, Stefanie Adamitz, "Engagement im Wandel, Wandel durch Engagement: Eine Ethnographie des asylpolitischen Feldes in Leipzig 2015/2016", Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiner: Asta Vonderau).

- 20 April 2022, Katerina Ivanova, "From Trabi to E-Mobility: Industrial Labour and Social Transformation in Eastern Germany", Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia co-tutelle Faculty of Philosophy I, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (Co-examiners: Christoph Brumann, Martin Kanovský, Juraj Podoba, Michał Buchowski, Ingo Schröder).

- 1 July 2022, Philipp Jäger, "Migration, Mobilität und Informalität: Eine ethnographische Studie der Kaspischen Region anhand der Beispiele Aqtóbe/Westkasachstan und Sumqayıt/Aserbaidschan", Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany (Co-examiner: Eva-Maria Auch).

TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

Katia Bianchini

- 3 May 2021, Training to German NGOs on 'Family Reunion for Refugees to the UK'. Raphaelswerk e.V., Hamburg, Germany.

Harika Dauth

- 22 June 2022, Online Workshop for Teachers, Training unit for recognizing and acting against antiziganism. Ariowitsch-Haus Leipzig, Germany.

Hatem Elliesie

- 2020–2022, Head of the German Think Tank 'Islamic Finance and Banking'. Arabic and Islamic Law Association jointly with law firms and financial institutions, BAFin (Federal Financial Supervisory Authority), Düsseldorf and Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2020–2022, Expert Reviewer, Zentrum für Interkulturelle Kompetenz des Justizministeriums, Ministerium der Justiz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Essen, Germany.
- 27 February 2020 and 1 July 2022, Expert Advisor, RSF-Hub, Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Rechtsstaatlichkeitsförderung, Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin, Germany.
- 2022, Expert Reviewer, Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl, Österreichisches Innenministerium, Vienna, Austria.

Marie-Claire Foblets

- since 2018, Patron ICCFR Trust, International Commission on Couple and Family Relation Trust (ICCFR), Beckenham, UK.
- since 2016, Coordinator, Thinkers Programme 'Multiculturalism: How Can Society Deal with It?' Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (Class of the Humanities), Brussels, Belgium.
- since 2015, Executive Board Member, Fondation Francqui/Francqui Foundation, Brussels, Belgium.

Michael Fürstenberg

- 8 December 2022, Expert Participant, Workshop "Herausforderungen des transnationalen Rechtsterrorismus". Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Berlin, Germany.

Balázs Gosztonyi

- 1 October – 1 December 2022, Free advice on debt collection/enforcement to people living in poverty, debt collection market and practices knowledge transfer to lawyers working at the association Street Lawyers Association, Budapest, Hungary.

Deborah Jones

- 2022, Refugee support and aid for Ukraine. Germany.

Jacqueline Knörr

- Expert Witness and Country of Origin Expert in asylum cases concerning West Africa and Insular Southeast Asia (UK, USA, Germany, Netherlands).

- Expert/Advisor/Consultant concerning human rights issues in West Africa and Insular Southeast Asia (governmental and non-governmental organizations).
- Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), Working Groups 'Migration and Diversity' and 'Science', Germany.
- Flüchtlingsrat Nordrhein-Westfalen / Refugee Council North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.
- Netzwerk Migration in Europa / Network Migration in Europe, Germany.
- Pro Asyl Germany, Germany.

Anu Krishna

- 22 August – 22 September 2022, Visiting Researcher, Interdisciplinary research on pesticide toxicity in the cardamom production, Cardamom Research Station, Kerala Agricultural University, Pampadumpara, India.

Luc Leboeuf

- February 2021 – ongoing, Co-President, Independent Expert Commission in charge of establishing a Belgian Migration Code, Belgian Government, Brussels, Belgium.

Agathe Ménétrier

- regularly 2020–22, remote, Volunteer Coordinator for the Africa Team, voluntary research of Country of Origin Information. Asylos, The Netherlands.

Ursula Rao

- since 2022, Member, DFG funded Network 'Public Anthropology. Wissenspraktiken und gesellschaftliche Interventionen der ethnologischen Fächer', Free University Berlin and Goethe University Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

Sajjad Safaei

- 23 November 2022, Speaker, German Parliament, Germany.

Günther Schlee

- 2021, 2022, Consultant, Climate-sensitive Land Management (CLM), Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Larissa Vetters

- 24 March 2022, Agil und mobil – wie weiter nach der ad hoc-Digitalisierung, Ko-Veranstalter gemeinsam mit Thomas Götzelmann, NExT e.V., digital, Germany.

Markus Wurzer

- December 2022, Reviewer for exhibition, City of Vienna, Austria.

SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Conferences and Workshops

2020

VULNER Kick-off Workshop, 19–20 February 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Vulnerabilities Under the Global Protection Regime. How Does the Law Assess, Address, Shape and Produce the Vulnerabilities of the Protection Seekers?
Organiser: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 8–9 October 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
CUREDI Annual Workshop
Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

EJTN Judicial Training, 19 November 2020, online
MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges Facing New Challenges'
Organisers: Marie-Claire Foblets and Larissa Vetters (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

2021

Workshop, 19 March 2021, online
Sharia in Context
Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology') and Niels Valdemar Vinding (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

EJTN Study Visit, 22–26 March 2021, online
EJTN Study Visit: Family Law and Cultural/ Religious Diversity in Contemporary Europe
Organisers: Alice Margaria (Research Group 'Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice')

Workshop, 20 and 23 April 2021, online
MPI Colloquia Innovative Approaches in Health Care. India and Beyond
Organisers: Claudia Lang (Leipzig University/Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'), Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'), and Marine Aldahdah (Centre d'étude des mouvements sociaux (CEMS) France)

Workshop, 27–28 May 2021, online
VULNER Mid-term Workshop
Organiser: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 3–4 and 11 June 2021, online
Coastal Futures – Infrastructuring and Imagining Boundaries at Water's Edge
Organisers: Arne Harms and Lukas Ley (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 6 July 2021, online
Biomedical Practices in the Middle East and Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture
Organiser: Shai Lavi (Tel Aviv University, Israel), Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Hagai Boas (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Israel), Federica Sona (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Final Conference of the International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia
(IMPRS ANARCHIE), 7–9 July 2021, online
Society and Morality in Eurasia: From Prehistory to the Present Day
Organisers: Chris Hann, Sascha Roth (Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') and François Bertemes, Andreas Pečar (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

V4 Net – Visegrád Anthropologists' Network Workshop, 14–17 July 2021, Schloss Ringberg, Germany (hybrid)
Vox Populi Visegradensis. The Anthropology of East-Central Europe
Organiser: Chris Hann (Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia')

Workshop, 16 July 2021, MPI Halle/Saale
The Boundaries of Universality
Organiser: Hanna Nieber (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Annual Conference, 25–27 October 2021, Harnack House, Berlin
Future Law – A Max Planck Law Conference
Organizer: Department 'Law & Anthropology' and Max Planck Law

Workshop, 4–5 November 2021, online
Fascism – What's in a Name? Coming to Terms with Fascism as a Concept
Organisers: Annika Lems (Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change'), Ingo Schröder and Sabine Teryngel (University of Marburg, Germany), EASA Network 'Anthropology of Fascisms'

Workshop, 15–17 November 2021, MPI Halle/Saale
ERC ROSA Working Group Meeting
Organiser: Mascha Schulz (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' and ERC project 'Religion and Its Others in South Asia and the World')

EJTN Judicial Training, 18–19 November 2021, The Spanish Judicial School, Barcelona, Spain
MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges Facing New Challenges'
Organisers: Marie-Claire Foblets and Larissa Vetters (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 19 November 2021, Harnack House Berlin
Mediating Economic Life: Relation, Operation, and Experimentation
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Workshop, 2–3 December 2021, online
CUREDI Annual Workshop
Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets and Jonathan Bernaerts (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 9–10 December 2021, online
Situated AI – Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice
Organisers: Maya Avis, Daniel Marciniak and Maria Sapignoli (Research Group 'Anthropology of AI in Policing and Justice')

Workshop, 10–15 December 2021, Düsseldorf, Germany
New Research and Publication Projects on the Upper Guinea Coast and (far) Beyond
Organiser: Jacqueline Knörr (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

2022

Workshop, 12 January 2022, online
Collaborations and Contestations in Publicly Engaged Anthropologies
Organisers: Olaf Zenker and Asta Vonderau (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany), Jacqueline Knörr (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Carolin Görzig (Max Planck Research Group 'How 'Terrorists' Learn'), in cooperation with the DFG Network 'Public Anthropology'

Workshop, 19 January 2022, online
Cumulative, Communicative and Generative: Interventions in Migration-Mobility Studies
Organisers: Biao Xiang, Kathrin Fischer, and Jing Jing Liu (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Workshop, 11 February 2022, online
From Exchange to Traffic: Pilgrimage as Event of Mobility
Organisers: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Emrah Yıldız (Northwestern University, USA/MPI for Social Anthropology)

Workshop, 21 April 2022, Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Reconfiguring Vietnam: Global Encounters, Translocal Lifeworlds
Organisers: Kirsten W. Endres (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Minh Nguyen (University Bielefeld, Germany)

EJTN Study Visit, 25–29 April 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
EJTN Study Visit: The Best Interests of the Child and Diversity in the Courtroom
Organisers: Marie-Claire Foblets and Alice Margaria (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Field Workshop, 4–5 May 2022, Millstatt, Austria
Tracing the Socio-Cultural Genealogies of Anti-Cosmopolitan Practices in the Alps
Organisers: Annika Lems (Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Ghassan Hage (Melbourne University, Australia)

Joint Virtual Event ASILE, PROTECT & VULNER projects, 5 May 2022, online
Temporary Protection for People Fleeing the War in Ukraine
Organisers: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium), Hakan Sicakkan (University of Bergen, Norway)

Max Planck Law Training, 18–20 May 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Law and Anthropology: Rethinking Normativities, Legal Dynamics, Approaches and Practices
Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets and Alice Margaria (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 23 May 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Seminar Day with Hannah Knox
Organiser: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 2–4 June 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
South-Asia – Work in Progress Workshop
Organiser: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 10 June 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Future Environments
Organiser: Arne Harms (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Valedictory Lecture and Symposium, 23–24 June 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Symposium: Holistic Discipline
Organisers: Chris Hann (Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') and the Philosophische Fakultät I of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Workshop, 11–13 July 2022, Harnack Haus Berlin
CUREDI Annual Workshop
Organiser: Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 14–15 July 2022, hybrid
Buddhism in the Anthropocene
Organisers: Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko (Center for Contemporary Buddhist Studies, Denmark) and Jovan Maud (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 2–6 August 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Workshop with Ankur Writers
Organiser: Kavita Dasgupta and Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 26 August 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Anthropological Research in Organ Donation and Transplantation: Interrogating the Gift of Life
Organisers: Farrah Raza and Inge Fiedler (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

EJTN Judicial Training, 15–16 September 2022, The Spanish Judicial School, Barcelona, Spain
MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges Facing New Challenges'
Organisers: Marie-Claire Foblets and Larissa Vetters (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 21–22 September 2022, online
Colonialism and Transgenerational Memory in Europe
Organiser: Markus Wurzer (Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change')

Workshop, 22–23 September 2022, Harnack-Haus Berlin
VULNER Workshop
Organiser: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 23 September 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
The Limits of Dialogue? Representing Informants with Right-wing, Extremist and Exclusionary World Views
Organisers: Annika Lems (Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Klaus Neumann (Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur, Germany)

Workshop, 26–30 September 2022, Schlanders, Italy
Writing Workshop – Alpine Histories of Global Change
Organisers: Annika Lems (Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Herta Nöbauer (University of Vienna, Austria)

Inaugural Workshop of the Otto-Hahn Research Group, 26–28 October 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women
Organisers: Anaïs Ménard (Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility') and Jacqueline Knörr (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 6 December 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Boundaries of Universality
Organiser: Hanna Nieber for the Science and Universality Working Group (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Talks, Seminars, and Roundtables at the Institute

2020

Joint Institutes Colloquium, 7 January 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
School of Europeanness: Tolerance and Other Lessons in Political Liberalism in Latvia
Speaker: Dace Dzenovska (University of Oxford, UK)

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 13 January 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Electrical Infrastructure and Emerging Political Subjectivities in Occupied Istanbul (1918–1922)
Speaker: Cihan Tekay (University of New York, USA)

Werkstatt Ethnologie / Anthropological Workshop, 14 January 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
The Kusawiya (Mhallamyya) Communities in Germany and Their Extrajudicial Practice of Internal Conflict Resolution
Speaker: Mahmoud Jaraba (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Joint Institutes Colloquium, 21 January 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Economy and Ethics in the Cosmic Process
Speaker: Chris Hann (Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia')

Werkstatt Ethnologie / Anthropological Workshop, 28 January 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
How 'Terrorists' Learn: Research Findings and Insights from the Field
Speakers: Max Planck Research Group 'How 'Terrorists' Learn' (Carolin Görzig)

Joint Institutes Colloquium, 4 February 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Postneoliberalism in a Plurinational State: Economic Alterity and Hybridity in Bolivia
Speaker: Mark Goodale (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 18 March 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Incarceration in Rio de Janeiro and the 'Problem' of Resocialisation
Speaker: David Thompson (University of California, Berkeley, USA)

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 20 May 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Negotiating the Limits of Care: Gendered Constructions of Need and the Production of Un/Deservingness
Speaker: Ilona Grabmaier (University of Vienna, Austria)

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 27 May 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Attachments and Re-articulations ahead of the Inscription of 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region' (Japan) on the World Heritage List
Speaker: Raluca Anamaria Mateoc (Université de Fribourg, Switzerland)

VULNER Webinar, 15 June 2020, online
COVID-19 and Border Closures: How are Vulnerable Migrants Affected?
Speakers: Luc Leboeuf (Department of Law & Anthropology), Jessica Schultz (University of Bergen), Sabrina Marchetti (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), Delphine Nakache (University of Ottawa), Biao Xiang (University of Oxford)

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 8 July 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
(Dis-)Order and the Quest for Future: Policies of Structural Transformation in Central Germany
Speaker: Felix Schiedlowski (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Webinar, 16 July 2020, online
Praxis Dialog: Digital Anthropology
Organisers: Netzwerkstelle Ethnologie und Praxis, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and MPI for Social Anthropology
Speakers: Annie Liu, Sasha Rubel, Normal Schräpel, Asta Vonderau (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Reading Group, Winter Term 2020/21, online
Reading Group 'MeanTime'
Organiser: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Goody Lecture, 6 October 2020, online
On 'Technologies of the Intellect'
Speaker: Stephen Levinson (MPI for Psycholinguistics)

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 21 October 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Few and Far Between, but Tangible: An Ethnography of Japan's World Heritage Cultural Property 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'
Speaker : Raluca Anamaria Mateoc (Université de Fribourg, Switzerland)

Roundtable, 18 November 2020, online
The Ethnography of Algorithmic Assemblages
Organisers: Maria Sapignoli and Daniel Marciniak (Max Planck Research Group 'Aiming Toward the Future')

Joint Lecture Series, 24 November 2020, online
A Political Anthropology of the Now
Speaker: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Joint Lecture Series, 1 December 2020, online
Distributed Mobilities
Speaker: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia Seminar, 9 December 2020, MPI Halle/Saale
Negotiating 'Good' Mothering: Maternal Discourses and Gastrostomy Tube Feeding in Poland
Speaker: Katarzyna Król (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland)

VULNER Webinar, 10 December 2020, online
Bridging Legal and Empirical Research Methods in Migration Research. What are the Challenges?
Speakers: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Anuscheh Farahat (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

2021

Joint Lecture Series, 19 January 2021, online
Law & Anthropology: The Underexplored Potential of Cross-Disciplinary Research
Speaker: Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Joint Lecture Series, 26 January 2021, online
On the Postliberal Condition: Towards a Recursive Anthropology of the Politico-Normative beyond Alternative Facts and Nostalgic Positivism
Speaker: Olaf Zenker (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

'Political Assembly' Working Group Author-meets-readers event, 29 January 2021, online
Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh (Stanford, 2019)
Speaker: Nusrat Chowdhury (Amherst College, USA)

Lecture Series 'The Future of Criminal Justice Today', 1 February 2021, online
Open Source Justice. Digital Archives and the Criminal State
Speaker: Ronald Niezen (McGill University, Canada)

Joint Lecture Series, 2 February 2021, online
Earthly Upheavals in the Heavenly Mountains
Speaker: Chris Hann (Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia')

Joint Lecture Series, 16 February 2021, online
Anthropology of the Late Industrialism: Politics, Infrastructures and Cultures of Refusal
Speaker: Asta Vonderau (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Lecture Series 'The Future of Criminal Justice Today', 24 February 2021, online
Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing
Speaker: Sarah Brayne (University of Texas, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks, 4 March 2021, online
Environmental Rights in Agriculture: The Case of Organic Tea Plantations in India
Speaker: Desirée Kumpf (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

'Political Assembly' Working Group Author-meets-readers event, 11 March 2021, online
Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia (Duke, 2020)
Speaker: Karen Strassler (City University of New York, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks, 18 March 2021, online
Human Rights-Based Climate Litigation: A Latin American Cartography
Speaker: Juan Auz (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin)

Virtual Seminar, Summer Term 2021, online
Law, Technology and Social Movements: Global Citizens and Experts
Organisers: Annelise Riles (Northwestern University, USA), Maria Sapignoli (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy), Marie-Claire Foblets (Department 'Law & Anthropology'), and Ralf Michaels (Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law)

Reading Group, Summer Term 2021, online
Reading Group 'Care and Control'
Organiser: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Seminar Series, Summer Term 2021, online
Fortnightly Online Discussion on Economic Anthropology
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

ERCC Digital Talks, 8 April 2021, online
Law, Technology and Social Movements: Global Citizens and Experts
Speaker: Ngozi Chinwa Ole (Redeemers University, Ghana)

'Political Assembly' Working Group Author-meets-readers event, 15 April 2021, online
The Participant: A Century of Participation in Four Stories (Chicago, 2020)
Speaker: Chris Kelty (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks, 15 April 2021, online
'The Territory as Victim' – Ontological Conflicts and Reparations for Indigenous Victims of the Columbian Civil War
Speaker: Ernst Halbmayer (University of Marburg, Germany)

ERCC Digital Talks, 22 April 2021, online
'Too Many Crabs in the Bucket': An Explorative Analysis on Integrating Displaced Power Reform in West Africa
Speakers: Paschaline Nsiah-Arare, Joseph Allan MacDougald (University of Connecticut, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks, 29 April 2021, online
Divinity's Land or Government's Land? Mela's View over Land Ownership in the Face of Dispossession (Ethiopia)
Speaker: Lucie Buffavand (Institut des Mondes Africains, France)

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 6 May 2021, online
Humans Will Survive This Pandemic but Whether Humanity Will Is a Whole other Question: Houselessness, Corona and Survival in Leipzig, Germany
Speaker: Luisa Schneider (Vrije University Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

VULNER Webinar, 27 May 2021, online
Understanding Vulnerability in International Human Rights Law
Speakers: Francesca Ippolito (University of Cagliari), Sylvie Saroléa (Catholic University of Louvain), Anna Triandafyllidou (Ryerson University)

'Political Assembly' Working Group Author-meets-readers event, 1 June 2021, online
The Management of Hate: Nation, Affect, and the Governance of Right-Wing Extremism in Germany (2016, Princeton University Press)
Speaker: Nitzan Shoshan (Center for Sociological Studies, Colegio de México)

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 3 June 2021, online
Affective Translation to Multiple Publics: Who is the Audience of Transitional Justice?
Speaker: Jonas Bend (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

Coastal Futures Public Talk & Performance, 3 June 2021, online
Ecologies of Capture: Predations on Coastal Frontier
Speaker: Jason Cons (University of Texas at Austin, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks, 10 June 2021, online
Whose Sustainability are We Talking about? The Arctic and Its Peoples
Speaker: Reetta Toivanen (University of Helsinki, Finland)

ERCC Digital Talks, 17 June 2021, online
The Double Bind and the Reverse Side of the International Legal Order: Talking with Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui and El Colectivo
Speaker: Paulo Ilich Bacca (National University of Colombia, Colombia)

Goody Lecture, 24 June 2021, online
The Treadmill Paradox in Cultural History: Competitive Global Capitalism and the Anthropocene Challenge
Speaker: Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo and External Scientific Member at the MPI for Social Anthropology)

ERCC Digital Talks, 24 June 2021, online
The Forest in the Self: On the Role of the Non-Human in an Amazonian Account of Morality
Speaker: Carlos David Londoño Sulkin (University of Regina, Canada)

'Political Assembly' Working Group Author-meets-readers event, 1 July 2021, online
Francis Cody's Recent Writings
Speaker: Francis Cody (University of Toronto, USA)

ERCC Digital Talks and Law & Anthropology Seminar, 8 July 2021, online
Climate Change Adaptation as an Environmental Justice Issue: The Case of Kiribati
Speaker: Silja Klepp (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany)

ERCC Digital Talks, 22 July 2021, online
The Moral of the Story? Defining Environmental and Social Responsibilities within Transnational Metal Production
Speaker: Jenni E. Viitala (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Anthropology of Politics and Governance Seminar, 15 September 2021, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Work Discussion on William Mazzarella's Recent Publications
Speaker: William Mazzarella (University of Chicago, USA)

Seminar Series, Winter Term 2021, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
'Keywords' Seminar Series
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Seminar Series, Winter Term 2021/22, online
Fortnightly Online Discussion on Economic Anthropology
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Reading Group, Winter Term 2021/22, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Reading Group 'Beyond Carbon'
Organisers: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Asta Vonderau (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)

Anthropology of Economic Experimentation Seminar, 6 October 2021, online
The Changing Intellectual Landscape in China
Speaker: David Ownby (Université de Montréal, Canada)

VULNER Webinar, 14 October 2021, online
Challenges of Ethnographic Fieldwork within Migrant Communities
Speakers: Martin Zillinger (University of Cologne), Sophie Nakueira (Department 'Law & Anthropology') Nina Grønlykke Mollerup (University of Copenhagen)

ERCC Digital Talks, 11 November 2021, online
Documentary Film "Amazon of Rights"
Speakers: Michael Riegner (Erfurt University) and Cecilia Oliveira (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies – IASS Potsdam)

Anthropology of Politics and Governance Seminar, 17 November 2021, MPI Halle/Saale
Discussing Work in Progress
Speaker: Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo and External Scientific Member at the MPI for Social Anthropology)

ERCC Digital Talks, 25 November 2021, online
Striving for Less Bad Futures: Protest, Ethics and Law among Climate Activists
Speaker: Arne Harms (MPI for Social Anthropology, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 25 November 2021, online
The Accountable Bureaucrat
Speaker: Anya Bernstein (Law School, SUNY Buffalo, USA)

Seminar, 29 November 2021, online
Three Faces (or Phases?) of the Anthropology of Globalisation
Speaker: Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo and External Scientific Member at the MPI for Social Anthropology)

Roundtable, 30 November 2021, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Roundtable on Gregory Bateson and Eric Wolf
Organisers: Biao Xiang, Samuel Joseph Williams (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'), Thomas Hylland Eriksen (External Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society)

ERCC Digital Talks, 9 December 2021, online
Making and Un-making Frontiers: Contested Land Rights
Speaker: Anu Lounela (University of Helsinki)

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 16 December 2021, online
The Intergenerational Memory of Mass Atrocities: The Missing Piece of Transitional Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution
Speaker: Valérie Rosoux (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium)

2022

ERCC Digital Talks, 13 January 2022, online
Proceduralising Indigenous Peoples' Demands in Latin America: Legal Pluralism and Indigenous Environmental Rights in Contemporary Jurisprudence
Speakers: Jessika Eichler (Associate MPI for Social Anthropology/FU Berlin) and Veronica Mora (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)

Anthropology of Politics and Governance Seminar, 18 January 2022, online
Parasitic Bordering: Public Institutions and Internalised State Immigration Regimes
Speaker: Kathryn Cassidy (Northumbria University, UK)

ERCC Digital Talks, 27 January 2022, online
Capturing Citizenship: Resisting Neo-Extractivism in Argentina through Citizens Assemblies' Photographic Practice
Speaker: Erika Teichert (University of Cambridge)

Roundtable, 27 January 2022,
MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Roundtable on David Graeber's Anthropology and 'The Dawn of Everything'
Organisers: Biao Xiang, Samuel Joseph Williams (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'), Don Kalb (University of Bergen, Norway)

ERCC Digital Talks, 10 February 2022, online
The 'Roads' to Environmental Disasters and the Corrupted Environmental Rights in South Gobi, Mongolia
Speaker: Bayar Dashpurev (MPI for Social Anthropology, ERCC Group)

Anthropology of Economic Experimentation Seminar, 17 February 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
MoLab Discussion
Speaker: Amrita Datta

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 10 March 2022, online
Governing Comparisons:
The Role of Global Social Indicators
Speaker: David Nelken (King's College London, UK)

VULNER Talk Series, 10 March 2022, online
Temporary Protection for Ukrainian Refugees – The Implementation Challenges Ahead
Organisers: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology') and Susanne Höb (Population Europe)

Joint Departmental Event, 14 March 2022,
MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Ethnographic Perspectives on Ukraine
Speakers: Taras Fedirko (University of St. Andrews), Deborah Jones (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'), Deema Kaneff (University of Birmingham), Simon Schlegel (Senior Ukraine Analyst at International Crisis Group), Diána Vonnák (University of St. Andrews)

Roundtable, 17 March 2022, online
War, Common Sense and Anthropology
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Reading Group, Spring Term 2022,
MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
'Common Sense' Reading Group
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Discussion Group, Summer Term 2022,
MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
'Common Worries' Group Discussion
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Anthropology of Economic Experimentation Seminar, 5 April 2022, hybrid
Heterogeneity and Plasticity of the Self: Some Anthropological Reflections
Speaker: David Berliner (Free University of Brussels, Belgium)

Law & Anthropology Seminar, 21 April 2022, online
Justification as a Practical Activity – An Anthropological Approach
Speaker: John Bowen (Washington University of St. Louis, USA)

Roundtable, 22 April 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Brainstorming on Research Related to Halle
Organiser: Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Anthropology of Economic Experimentation Conversation, 10 May 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
'The Personal is Political' Revisited
Speakers: Hyun Mee Kim (Yonsei University, South Korea), Wondam Paik (SungKongHoe University, South Korea), Biao Xiang (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

ERCC Digital Talks, 12 May 2022, online
Peasants as Subjects of Human Rights in Connection With the Environment – Status Quo of International Standards, Challenges and Opportunities
Speaker: Ana María Suárez Franco (FIAN)

Roundtable, 12 May 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Economy and Society: Experiences and Experiments from South Asia
Organisers: Anindita Chakrabarti (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India) and Andrew Haxby (Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Anthropology of Politics and Governance Seminar, 25 May 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Algorithms and Governance in the Realm of Matter
Speaker: Hannah Knox (University College London, UK)

ERCC Digital Talks, 2 June 2022, online
Impact Assessments and International Law: Between Practice and Procedure
Speaker: Sanchir Jargalsaikhan

ERCC Digital Talks, 23 June 2022, online
The Ecuadorian Rights of Nature or Pacha Mama: A Legal Person in the Making
Speaker: Andreas Gutmann

ERCC Digital Talks, 7 July 2022, online
Rights of Nature and Access to International Jurisdiction – A European and Latin-American Perspective
Speaker: Alex Valle

Werkstatt Ethnologie/Anthropological Workshop,
18 July 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
The Emotional Drive of Foreign Direct Investment, or, Why do Guinean Marabouts and Parisian Lawyers Hanker after Foreign Capital?
Speaker: Gustav Kalm (Columbia University, USA)

Anthropology of Politics and Governance Seminar,
21 July 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Book Discussion with the Authors: 'Traces of Violence' by Robert Desjarlais and Khalil Habrih
Speakers: Robert Desjarlais (Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, USA) and Khalil Habrih (University of Ottawa, Canada)

Anthropology of Economic Experimentation Panel Discussion, 4 August 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Rebuild the Left
Keynote: Ananda Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

VULNER Webinar, 22 September 2022, online
The EU New Pact on Asylum and Migration – Two Years On: Where Do We Stand?
Organiser: Luc Leboeuf (Department 'Law & Anthropology') together with Population Europe

Reading Group, Winter Term 2022/23, online
Reading Group 'Minor'
Organiser: Ursula Rao (Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Werkstatt Ethnologie/Anthropological Workshop,
29 November 2022, MPI Halle/Saale
Fluid Moralities, Multiple Ontologies and Kindred Knowledge: Kawsak Sacha as a Law
Speaker: Jenny García Ruales (Max Planck Fellow Group 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context' and University of Marburg)

Department 'Law & Anthropology' Work-in-Progress Session, 1 December 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Legal Consultations in Mosques of Central Russia Between Bureaucratization and Activism
Speaker: Denis Shedov (University College London, UK)

Department 'Law & Anthropology' Work-in-Progress Session, 2 December 2022, MPI Halle/Saale (hybrid)
Vulneralized Subjects. Ethnographic Perspectives on the Experiences of Migrants Seeking Protection in Italy
Speaker: Dany Carnassale (EU project VULNER, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy)

Law & Anthropology Seminar,
15 December 2022, online
Can Legal Analysis Provide Anthropological Insights?
Speaker: Marie-Bénédicte Dembour (University of Sussex, UK)

Organisation of External Conferences

2020

Workshop, 15–16 February 2020, Zagreb, Croatia
Foreign-Currency Housing Loans in Eastern Europe: Crises, Tensions and Struggles
Organisers: Marek Mikuš (MPI, Emmy Noether Research Group 'Peripheral Debt'), Agnes Gagyi (University of Gothenburg), and Petra Rodik (University of Zagreb)

Workshop, 24–28 February 2020, Verwaltungsgericht Braunschweig, Germany
Kollaboratives Fortbildungs- und Forschungs-seminar zu interkulturellen Implikationen in asyl- und ausländerrechtlichen Verfahren vor Verwaltungsgerichten
Organisers: Larissa Vetters (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Paul Pettersson, and Valentin Feneberger

V4 Net – Visegrád Anthropologists' Network Workshop, 3–5 September 2020, Warsaw, Poland (hybrid)
Locating Religion and Nonreligion in Eastern/ Central Europe
Organiser: Agnieszka Halemba (V4 Net, Polish Academy of Sciences) in cooperation with Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'

V4 Net – Visegrád Anthropologists' Network Workshop, 15–16 October 2020, Prague, Czech Republic
Nation-Building and the Dynamics of Silences, Memory and Forgettings
Organiser: Elena Soler (V4 Net, Charles University) in cooperation with Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'

Workshop, 10–11 December 2020, Harnack House Berlin (hybrid)
The Emotional Consequences of the Peace
Organisers: Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development) and Chris Hann (MPI, Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia')

Workshop, 14–15 December 2020, University of Zurich, Switzerland (online)
Committed to Religion's Other: The Anthropology of the Secular
Organisers: Stefan Binder (University of Zurich) and Mascha Schulz (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

2021

Conference 10–12 March 2021 (online)
Anthropology of Siberia in the Late 19th and 20th Centuries: Re-assessing the Contribution of a 'Marginal' Field
Organisers: Dmitriy Funk (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, RAS), Joachim Otto Habeck (University of Hamburg), Virginie Vaté (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris) in cooperation with Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'

Workshop, 3–4 June 2021, University of Bern, Switzerland (online)
Trapped in Paradise: Entangled Lives and Uncertain Futures in Tourist Towns
Organisers: Janine Dahinden (NCCR on the move/ University of Neuchâtel), Annika Lems (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change'), Valerio Simoni (Graduate Institute Geneva), Sabine Strasser (University of Bern)

Conference, 7–8 July 2021, Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom, Italy (online)
Il Medioevo e l'Italia fascista: al di là della "romanità"
Organisers: Markus Wurzer (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change'), Romedio Schmitz-Esser (Heidelberg University) and Martin Baumeister (Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom)

Fourth International Thematic Conference on Africa and the Indian Ocean, 16–17 September 2021, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal
New Gulf Streams Middle East and Eastern Africa Intersected
Organisers: Iain Walker (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology), Marie Pierre Ballarin (IRD – Université Côte d'Azur), Preben Kaarsholm (Roskilde University), Manuel Ramos (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Conference, 12–13 November 2021, Gesellschaft für afrikanisches Recht and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
47th Annual Conference of the African Law Association 'Islam and Law in Africa'
Co-Organiser/Member of the Executive Committee: Hatem Elliesie (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Workshop, 26 November 2021, Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary (hybrid)
The Re-enchantment of Culture and Flexible Citizenship in a Hardening World. Ideology and Life Strategies in Middle-Class Migration to Europe and Beyond
Organisers: Pál Nyíri (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest) and Biao Xiang (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Roundtable, 3 December 2021 (online)
Migration, Securitization, and Civic Engagement at the Polish-Belarusian Border
Organisers: Annika Lems (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Agnieszka Pasieka (University of Vienna), Agnieszka Halemba (University of Potsdam), Alexandra Schwell (University of Klagenfurt)

2022

International Conversation, 31 March 2022 (online)
Conversatorio Internacional: Derechos Ambientales y Territorio en América Latina / Abya Yala
Organisers: Mario Gilberto Aguilera Bravo (MPI, Max Planck Fellow Group 'Environmental Rights in Cultural Context') and Carrera de Antropología de la Universidad Politécnica Salesiana – Ecuador and University of Marburg

Workshop, 1 April 2022, Think Tank 'Islamic Finance', Frankfurt, Germany
Auswirkungen des MoPeG auf das islamische Finanzwesen
Organiser: Hatem Elliesie (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology') and Fieldfisher LLP

V4 Net – Visegrád Anthropologists' Network Workshop, 27–30 April 2022, Modra, Slovakia
Tradition and Solidarity in the Visegrád Countries in the Pandemic Moment
Organizers: Juraj Buzalka (V4 Net, Comenius University in Bratislava) and Margit Feischmidt (V4 Net, Research Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest) in cooperation with Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'

Workshop of the DGSKA Working Group 'Psychological Anthropology', 2–3 June 2022, co-hosted by the Research Group 'Ageing in a Time of Mobility', Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany (hybrid)
Psychological Anthropology Today: Theoretical and Practical Interventions in an Interconnected World
Organisers: Victoria Sakti (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity) and Julia Vorhölter (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Workshop, 11–12 June 2022, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China (hybrid)
Experience, Question, and Scholarship: The Current State and Futures of Chinese Humanities and Social Sciences
Organisers: Biao Xiang (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Wang Hui, Shi Anshu, and Feng Naixi (Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences)

Workshop, 11 June – 13 August 2022, Guangzhou, China (hybrid)
Social Art Workshop 'Seeing the first 500 metres'
Organisers: Jason Ho (South China Polytechnic University), Duan Zhipeng (The Oslo School of Architecture and Design) and Biao Xiang (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Conference, 3–5 July 2022, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Malinowski and the Argonauts: A Hundred Years of Economic Anthropology and the Ethnographic Method
Organisers: Chris Hann (MPI, Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') and Deborah James (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Conference, 7–8 July 2022, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
Platform Mobilities – Automation, Labour Migration, Reproduction
Organisers: Project Digitalisation of Labour and Migration (Institute for European Ethnology & Berlin Institute for Migration Research, Humboldt University), Transforming Solidarities (Berlin University Alliance), The Geopolitics of Automation (Western Sydney University), and Biao Xiang (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation')

Summer School, 9–12 July 2022, Commission on Legal Pluralism, Lisbon, Portugal
International Course on Legal Pluralism
Organiser: Bertram Turner (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Hybrid Workshop, 19–20 September 2022, SOAS University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK
De-centring and Contesting Externalization in West Africa and Beyond
Organisers: Laura Lambert (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Moctar Dan Yayé, Leonie Jegen, Aino Korvensyrjä, Ngozi Louis Uzomah, Hassan Ould Moctar, Franzisca Zanker

Conference, 5–7 October 2022, Nairobi, Kenya, funded by Volkwagen Foundation, Knowledge for Tomorrow Program (hybrid)
Critique in Africa
Organisers: Sandra Calkins (Freie Universität Berlin), Kai Kresse (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient ZMO), Oriare Nyarwath (University of Nairobi) and Tyler Zoanni (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

Conference, 7–8 October 2022, Gesellschaft für afrikanisches Recht and University of Heidelberg, Germany.
Tagung zu Ehren des 90. Geburtstags von Prof. em. Dr. Omaia Elwan
Co-Organiser: Hatem Elliesie (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology', Vice-Chairperson of the Arabic and Islamic Law Association)

Fifth International Thematic Conference on Africa and the Indian Ocean, 13–14 October 2022, IRD – Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France
Circulations of Knowledge of Cultural and Artistic Practices in African Indian Ocean Island Societies from the Mid-Nineteenth Century
Organisers: Iain Walker (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'), Marie Pierre Ballarin (IRD – Université Côte d'Azur), Preben Kaarsholm (Roskilde University), Manuel Ramos (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa)

Workshop, 8, 15, 23, 24 November 2022, Senatsverwaltung für Justiz, Vielfalt und Antidiskriminierung, Berlin, Germany
Weiterbildung im Umgang mit Konflikten in Deutschlands vielfältiger Gesellschaft
Organiser: Hatem Elliesie (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Frank Michael Heller, and Anusheh Rafi

Workshop, 25 November 2022, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK
Translating Legal Obligations in Practice in Organ Donation & Transplantation
Organiser: Farrah Raza (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

Conference, 8–9 December 2022, Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect, Munich, Germany
Colonial Violence Beyond the Borders of Empires: Dis/Connections, Transfers, and Mobilities, ca. 1850–1954
Organisers: Dominique Biehl (University of Basel, Basel), Ulrike Lindner (University of Cologne) Tom Menger (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich), and Markus Wurzer (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change')

Organisation of Conference Panels

2020

July 2020, EASA Conference, online
Marriage-making among Romani Populations
Organisers: Ana Chiriţoiu (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology') and Cătălina Tesăr

July 2020, EASA Conference, online
Making and Remaking Anthropology Museums: Provenance and Restitution
Organiser: Han Vermeulen (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

July 2020, EASA Conference, online
The Horizons of Sensory Transformations: Experiences, Representations and Meanings of Changing Food Tastes
Organisers: Joanna Mroczkowska (MPI, Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') and Justyna Straczuk

July 2020, EASA Conference, online
The Political Power of Energy Futures within and beyond Europe
Organisers: Kirsten W. Endres (MPI, Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia'), Charlotte Bruckermann, and Katja Müller

December 2020, Fachtagung zur Prävention von „Clankriminalität", LKA Nordrhein-Westfalen, Essen, Germany
Herausforderung „Zugang" zu Zielgruppen aus wissenschaftlicher Perspektive
Organiser: Hatem Elliesie (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

2021

March 2021, ASA Conference, St Andrews, UK
Rhizomes of Digitalisation: Bureaucratic Sentiments and Redistributed Accountability
Organisers: Thomas Götzelmann (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

March 2021, International Conference on Vitality and Quality of Health in the 21 Century, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Chronic Times, Chronic Living
Organisers: Tyler Zoanni (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Michele Friedner

March 2021, IUAES Congress, online
Contesting Household Debt: Politics, Infrapolitics, and the Political Economy of Debtor-Creditor Relations
Organisers: Marek Mikuš (MPI, Emmy Noether Research Group 'Peripheral Debt') and Irene Sabaté

May 2021, LSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA
Legal Pluralism in Situations of Legality and Illegality
Organiser: Bertram Turner (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

June 2021, Asia and Africa in Transition, University of Copenhagen, online
Situated Natalisms: Familial and Filial Forms in Africa and Asia
Organisers: Tyler Zoanni (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Ayo Wahlberg

June 2021, VAD Conference 2020/21, online
Lifeworlds in Crisis
Organisers: Tyler Zoanni (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Andrea Behrends

July 2021, IMISCOE Annual Conference, Luxembourg
The Making of Procedural (In-)Justice in (1) Asylum Claim-making, Determination and Reception and (2) Migrant-State Interactions at Local, National and European Level
Organisers: Larissa Vetters (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology'), Sophie Andreetta, and Zeynep Yanaşmayan

September 2021, DGSKA-Tagung, online
Economy as Atmosphere
Organisers: Tyler Zoanni (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance') and Stefan Leins

September 2021, DGSKA-Tagung, online
Ethics in Entangled Worlds
Organiser: Arne Harms (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

September 2021, DGSKA-Tagung, online
Politics and Poetics of the Pristine
Organisers: Desirée Kumpf and Hanna Nieber (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

September 2021, DGSKA-Tagung, online
Navigating the Changing World: Generational Relations as Resource and Challenge in Times of Crises, Workshop of the DGSKA Working Group 'Psychological Anthropology'
Organisers: Julia Vorhölter (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'), Victoria Sakti, and Edda Willamowski

September 2021, DGSKA-Tagung, Bremen, Germany
In/visible Effects of Rhizomatous Digitalization in Economic Margins and State Administrations
Organiser: Timm Sureau, Thomas Götzelmann (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology'), and Andrea Behrends

October 2021, 4S Annual Meeting, online
The Boundaries of Universality – Contemporary Engagements of Science
Organiser: Science and Universality Working Group (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

October 2021, 4S Annual Meeting, online
Coastalization: Thinking Global Relations from the Coast
Organisers: Arne Harms and Lukas Ley (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance')

November 2021, AAS Annual Conference, online
Landing Places: Locating Oppression, Exclusion, and the Grounds of Overcoming an Accelerating Global World Order
Organisers: Annika Lems (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Melinda Hinkson

2022

April 2022, BASEES Annual Conference, Cambridge, UK
Explaining Orban's Hungary
Organisers: Chris Hann (MPI, Department 'Resilience and Transformation in Eurasia') and Nigel Swain

April 2022, Annual Conference of the Swedish Anthropological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden
Activism, Hope and Future Horizons on the African Continent
Organisers: Anaïs Ménard (MPI, Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration, and Social Mobility') and Marie Deridder

June 2022, 7èmes Rencontres des Études africaines en France (REAF), Toulouse, France
Subjectivités politiques et pluralité d'agir politique en contexte postcolonial et d'extraversion
Organisers: Anaïs Ménard (MPI, Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration, and Social Mobility') and Marie Deridder

July 2022, EASA Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Activism, Hope and Future Horizons on the African Continent
Organisers: Anaïs Ménard (MPI, Otto Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration, and Social Mobility') and Marie Deridder

June 2022, VAD Conference 2022, Freiburg, Germany
Creolising Africa: A Collaborative Approach
Organisers: Iain Walker (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Manuela Boatcă

July 2022, LSA Global Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal
Experiencing Migration, Navigating Legal Pluralism
Organisers: Larissa Vetters (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology') and Carolien Jacobs

July 2022, LSA Global Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal
Decolonizing the Normative Power of Technology and Materiality in Postcolonial Plural Legal Settings
Organiser: Bertram Turner (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

July 2022, LSA Global Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal
Race and Social Control: Debt, Violence, and Guns
Organiser: Mariana Monteiro de Matos (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

July 2022, EASA Conference 2022, Belfast, Northern Ireland
'Transformations all the Way Down': On the Possibilities of Critiquing the Zeitgeist of Change
Organisers: Mario Schmidt (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Martin Fotta

July 2022, EASA Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Promising Growth: Anthropological Reflections on Sprawling Infrastructure and Inequality
Organisers: Danaé Leitenberg (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change') and Sabrina Stallone

July 2022, EASA Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland
"What if They Say Things We Don't Like"? Visual Reflections on Uneasy Relationships in the Field
Organisers: Christine Moderbacher (MPI, Max Planck Research Group 'Alpine Histories of Global Change'), Michael Karrer, and Marcelo Pedroso

July 2022, EuroSEAS Conference, Paris-Aubervilliers, France
Technological Innovations and Changing Temporalities in Colonial Southeast Asia
Organisers: Kirsten W. Endres (MPI, Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation') and Oliver Tappe

July 2022, 28th International Conference of Europeanists, Lisbon, Portugal
Neoliberalism and the Populist Counter-Movements in East-Central Europe – Panel 1 + 2
Organisers: Chris Hann (MPI for Social Anthropology) and Gabor Scheiring

November 2022, 7th International Conference of the Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists, Madrid, Spain
Lenguaje, discurso y narrativa
Organiser: Mariana Monteiro de Matos (MPI, Department 'Law & Anthropology')

September 2022, RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference, Leipzig, Germany
Infrastructures of Finance and Finance as Infrastructure in Eastern Europe
Organisers: Marek Mikuš (MPI, Emmy Noether Research Group 'Peripheral Debt'), Leonardo Pataccini, and Martin Sokol

November 2022, AAA Annual Meeting, Seattle, USA
Anthropology of European Finance
Organiser: Marek Mikuš (MPI, Emmy Noether Research Group 'Peripheral Debt')

Presentations of Individual Researchers at Conferences and Workshops

Beate Anam

- 19 March 2021 (online), "Gender (and) Equality through the Eyes of Muslim Women: Experiences from Ethnographic Fieldwork in Western and Eastern Germany." Sharia in Context – Online Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology and University of Copenhagen, Germany.
- 18–19 November 2021 (online), "The Islamic Headscarf and Beyond: Negotiation Processes of Muslim Women in Germany." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.

Kezia Ayikai Aryeetey

- 26–28 October 2022, "Integration of Ghanaian Women Migrants in Europe: An Intersectional Feminist Perspective." Inaugural Workshop of the Otto-Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women'. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Maya Avis

- 9–10 December 2021 (online), "See(k)ing Justice through and against New Technologies of Policing and Surveillance in Palestine/Israel." Situated AI – Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 12–13 May 2022, jointly with Nataliya Tchermalykh, "Contesting State Hegemony over Landscapes from Calais to the Naqab And the West Bank." Landscape, Law, and Spatial Justice Symposium, Project 'Property [In]Justice'. University College Dublin, Ireland.
- 6–10 June 2022 (online), jointly with Daniel Marciniak, "Arbitrary AI: An Ethnographic Reflection on Palestine/Israel and the US." Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society, Panel: AI as a Form of Governance: Imagination, Practice and Pushback. Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), UK.
- 26–29 July 2022, "Common Law in the Naqab." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Emergent Collectivities and Practices of Commoning in and after Conflict. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

Michiel Baas

- November 2022 (online), "Discuss a More Responsible Way of Working with AI and Related Technologies." Responsible Today Workshop. Responsible Today Initiative, India.
- 8–9 December 2022 (online), "Cohabiting and Cocreating with AI." Adobe Designmix 2022. Adobe Noida, India.

Hynek Bečka

- 8 October 2021 (online), "Alternative Science: Knowledge Production among Covid-19 Deniers." 4S Annual Meeting 2021 'Good Relations. Practices and Methods', Panel: The Boundaries of Universality – Contemporary Engagements of Science. 4S – Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, Canada.

Ana Chirițoiu

- 29–30 June 2020 (online), "Negotiations of Marriage and Ethics among Southern Romanian Roma: Betrothal Proceedings Explained." What's Kinship Got to Do With it? (Re)Theorizing Configurations of Kinship, Economics, and Ethics. Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change, UK.
- 2–4 July 2020 (online), "Kinsmen Into Strangers: Amity, Pity, and Hierarchy Among Romanian Roma." 5th Vienna Ethnographic Laboratory 'Mobilities and Care. Transformations of Belonging and Inequalities'. University of Vienna, Austria.
- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Hierarchies and Egalitarianism in the Betrothal Negotiations of a Roma Population in Southern Romania." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

Jonathan Bernaerts

- 19–21 September 2022, jointly with Adriaan Overbeeke, "Covid-19 policies in the Low Countries: Sensitive to Religious Diversity? A First Analysis Based on Two Country Studies." 6th ICLARS Conference. International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), Cordoba, Spain.

Samiksha Bhan

- 6–9 October 2021 (online), "Locating Genetic Diagnostics in India." 4S Annual Meeting 2021 'Good Relations. Practices and Methods', Panel: The Boundaries of Universality – Contemporary Engagements of Science. 4S – Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, Canada.
- 16–17 October 2021 (online), "Enacting Pathos: (Dis)Articulations of the Body in Images of Sickle Cell across Genres." Circulation of Images in Life Sciences, Panel: Decontextualisation and Recontextualisations. Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, USA.
- 23–24 May 2022 (online), "'Not in Our Samaaj': Contesting Bloodlines in the Identification of IBDs in India." Hematopolitics Symposium 'The Politics of Blood, Body and Health', Panel: Politics and Governance of Blood and Inheritance. School of Languages, Cultures and Societies, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK.

Katia Bianchini

- 19 November 2020 (online), jointly with Sophie Andreetta, "Witchcraft Persecution: Common Challenges in Judicial Decision-Making." Judicial Training 'Cultural and Religious Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 26 April 2021 (online), jointly with Sophie Andreetta, "Anthropology Mets Law: Experiences from a Judicial Training on Diversity in the Courtroom." Departmental Training for the International Criminal Court, The Hague. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 20 October 2021 (online), "The Role of Expert Witnesses in the Adjudication of Religious and Culture-Based Asylum Claims in the United Kingdom: The Case Study of 'Witchcraft' Persecution." The Refugee Convention – 70 Years On. University of Uppsala, Sweden.
- 25 March 2022 (online), "A Rule of Law Framework to Study Sea Migration in the Mediterranean Sea." Migration and Border Management: Challenges and Perspective for Reform. University of Malta, Msida, Malta.
- 25–29 April 2022, "A Child-Rights Approach to the Meaning of 'Persecution' in the Refugee Convention." EJTN Study Visit. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 11–12 July 2022, jointly with Iulia Mirzac, "Reflections on the Disjuncture between Forced Marriage in Asylum and Family Law Decisions in the UK." CUREDI Annual Workshop 2022. MPI for Social Anthropology, Berlin, Germany.

Christoph Brumann

- 22 July 2020 (online), "From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Worriers/Warriors of Kyoto." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Public Goods: Urban Governance and the Politics of Value. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 29 October 2020 (online), Senior Advisor, 16th EAJS Workshop for Doctoral Students. Japanese Studies Department, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
- 22 February 2022 (online), "There's Life in the Old House Yet: The Creative Career of Kyoto's *machiya* Heritage." Living Heritage. Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Kyoto, Japan.
- 1 October 2022 (online), "Heritage, Capitalism and the Commons." Culture and Heritage in the Capitalist World. Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipeh, Taiwan.

Kavita Dasgupta

- 24 May 2022, jointly with Ursula Rao, "Collaborative Writing, Making Sense, Together, of Urban Sprawls and Life in Delhi's Poor Neighbourhoods." Responsible Documentation and Conscious Outcomes: Explorations in the Ownership of Knowledge, Panel: Examples, Approaches, and Theorisations of Responsible Documentation. Papers and Cases. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany.

Bayar Dashpurev

- 26–30 May 2021 (online), jointly with Dirk Hanschel, Jenni Viitala, María Angélica Prada Uribe, Jenny García Ruales, Mario G. Aguilera-Bravo, Marie Courtoy and Abduletif Kedir Idris, "Environmental Rights in Cultural Context Perspective from Law and Anthropology." LSA Annual Meeting 2021 'Crisis, Healing, Re-Imagining'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Chicago, USA.

- 10 December 2021, "Human Rights Based Approach to Climate Change." Human Rights Council Forum 2021, Panel: Human Rights and Climate Change. Human Rights Council of Mongolia, and Office of the President of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

- 8 June 2022 (online), "The Constitution, Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, Environmental Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Mongolia." The Practices of Environmental Cases in Mongolia. The Supreme Court of Mongolia, and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Mongolia.

- 13–16 July 2022, jointly with Dirk Hanschel, Mario G. Aguilera-Bravo, Abduletif Kedir, "Exploring Pluralistic Environmental Rights." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy', Panel: Nature Rights and the Law. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 15–16 December 2022, "Environmental Rights in the Commons." Cambridge Mongolia Forum 2022: Economy and Environment in Post-Mining Mongolia and the Future of Mongolian Studies, Panel: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability. Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit, University of Cambridge and Embassy of Mongolia, London, Cambridge, UK.

Harika Dauth

- 18–19 November 2021, jointly with Ilenia Ruggiu and Larissa Vetters, "Cultural Diversity in the Courtroom – Examples from Criminal Law." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.

Pierre Druart

- 13 April 2022, "Transitional Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo." Research Day at the Africa Museum of Tervuren, Belgium.

- 10 May 2022 (online), "The Intergenerational Memory of Nazi Crimes: The Case Study of Berthold Maria Scheck Graf von Stauffenberg." Memory & Sociology Workshop. Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- 4 November 2022, "From Adolf Eichmann to Dominic Ongwen: Responsibility in International Criminal Law under Immanuel Kant and Hannah Arendt." McGill-Sapienza Seminar 'Heritage in War and Peace II: Spaces of Conflict, Spaces of Justice: Between Natural Landscapes and Cityscapes', Panel: The Transitional Aspects of Heritage. McGill University, and Sapienza University, Rome, Montreal, Canada.

- 16 November 2022, "From Adolf Eichmann to Dominic Ongwen: Responsibility in International Criminal Law under Immanuel Kant and Hannah Arendt." Max Planck Law 6th Annual PhD Workshop. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 24 November 2022, "From Adolf Eichmann to Dominic Ongwen: Responsibility in International Criminal Law under Immanuel Kant and Hannah Arendt." Auschwitz Seminar. Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Buchenwald, Germany.

Sreya Dutta Chowdhury

- 20–23 April 2021 (online), "Encounters in Doing Health: On the Spatialization of National Digital Health Infrastructures." MPI Colloquia Innovative Approaches in Health Care. India and beyond. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Hatem Elliesie

- 23–24 January 2020, "Islamisches Schiedsverfahren (ṣulḥ) und gewohnheitsrechtliche Praktiken nahöstlicher Provenienzen." Interkulturelle Kompetenz (Tagung 3d/20). Deutsche Richterakademie, Wustrau, Germany.

- 23–24 January 2020, "Interkulturelle Kommunikation im Gerichtssaal." Interkulturelle Kompetenz (Tagung 3d/20). Deutsche Richterakademie, Wustrau, Germany.

- 4 March 2020, jointly with Marie-Claire Foblets, Cengiz Barskanmaz, Mahmoud Jaraba and Mahabat Sadyrbek, "Grundlagenforschung zur Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft." Recht ohne Gesetz, Justiz ohne Richter – die Welt der Schattenjustiz (Tagung 8c/20). Deutsche Richterakademie, Wustrau, Germany.

- 16 September 2021, "Laudatio zu Ehren von Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Mathias Rohe, M.A. zu Ehren des WGIT-Preises." 27. Internationaler Kongress der Deutschen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient, Osnabrück, Germany.

- 25–27 October 2021, jointly with Faris Nasrallah, "The International Arbitration Working Group." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 2021. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 12 November 2021, "Notions and Shapes of Islamic Law in Africa (keynote lecture)." Annual Conference of the African Law Association 2021 'Islam and Law in Africa'. Gesellschaft für afrikanisches Recht and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany.

- 18 March 2022, jointly with Marie-Claire Foblets, "Grundlagenforschung zur Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft." Recht ohne Gesetz, Justiz ohne Richter – die Welt der Schattenjustiz (Tagung 10a/22). Deutsche Richterakademie, Trier, Germany.

- 7 October 2022, "Laudatio zu Ehren von Prof. em. Dr. Omaia Elwan." Tagung zu Ehren des 90. Geburtstags von Prof. em. Dr. Omaia Elwan. Arabic and Islamic Law Association and University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Kirsten W. Endres

- 13 October 2022, "Vietnam-Related Research at the MPI for Social Anthropology." Symposium: New Directions in Anthropological and Sociological Research on Vietnam. Bielefeld University, Germany.

- 2 December 2022, "Spirit Religions in Southeast Asia Today: Conceptual Reflections and Theoretical Perspectives (keynote lecture)." Religion in Vietnam and Region: A Comparative Approach. Center for Contemporary Religious Studies (CECRS), University of Social Sciences and Humanities and Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Inge Fiedler

- 26 August 2022 (online), "The Incomplete 'Gift Exchange' and 'Cultures of Gratitude': Preliminary Findings from Engaging with Patient Initiatives in Germany." Anthropological Research in Organ Donation and Transplantation: Interrogating the Gift of Life. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Marie-Claire Foblets

- 20 February 2020, "Conducting Empirical Research on/among Vulnerable Migrants (chair)." VULNER kick-off meeting. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 4 March 2020, jointly with Hatem Elliesie, Mahabat Sadyrbek, Cengiz Barskanmaz, Mahmoud Jaraba, "Grundlagenforschung zur Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft." Recht ohne Gesetz, Justiz ohne Richter - die Welt der Schattenjustiz (Tagung 8c/20). Deutsche Richterakademie, Wustrau, Germany.

- 10 December 2020 (online), jointly with Anuscheh Farahat, "Anthropological Approach(es) to Law. Challenges and Future Prospects (discussant)." Bridging Legal and Empirical Research Methods in Migration Research – What are the Challenges? MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 19 March 2021 (online), jointly with Hatem Elliesie and Niels Valdemar Vinding, "How to Study Religion 'in Context'?" Sharia in Context – Online Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology and University of Copenhagen, Germany.

- 31 May 2021 (online), jointly with Chris Hann, Ursula Rao, Biao Xiang, "Introducing the Cross-Departmental Seminar." Anthropology in Disruption: What is Gained and What is Lost? MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 17–18 June 2021 (online), "The Individual in Anthropological Approaches to Law." The Individual in International Law – History and Theory. Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany.

- 1–2 July 2021 (online), "Multiple Belonging: Re-Examining the Relation between Communities and the(ir) Law." Communities and the(ir) Law. International Online Conference. Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study 'Law as Culture', Bonn, Germany.

- 6 July 2021 (online), "Introductory Remarks and Presentation of the Project." Biomedical Practices in the Middle East in Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture. MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 6 July 2021 (online), "Welcome Address." Biomedical Practices in the Middle East in Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture. MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 31 August 2021 (online), "Islam under the Rule of Law in Europe: How Consistent is the Human Rights Test?" EuARe Annual Conference 2021. European Academy of Religion, Münster, Germany.

- 14 October 2021 (online), "Introduction." Challenges of Ethnographic Fieldwork Within Migrant Communities. MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 26 October 2021, jointly with Mario Gilberto Aguilera Bravo, Luc Leboeuf, Jonathan Bernaerts, Alice Margaria, "Future Law: The Contributions of Anthropology." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 2021. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 27 October 2021 (online), "Max Planck Law Conference: Director's Roundtable." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 2021. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 2–3 December 2021 (online), "Welcome and Updates of the CUREDI Developments." CUREDI Annual Workshop 2021. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 18 March 2022, jointly with Hatem Elliesie, "Grundlagenforschung zur Konfliktregulierung in Deutschlands pluraler Gesellschaft." Recht ohne Gesetz, Justiz ohne Richter – die Welt der Schattenjustiz (Tagung 10a/22). Deutsche Richterakademie, Trier, Germany.

- 25 April 2022, "Introduction: Anthropological Scholarship and Judicial Practice." EJTN Study Visit. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 18–20 May 2022, "The Contribution of Anthropology to Legal Thinking." Max Planck Law Training: Law and Anthropology: Rethinking Normativities, Legal Dynamics, Approaches and Practices. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 13 July 2022 (online), jointly with Ana Paula Lobo, "Humanitarian Migration and the Protection of Dislocated Families in Europe. Sketch of an Indecisive and Internally Divided Justice System." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 13 July 2022 (online), jointly with Deepa Das Acevedo, Matthew Canfield, Sara Davis, Matthew Erie, Luis Eslava, Elizabeth Mertz, Vibhuti Ramachandran, "Roundtable Crossing Disciplines: Lessons and Legacies of Sally Merry." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 15–16 September 2022, "Reflections on Public Order and Diversity in Legal Practice." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.

- 15–16 September 2022, "Roundtable: Public Policy/Ordre Public and the Recognition of Diversity in Legal Practice." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.

- 19–20 September 2022, jointly with Eugenia Relaño Pastor, "Comparative Case-Law Analysis of Cultural and Religious Diversity in EU Member States: Preliminary results from the CUREDI Database Project." Human Dignity, Law, and Religious Diversity: Designing the Future of Inter-Cultural Societies. International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), Córdoba, Spain.

- 22–23 September 2022, "Introduction and Concluding Remarks." VULNER Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology, Berlin, Germany.

- 17–18 November 2022, "Keynote: The Paradoxes of Solidarity in Plural Societies: What Lessons can be Learned from Ethnographic Studies?" Max Planck Law Annual Conference 2022 'Solidarity'. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 25 November 2022, "Clinical Guidelines & Discretion: The Scope of Clinical Decision Making (chair)" Translating Legal Obligations in Practice in Organ Donation & Transplantation. Pembroke College, University of Oxford, and MPI for Social Anthropology, Oxford, UK.

Michael Fürstenberg

- 1–2 September 2021, jointly with Sebastian Lange, "Verschwörungstheorien als Katalysatoren terroristischer Gewalt." 20. Workshop des Netzwerks Terrorismusforschung. Netzwerk Terrorismusforschung e.V., Wiesbaden, Germany.

- 29 April 2022 (online), "'Spaltpilz' oder 'Geschmacksfrage'? Die transnationale extreme Rechte und der Ukraine-Krieg." 21. Workshop des Netzwerks Terrorismusforschung. Netzwerk Terrorismusforschung e.V., Berlin, Germany.

- 26–27 September 2022, "Communities of Hateful Practice: How Right-Wing Terrorism is Collectively Learning Online." 7th Max Planck Symposium for Alumni and Early Career Researchers. Max Planck Society, Berlin, Germany.

- 21–22 October 2022, "Der neue Terror von Rechts: Eine fünfte Welle des Terrorismus?" Neue Dimensionen des internationalen Rechtsterrorismus. Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin, Germany.

Nina Glick-Schiller

- 8 April 2021 (online), jointly with Ayse Caglar, "Reconfiguring Transnational Migration Studies: A Multiscalar and Conjunctural Approach." Crossed Border Forum. University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- 17 June 2021 (online), "Putting Migrants and Non-Migrants in the Same Analytical Lens: From Transnational Migration to Dispossession." Studies Summer School on Migration. University of Zurich, Switzerland.

- 20 November 2021 (online), "Dispossession, Migration and Nationalism: A Conjunctural Analysis." AAA Annual Meeting 2021, Panel: Migration and Transnationalism. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Baltimore, USA.

- 28 March 2022 (online), "Discussion: Migrants are the City." Migration and Urbanization on Three Continents. Institute for the Advanced Study of the Americas, University of Miami, and School of Law, Miami, USA.

- 26–27 May 2022, "Has Migration Studies Lost Its Subject? Migration Studies, Global Disorders, and Shared Precarities." New Times? Confronting the Escalating Crises of Global Capitalism, Panel: Roundtable on Migration. Karl Polanyi Research Center for Global Social Studies, and Committee on Global Transformations (IUAES) in cooperation with Working Group for Public Sociology 'Helyzet', 'Capitalism Nature Socialism', 'Focaal – Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology', and 'Focaalblog', Budapest, Hungary.

- 28 July 2022 (online), "Discussion: Social Provisioning and Theories of Value." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Making Ends Meet: Exploring Social Provisioning beyond Migrant/Non-Migrant Binaries. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 11 November 2022 (online), "Dispossession Processes and Displaced Migrants and Non-Migrants: Multiscalar Approaches to Political Subjectivities." AAA Annual Meeting 2022 'Unsettling Landscapes', Panel: Migration, Social Reproduction& Capitalist Unsettlement. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Seattle, USA.

- 12 November 2022 (online), "Roundtable Discussion: The Anti-Refugee Machine: A New Framework for Migration Studies." AAA Annual Meeting 2022 'Unsettling Landscapes'. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Seattle, USA.

Carolin Görzig

- 7 October 2021, "Wie 'Terroristen' lernen." Conference on Terrorism. Federal Agency of Civil Education, Cologne, Germany.

- 24 April 2022 (online), "Die Zukunft des Terrorismus." Terror gegen die Gesellschaft. Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, Germany.

Balázs Gosztonyi

- 9–14 March 2021 (online), "Everyday Representations and Narratives of the Swiss Franc Loan Crisis in the Hungarian Tabloid Press." IUAES Congress 2020, Panel: Contesting Household Debt: Politics, Infrapolitics, and the Political Economy of Debtor-Creditor Relations. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), Šibenik, Croatia.

- 2 June 2021 (online), "Valuable Defaults: Collecting Contested Debts in Post-Socialist Hungary." Interdisciplinary Market Studies Workshop 2021 'Flowing Markets', Panel: PhD Day Workshop. Sciences Po Grenoble, Grenoble, France.

- 26–29 July 2022, jointly with Judit Durst, "Bailiffs as Street-Level Bureaucrats and the Debt Contestations of Rural Poor Households in Northern Hungary." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Revisiting Street-level Bureaucrat Encounters: From Discretion and Authority to Emotional Labour and Moral Contingency. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 8–10 September 2022, "The Law as a Judgement Device: The Valuation and Pricing of NPLs in Hungary." European Sociological Association Economic Sociology Mid-Term Conference 'Categories, Transformations and Exchanges', Panel: Valuation in the Economy and Beyond.

University of Warsaw, European Sociological Association, Polish Sociological Association and Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland.

Mustapha Hadji

- 13 April 2022, "Transitional Justice and the Intergenerational Remembrance of Political Violence in Morocco." Research Day at the Africa Museum of Tervuren. Catholic University of Louvain, Tervuren, Belgium.
- 10 May 2022 (online), "The Struggle over Memory: The Case of the National Museum of African American History and Culture." Memory & Sociology Workshop. Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

Chris Hann

- 6–8 May 2021 (online), "A Critique of Gellner's Neo-Liberalism. Economy, Equality, Epistemology." Ernest Gellner's Legacy and Social Theory Today. Czech Association for Social Anthropology, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 8–10 April 2022, "Discussant's Remarks." BASEES Annual Conference 2022, Panel: Explaining Orban's Hungary. British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), Cambridge, UK.
- 2–4 May 2022, "How Far is Tázlár from Budapest? (plenary lecture)." Blundering and Plundering on the Great Hungarian Plain, 1970s–2020s. Université de Fribourg, Switzerland.
- 15 June – 19 February 2022, "Anthropology, Science and Politics: Renewing the Vocation." Old Discipline, New Trajectories: Theories, Methods and Practices in Anthropology. Vilnius University, and Society for the Anthropological Sciences (SASci), Vilnius, Lithuania.
- 29 June – 1 July 2022, "The Contradictions of Militant Liberalism in Post-Socialist Eastern Europe." 28th International Conference of Europeanists 'The Environment of Democracy', Panel: Neoliberalism and the Populist Counter-Movements: Europe between Stasis and Metamorphosis – Round Table. Council for European Studies (CES), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 29 June – 1 July 2022, "The People Versus Civil Society: Rival Political Imaginaries in Post-Socialist Eastern Europe." 28th International Conference of Europeanists 'The Environment of Democracy', Panel: Neoliberalism and the Populist Counter-Movements in East-Central Europe Panel 1. Council for European Studies (CES), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 23–24 September 2022, "Eurasia and the People Without Transcendence (Notes Toward a Critique of Eric Wolf)." Vision and Method in Anthropology: Forty Years of Eric Wolf's 'Europe and the People without History'. Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, and Frontlines of Value Program, Norway.
- 5–7 October 2022, "Socio-Economic Conditions and the Intellectual Production of 'Populist' Ideologies: A Turbulent Century in Hungary, 1930s–2020s." Legal Culture and Identity in Central and Eastern Europe. Bibó Kollegium, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.
- 13–14 October 2022, "Antagonistic Hierarchies in History and the Pragmatics of Solidarity in the Present: New Amnesias in Polish-Ukrainian Relations." Memory, Migration and Populism: Central and Eastern Europe's Post-imperial Historical Legacy and Heritage. Czech Academy of Science, and Memory Studies Association, Prague, Czech Republic.

Dirk Hanschel

- 7–9 January 2022 (online), "Flucht und Migration als Folge des Klimawandels." Klimawandel und Gesellschaft. Evangelische Forschungsakademie, Germany.
- 14–16 September 2022, "Bedrohung der Rechtsstaatlichkeit in Europa (keynote lecture)." 35. Deutscher Rechtspflegertag. Berlin, Germany.

Arne Harms

- 5–6 March 2020, "A Provisional Strukturwandel? On Shifting Forest Policies in India." Resources and 'Strukturwandel'. Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien (ZIRS), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- 10 September 2021, "Psychedelics as Virtue Ethics." INSIGHT Conference, Panel: Implementation II: Non-Clinical Implementation and Ethics. MIND Foundation, Bremen, Germany.
- 27 September – 1 October 2021, "Purifying and Intertwining Selves: Meditation and Anthropocene Politics." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns', Panel: Politics and Poetics of the Pristine. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 20–21 January 2022, "The Coast as Crumble Zone." Tangled Coastal Connections: Ethical Tensions in Materialities and Imaginaries. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Munich, Germany.
- 24 May 2022, "Striving for Less Bad Futures: Climate Change Mitigation, Anthropology, Utopia." Seminar Day with Hannah Knox. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 2–3 June 2022 (online), "Enduring Liquefication: Coasts as Crumble Zones." Urban Liquefaction: Rethinking the Relationship between Land and Sea. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Argentina.

Andrew Haxby

- 12 May 2022, "The Question of Land and Land Transaction in Urban Centres: The Case Study of Kathmandu, Nepal." Roundtable: Economy and Society: Experiences and Experiments from South Asia. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 23 May 2022, "Opening up Property: Bureaucracy and Kinship in Post-Earthquake Kathmanduy." City Drafting: Property-Making and Bureaucratic Urbanism in South Asia. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.
- 26–29 July 2022, "Reformatting Hope: Finance and Kinship in Post-Disaster Kathmandu." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Prepackaged Hopes and Ready-Made Paths of Transformation. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

Abduletif Kedir Idris

- 26–30 May 2021 (online), jointly with Dirk Hanschel, Jenni Viitala, Bayar Dashpurev, María Angélica Prada Uribe, Jenny García Ruales, Mario G. Aguilera-Bravo, Marie Courtoy, "Pastoralist Mobility and Environmental Rights: An Ethnographic Gaze." LSA Annual Meeting 2021 'Crisis, Healing, Re-Imagining'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Chicago, USA.
- 13–16 July 2022, jointly with Dirk Hanschel, Bayar Dashpurev, Mario G. Aguilera-Bravo, "Exploring Pluralistic Environmental Rights." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy', Panel: Nature Rights and the Law. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 6–7 October 2022, "Development Finance and the Right to Participate in Environmental Decision Making in an Authoritarian Context: Lessons from Gibe III Hydro Dam Project in Ethiopia." Postfossile Zukünfte: Strukturwandel Gemeinsam Gestalten, Panel: Postfossile Demokratien. Institut für Strukturwandel und Nachhaltigkeit, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 17–18 November 2022, jointly with Marie Courtoy, "Solidarity and Environmental Protection Between the Law and the Field." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 2022 'Solidarity', Panel: Solidarity and Multiperspectivity in Law, Society and Legal Research. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

Deborah Jones

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Landmine Clearance, or the Promise of a Project without End." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 14–16 June 2022, "Hosts Seeking Refugees: Advertisements, Laments, and Success Stories in a German-Ukrainian Emergency Housing Forum." Conducting Research in Turbulent Contexts: a Swedish-Ukrainian workshop. Centre for Research on Bilingualism, Stockholm University, Sweden.
- 26–29 July 2022, "Notes from Ukraine: Reckoning with the Absurd during a State of War." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

David Kananizadeh

- 10 June 2022, "Living with Spirits, Evil Neighbors and a Violent Past: The Struggle for Latitude in Sierra Leone's Forest Milieux." Future Environments. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 6–9 July 2022, "Minding the Forest, Foresting the Mind: Living Through Socioeconomic Pressures in Sierra Leone's Forest Milieux." EASST Conference 2022 'Politics of Technoscientific Futures', Panel: The Forests Within and the Brains Without. Alternative Heuristics of the Anthropocene. European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST), Madrid, Spain.

- 26–29 July 2022, "Mining on Hope in Sierra Leone." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Aspiration, Unrealised: Anthropological Perspectives on Reaching for That Which Cannot be Grasped. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

Jacqueline Knörr

- 21–22 June 2021 (online), "Asia-Pacific Colonial Medical Profession in Interaction (discussant paper on panel contributions)." Teaching to Treat: Medical Education in the Empires (18th–20th centuries), Panel: Asia-Pacific Colonial Medical Profession. University of Oxford, UK.

- 1 October – 15 December 2021, jointly with Mariana Kriel, "Creole Variants of Language in Contexts of Decolonization: Krio versus Afrikaans." New Research and Publication Projects on the Upper Guinea Coast and (far) beyond. MPI for Social Anthropology, Düsseldorf, Germany.

- 27–28 October 2022 (online), "Towards Decolonizing Concepts of Decolonization." 4th Annual KHK/GCR21 Conference 'Out of Control? How Concepts and Practices Circulate across Boundaries'. Käte Hamburger Kolleg/ Centre for Global Cooperation Research and Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany.

Hassan Hussein Kochore

- 17–21 November 2021 (online), "New Infrastructure and Emerging Publics in Northern Kenya." AAA Annual Meeting 2021, Panel: Material Publics. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Baltimore, USA.

- 14 December 2021 (online), "The Visual Politics of Political Campaign Posters in Kenya." BIEA @ 60 Workshop, Panel: Performative Politics: The Use of Spectacle and Visuals in African Politics. British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), Nairobi, Kenya.

Mathias Krabbe

- 14–17 September 2022, "The Financial and Legal Infrastructure of the Swiss Franc Mortgage Issue in Poland." RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference, Panel: Infrastructures of Finance and Finance as Infrastructure in Eastern Europe. Regional Studies Association (RSA), Leipzig, Germany.

Anu Krishna

- 24 February 2022 (online), "One Spice, Three Sites, and a Community on Move: Gujarati Cardamom Merchants in the Indian Ocean World." Beyond the Hinterland and the Sea: Port-cities and Coastal Environments, Panel: Littoral and Port Societies. Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China.

- 23 June 2022 (online), "Tales Behind a Spice: Unpacking Gender and Caste in the Making of Indian Small Cardamom." Change & Continuity in South Asia Unpacking Identity, Security & Technology, Panel: Exploring the Cultural and Literary Aspects of the Subaltern Voices. King's College London and King's India Institute, London, UK.

- 26–29 July 2022 (online), "Queen and Her Maids: Entanglements of Caste and Gender in Cardamom Plantations." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Transformed Landscapes, Uprooted Commons, Cultivated Hopes: Plantation Legacies and Future Possibles in Contemporary Food Systems. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 17 October 2022, "Tales Behind a Spice: Toxic Terrains and Tortured Bodies in the Making of Indian Small Cardamom." Silent Springs: Global Histories of Pesticides and Our Toxic World, Panel: Poisonous Labour, Suffering Bodies. Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, and Le RUCHIE (Reseau Universitaire de Chercheurs en Historie Environnementale), Tutzing, Germany.

Laura Lambert

- 23 July 2020 (online), "'I Do Not Like the Administration'. Criticism and Compliance by Young State Employees in Niger." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 26 January 2021 (online), "Contested Promises. Refugees and Migrants' Contestation of the IOM and UNHCR Humanitarian Infrastructures in Niger." STS-MIGTEC Workshop. Network on Science and Technology Studies in Migration Research (STS-MIGTEC), Germany.

- 28 January 2021 (online), "Refugee Recognition in Niger." Recognising Refugees Country Profiles, ERC-Project Refugees are Migrants (RefMig). University of Oxford, and Hertie School of Governance, UK.

- 2 July 2021 (online), "Remaking Asylum in the Context of EU Externalization. Path Dependencies and Unintended Consequences in Niger." Neuchâtel Graduate Conference 2021, Panel: Working Group #6: The Future of Asylum. nccr – on the move, Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

- 8 July 2021 (online), "The Promises of a Better Future in Humanitarian Migration Control Infrastructures and Migrants' Contestations in Niger." IMISCOE Annual Conference 2021 'Crossing Borders, Connecting Cultures'. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Luxembourg.

- 27 September – 1 October 2021 (online), "Beyond Dublin. Secondary Movements to Niger and the Negotiation of Protection and Assistance." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns'. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 29 November – 3 December 2021, "Translating Asylum. The Circulation of National Asylum Procedures to Niger." APAD Conference 2021. Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development (APAD), Lomé, Togo.

- 30 June 2022 (online), "Extraterritorial Processing. The Libya-Niger Emergency Transit Mechanism." Annual Conference of the Refugee Law Initiative 2022. School of Advanced Studies, University of London, London, UK.

Luc Leboeuf

- 4 March 2020, "La summa divisio entre l'asile et l'immigration à l'épreuve de la mobilisation du droit par les acteurs." Droit des étrangers/droit d'asile. Entre attraction et répulsion. University of Paris Saclay, Paris, France.

- 7–9 July 2021 (online), "Towards an EU and Comprehensive Approach to Legal Pathways to Protection?" IMISCOE Annual Conference 2021 'Crossing Borders, Connecting Cultures', Panel: Complementary Pathways for Refugee Protection in the EU: Current State of Affairs and the Way forward. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Luxembourg.

- 30 September 2021 (online), "'Vulnerability' as an Emerging Legal and Bureaucratic Concept in the Field of Asylum and Migration." European Migration Network's (EMN) Luxembourg National Conference 'Detecting and Protecting Vulnerable Migrants'. European Migration Network (EMN), Luxembourg.

- 25–27 October 2021, "Why Law & Anthropology in Migration Research?" Max Planck Law Annual Conference. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 9–10 May 2022, "L'approfondissement de l'acquis européen en matière d'asile et d'immigration par la voie jurisprudentielle. La quête de cohérence." Conference of the Research Team on European Laws and Migration (EDEM). Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

- 29 June – 1 July 2022, "The Travels and Transformations of 'Vulnerability'. From Universalism to Selection." IMISCOE Annual Conference 2022 'Migration and Time: Temporalities of Mobility, Governance, and Resistance'. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Oslo, Norway.

- 29–30 August 2022 (online), "Shifting Borders, Transforming Vulnerabilities?" The Proliferation of Borders and Practices of Citizenship. University of Oslo and University of Oxford, Oslo, Norway.

- 17–18 November 2022, "Solidarity with Whom? Anthropological Insights on Asylum Seekers' Vulnerabilities." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 'Solidarity'. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

Danaé Leitenberg

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Balancing Acts Backstage: Migrant Hospitality Workers in the Swiss Alps." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: The Labour Tourism Takes, Panel of the Anthropology of Labour Network. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 3–4 June 2021 (online), "Crisis, Uncertainty and Future-Making in a Thriving Touristic Resort." Trapped in Paradise: Entangled Lives and Uncertain Futures in Tourist Towns. Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern and University of Neuchâtel (MAPS), Graduate Institute Geneva and MPI for Social Anthropology, Switzerland.

- 24 June 2021 (online), "Celebrating the Natives: Imaginaries of Locality between Tourism Development and Social Conservatism in the Swiss Alps." SIEF 2021 Congress 'Breaking the Rules? Power, Participation, Transgression', Panel: Contesting Locality: Negotiating Rules and Breaking Imaginaries in Mountain Areas. International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), Helsinki, Finland.

- 12–13 May 2022, "Silenced Futures and Exclusionary Democracy in the Swiss Alps." Alpine Landscapes in Transformation: Infrastructure, Culture, and Climate. Institute for Landscape and Urban Studies (LUS), ETH Zürich, Switzerland.

- 26–29 July 2022, "A Future of Stability, A Present of Failure: The Ambiguous Affective States of Tourism Development." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Aspiration, Unrealised: Anthropological Perspectives on Reaching for That Which Cannot be Grasped. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 3–4 November 2022, "The Business of Foreigners: (Anti-)Cosmopolitanisms in the Swiss Alps." Mountains on the Move: Imaginaries, Practices and Lives. HES-SO Valais Wallis, Sierre, Switzerland.

Annika Lems

- 21 July 2020 (online), "Tracing the Socio-Cultural Genealogies of Europe's Reactionary Backlash." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 29 October 2020 (online), "Thinking about Social-Political Hyperthermia: A Cold Climate Symposium." Symposium on Hypothermia: Cold Climate Research. RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

- 21 June 2021 (online), "Complicating the Participatory Turn: Insights from Difficult Collaborations." SIEF 2021 Congress 'Breaking the Rules? Power, Participation, Transgression'. International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), Helsinki, Finland.

- 1–2 July 2021 (online), "Anti-Migrant Placemaking: Towards an Intersubjective Understanding of Place." Along and out of the Way. Place-making amidst Migrant Trajectories. Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany.

- 15 October 2021 (online), "Precarious Politics of Placemaking: Why the Historicity of Environmental Future Imaginaries Matters (keynote lecture)." Environmental Anthropology 2021 'Hope, Ruination and Environmentalism'. EASA Working Group for Environmental Anthropology, Tallinn, Estonia.

- 10–11 February 2022 (online), "From the Confines of the Village to the Horizonless World: Rethinking the Entanglements of Place, Mobility and Belonging." Places and Mobilities: Studying Human Movements through Spatial Units of Analysis. University of Neuchatel, Switzerland.

- 29 April 2022 (online), "Everyday Politics of Place and the Pandemic Moment in an Austrian Mountain Village." Tradition and Solidarity in the Visegrád Countries in the Pandemic Moment. Visegrád Anthropology Network, Pezinok, Slovakia.

- 11 October 2022 (online), "A Culture of Executive Impunity: Examining the Conditions of Global Totalitarian Trends." AAA Annual Meeting 2022 'Unsettling Landscapes', Panel: A Culture of Executive Impunity: Examining the Conditions of Global Totalitarian Trends (Roundtable). American Anthropological Association (AAA), Seattle, USA.

Romm Lewkowicz

- 17–21 November 2021 (online), "Capturing the Spirit of Bureaucratic Images: Photos, Biometrics and (Border) Passing." AAA Annual Meeting 2021. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Baltimore, USA.

- 9–10 December 2021 (online), "Porous Borders, Flexible Skins: Bodily Responses to Biometric Surveillance of Migrants in Europe." Situated AI – Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 15–16 September 2022, "Surveillance without Subjects: The Production of Migrant Unknowability at Europe's Biometric Borders." Digitized Migrants, Panel: Digital Power, Surveillance and Agency. Europe-Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration, Koc University, University of Vienna, and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Istanbul, Turkey.

Munkh-Erdene Lhamsuren

- 26–27 May 2022, "From People to Territory: (The Chinggisid) Sovereignty Transformed." Remapping Sovereignty: Representing Geopolitical Complexity. Stanford University, USA.

Margarita Lipatova

- 7–9 July 2021 (online), jointly with Stefan Millar, Laura Lambert, Mert Pekşen, Ville Laakkonen, Tabea Scharrer, Anja Simonsen, "Waiting for What? Hopes and Incertitudes in Navigating the Greek Asylum System." IMISCOE Annual Conference 2021 'Crossing Borders, Connecting Cultures', Panel: Future-Making in Situations of Stuckedness: Refugees and Migrants' Subjectivities, Emotions, and Planning vis-à-vis the Border. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Luxembourg.

Sofia Lopatina

- 22–24 June 2021 (online), "Practices of Student Milieus in Leningrad (1960–1970)." MAG Congress 2021, Panel: Between Pastimes and Politics: Unofficial Publics in the Soviet Union (1960s to 1980s) and Their Current Perceptions. International Association for the Humanities (MAG), Minsk, Belarus.
- 3–8 August 2021 (online), "The Ambiguities of State-Sponsored Entertainment (Leningrad 1960–1968)." 10th ICCEES World Congress. International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES), Montréal, Canada.
- 1–3 October 2021 (online), "Electric Guitar Bands in Leningrad: A History Before the Rock Underground and Official Vocal-Instrumental Ensembles (1964–1970)." International Congress of Belarussian Studies 2021, Panel: Informal Social and Cultural Practices in the BSSR and in Other 'Real Socialism' Countries (1950s–1980s). Institute of Political Studies 'Political Sphere', Kaunas, Lithuania.
- 8–9 November 2021 (online), "Secret Police and Practices of Social Control: Constructing the Case Against Non-Conformist Youth (Leningrad, 1964–1965)." International Postgraduate Conference 'Rethinking 20th Century Europe. The Continent of (Un)freedom'. Department of History, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.
- 1–3 December 2021 (online), jointly with V. Kostenko and E. Ponarin, "Pro-Life vs Pro-Choice in a Resurgent Nation: The Case of Post-Soviet Armenia." 53rd ASEEES Annual Convention, Panel: Transgressions: Science, Nation, and Sexuality. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), New Orleans, USA.
- 30 September – 2 October 2022, "Policing of Non-Conformist Milieus (Leningrad, 1964–1965)." International Congress of Belarussian Studies 2022, Institute of Political Studies 'Political Sphere', Kaunas, Lithuania.

Alice Margaria

- 14 February 2020, "Another Side of Gender Equality: Fathers at the European Court of Human Rights." Women's Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century: Developments and Challenges under International and European Law. European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France.
- 22 January 2021 (online), "In another Voice. Do Women Change the Judiciary?" Dissenting Voices: The Making, Debating, and Shaping of Law. University of Liège, Belgium.
- 27 January 2021 (online), "Trans Fatherhood in Law: European and Israeli Approaches." Biomedical Practices in the Middle East in Europe: The Impact of Religion and Culture. MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.
- 18–19 November 2021 (online), "The Role of Genetics in the ECtHR's Construction of Parenthood'." Between Sexuality, Gender & Reproduction: On the Pluralization of Family Forms. Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study "Law as Culture", Germany.
- 24 March 2022, "Trans(forming) Fatherhood: European Approaches to the Determination of Legal Parenthood Following Male Pregnancy." Changing Families, Changing Family Law. Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg, Germany.

Anaïs Ménard

- 29 June – 1 July 2022, "Social Circles and Generational Entanglements: Revisiting the Concept of the 'Diaspora Space' Through a Temporal Frame." IMISCOE Annual Conference 2022 'Migration and Time: Temporalities of Mobility, Governance, and Resistance', Panel: Diasporic Identity and Civic Participation. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Oslo, Norway.
- 26–28 October 2022, "Introduction: Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women." Inaugural Workshop of the Otto-Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women'. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 26–28 October 2022, "'Social Circles' and Generational Entanglements: Upholding Social Status among Sierra Leonean Women in France." Inaugural Workshop of the Otto-Hahn Research Group 'Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women'. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Agathe Ménétrier

- 14–15 November 2022, "Facilitation of the Session on Complementary Education Pathways." Resettlement Fachtagung 2022. UNHCR and Diakonie & Caritas Germany, Berlin, Germany.

Marek Mikuš

- 15–16 February 2020, jointly with Petra Rodik, "Moral Economies of Housing in Post-Credit Boom Croatia: Hegemonic and Counter Discourses on Swiss Franc." Foreign-Currency Housing Loans in Eastern Europe: Crises, Tensions and Struggles. University of Zagreb, Croatia.

- 9–14 March 2021 (online), "Debt Pathways: Centering Economics, Agency, and Contingency in the Anthropology of Household Debt." IUAES Congress 2020. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), Šibenik, Croatia.

- 20–22 May 2021 (online), "Debt Pathways: An Anthropological Perspective on Housing Debt in Croatia." Thirty Years of Capitalist Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe: Inequalities and Social Resistance, Panel: Economic Growth and Debt in Central and Eastern Europe. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Babeș-Bolyai University and Institute for Social Solidarity, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

- 19–24 June 2021 (online), "Middle Class on Credit: Class Formation, Housing Policy and Financialization in Croatia." SIEF 2021 Congress 'Breaking the Rules? Power, Participation, Transgression', Panel: Between Governance and Resistance: Coping with Financial Precarity and (Over)indebtedness. International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), Helsinki, Finland.

- 27 September – 1 October 2021 (online), "The Flip Side of Debt: Mortgaged Housing as Assets in Zagreb." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns', Panel: Economy as Atmosphere. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 14–17 September 2022, "Financial Infrastructures and Sovereign Debt Management in Croatia." RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference. Regional Studies Association (RSA), Leipzig, Germany.

- 9–13 November 2022, "Tracking Mortgage Pathways in Zagreb: Everyday Economics of Debt, Housing Wealth, and Debtors' Agency in a Postsocialist Semi-Periphery." AAA Annual Meeting 2022 'Unsettling Landscapes', Panel: Anthropology of European Finance. American Anthropological Association (AAA), Seattle, USA.

Lisa Mitchell

- 1–2 March 2022 (online), "Hierarchy and Equivalence: Parallel, Horizontal, and Vertical Relationships in the 1730 Dialogues of Benjamin Schultze." Benjamin Schultze's Dialogue Book on Madras: A Critical Approach to a Cultural-Historical Missionary Source. Franckesche Stiftungen, and MIDA (Das Moderne Indien in Deutschen Archiven), Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 7–9 April 2022, "Engineering Hope: Social Experimentation and Future-Oriented Lexicons of the Scientific Political in the Non-Aligned Global South (keynote lecture)." 23rd International Conference on the History of Concepts 'Global Modernity: Emotions, Temporalities and Concepts'. Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

- 23–25 June 2022, "Swāmyam [Ownership, Right, Title]: Redistribution and the Root of Indian Democracy." India's Politics in Its Vernaculars, Conference of the ERC Project. King's College London, Cambridge, UK.

- 7–9 July 2022, "Indo-German Connections and the Translation of Internationally-Circulating Political Ideas." Nodes of Translation: Rethinking Knowledge Exchange between Modern South Asia and Germany. University of Göttingen, Germany.

Christine Moderbacher

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Who Owns the Visual Truth? Reflections on a Collaborative Anthropological Arts Project." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 19–28 March 2021 (online), "The Political Opponent in Our Lens – Reflections on Filmmaking and Anthropology." RAI Film Festival Conference 2021. Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), UK.

- 5–7 July 2021 (online), "From the Making of Craft to Making Ones Life. Stories from Carpentry Apprentices in Brussels." The Social Life of Skills. School of Geography, University of Melbourne, Australia.

- 20 May 2022, "What If They Say Things We Don't Like? Visual Reflections on Uneasy Relationships in the Field." Business as Usual? Anthropology and the Study of Unusual Subjects. Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria.

- 15 September 2022 (online), "Crafting Essays on Life: Reflections on Multimodal Approaches and Renditions of Anthropological Research." Online Seminar Series: Visual Essays / Anthrovision Special Issue. EASA Visual Anthropology Network (Vaneasa), UK.

Mariana Monteiro de Matos

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Anthro-Experts in European Courtrooms: Multicultural Jurisprudence and Indigenous Land Rights." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Law and Culture in Court. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 28–31 July 2020 (online), "Anthro-Experts in European Courtrooms: Multicultural Jurisprudence and Indigenous Land Rights." 6th AIBR International Conference of Anthropology, Panel: Pueblos indígenas: Arte, ritual y resistencia. Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists (AIBR), Trás-os-Montes, Portugal.

- 27–30 July 2021 (online), "Body, Hair & Law: Equality and Identity Before Portuguese-Speaking Courts." 7th AIBR International Conference of Anthropology, Panel: Lenguaje, discurso y narrativa. Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists (AIBR), Vila Real, Portugal.

- 5–8 May 2022 (online), "Socio-Environmental Justice in Abya Ayala: The Contribution of the Inter-American Legal Pluralistic Approach." LASA2022, Panel: Cambio climático, multiculturalidad y futuro. Experiencias, percepciones y reflexiones. Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, USA.

- 19 May 2022 (online), "Empresa, relações com a terra e povos indígenas: uma perspectiva interamericana." Derechos Humanos y Empresas en América Latina: desarrollos, desafíos y oportunidades, Panel: Business, Land Relations and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America. Business, Human Rights and the Environment Centre, NOVA University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal.

- 12–15 July 2022 (online), "Towards a Portuguese Multicultural Jurisprudence." 8th AIBR International Conference of Anthropology, Panel: Cambio climático, multiculturalidad y futuro. Experiencias, percepciones y reflexiones. Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists (AIBR), Salamanca, Spain.

- 19–21 September 2022, "Above and Beyond Cultural and Religious Diversities: A Portuguese Legal Tale." 6th ICLARS Conference, Panel: Comparative Case-Law Analysis of Cultural and Religious Diversity in EU Member States: Preliminary Results from the CUREDI Database Project. International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), Cordoba, Spain.

Joanna Mroczkowska

- 14–17 July 2021 (online), "Only Our. Food Nostalgia vs Annulment Forgetting: The Dynamics and Consequences of Remembering Jews and the Material Networks of Polish Small-Towns." Vox Populi Visegradensis. The Anthropology of East-Central Europe. MPI for Social Anthropology, Schloss Ringberg, Germany.

Sophie Nakueira

- 29 June – 1 July 2022, jointly with Luc Leboeuf, "Vulnerability Assessments and Implementation Challenges: Temporal Experiences and Effects of Humanitarian Interventions." IMISCOE Annual Conference 2022 'Migration and Time: Temporalities of Mobility, Governance, and Resistance', Panel: 'Vulnerability', a Bureaucratic Category in the Making: Promises, Challenges and Pitfalls. International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Oslo, Norway.

Hanna Nieber

- 6–9 October 2021 (online), "Extending the Boundaries and Participating in the Center – Astronomers in Africa." 4S Annual Meeting 2021 'Good Relations. Practices and Methods', Panel: The Boundaries of Universality – Contemporary Engagements of Science. 4S – Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, Canada.

- 7–10 June 2022, jointly with Davide Chinigò, "Where African Studies and Outer Space Meet: Astronomy Infrastructure in South Africa and Madagascar." VAD Conference 2022 'Africa-Europe: Reciprocal Perspectives', Panel: Re-wiring Africa. Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD), Freiburg, Germany.

- 1–2 September 2022 (online), jointly with Davide Chinigò, "Where African Studies and Outer Space Meet: Astronomy Infrastructure in South Africa and Madagascar." Ethnographies of Outer Space: Methodological Opportunities and Experiments. Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento and Hans Schadee Research Methods Center, Trento, Italy.

Louisa Piart

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Searching for the 'Genuine Link' between Maritime Labour and Flag States: An Anthropological Foray into the Work of State Inspectors in the Shipping Industry." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Sea Economies: Labour, Infrastructure and New Techno-Environmental Horizons. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 27 September – 1 October 2021 (online), "Grammars of Justice in the Shipping Industry: Labour Standards and Technocratic Procedures during Onboard Inspections." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns', Panel: Towards a Concept of Justice for the Anthropocene. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 25–27 March 2022, "Fighting or Creating Disruptions: Seafarers and Supply Chains in Turmoil." Political and Legal Anthropology Network PLAN Retreat. Political and Legal Anthropology Network, Aachen, Germany.

- 9–10 June 2022, "Qualities and Inequalities: New Labour Standards and Shifting Work Configurations in the Shipping Industry." Regulating Work: Exploring the Dynamics of Labour Beyond the Formal/Informal Divide. University of Liège, Belgium.

- 5–7 October 2022, "Justice in the Offing? Trade Union Politics in the Shipping Industry." Justice in the Anthropocene. DGSKA Working Group 'Political and Legal Anthropology', Zeitz, Germany.

- 5–7 December 2022, "Neither Dead nor Alive: Seafarers as Frontline Workers in the Covid-19 Crisis and Beyond." Forum 'Corona Crisis and Beyond – Perspectives for Science, Scholarship and Society'. Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover, Germany.

Barbara Pieta

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "How to Write Ethnography That Does No Harm: Tackling Post-Fieldwork Ethical Challenges in Research with People with Dementia and Their Community." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Ethical Concerns: Envisioning Ethnographic Fieldwork with Cognitively Impaired Older Individuals. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 19–20 July 2021 (online), "Who is This Plan for? – Kinship and the Future Imaginaries of the First Italian National Dementia Plan." Interrogating Speculative Futures: A Workshop on the Politics of Imagining a Future with(out) Chronic Illness. University College London, and Leiden University, London, UK.

- 18–21 January 2022 (online), jointly with Patrick Heady, "Epidemiology and Anthropology: Exploring the Link between Kinship and Covid-Infection in Northern Italy." RAIMed2022 'Mobilising Methods in Medical Anthropology', Panel: Building Epidemic Futures: Tensions, Possibilities and Contestations at the Interface between Anthropology and Epidemiological Evidence. Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), London, UK.

- July 2022 (online), "Carescopes – On Caring and 'Looking at': A Case of Positive Dementia Portrayals in North Italy." AAGE 2022 'Creativity and Aging'. Association for Anthropology, Gerontology and the Life Course (AAGE), Seattle, USA.

Floramante S. J. Ponce

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Promises of Progress: Everyday Experiences of Development, Disconnection, and Disillusionment in the Hardmoauk Resettlement, Northern Laos." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Energy Transition(s): The Promises of Renewables and Future of the Commons [Energy Anthropology Network] II. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 24–25 September 2020 (online), "Transformations in Food Quantity and Quality in a Chinese Hydropower Resettlement in Northern Laos." International Congress on Gastronomy, Sustainability and Development. The International Commission on the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (ICAF), Cáceres-Extremadura, Spain.

- 4 December 2020 (online), "Unpacking the Lao State Practices in Facilitating the 'Made in China' Dam: The Case of the Nam Tha 1 Hydropower Project." Transboundary Environmental Governance in Southeast Asia. Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

- 14–16 June 2021 (online), "Realizing China's Dream from Below: Modernity, Market Integration, and Sabay in Banmai Resettlement, Laos." Conceptualizing the 'Belt and Road Initiative' and its Effects. University of Toronto and The Belt and Road in Global Perspective Project, Toronto, Canada.

- 19–24 June 2021 (online), "Coping with the New (Im)mobilities of Hydro/electric Infrastructures: A Tale of Three Youngsters in Post-Socialist Laos." SIEF 2021 Congress 'Breaking the Rules? Power, Participation, Transgression'. International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF), Helsinki, Finland.

- 19–24 June 2021 (online), "Dis)integrating the Marginalized: Resource Frontier Dynamics from Below in a Chinese Hydropower Resettlement Community in Northwestern Laos." 16th Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies. Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

- 11–12 February 2022 (online), "Between Desire and Resistance: Emerging Modes of Economic (Dis)integration in a Chinese Hydropower Resettlement in Northwestern Laos." 13th Annual CUHK Anthropology Postgraduate Forum. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

- 26–29 July 2022 (online), "Limited Statehood Due to Hybrid Governance? Governing a Chinese Transboundary Hydropower in Laos." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 15–18 November 2022 (online), "Lights and Gossips: The Influence of Electric Lights on 'Spirits,' 'Speaking Souls,' and The State's Gaze in Northern Laos." 7th International Conference on Lao Studies. The Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation (ADI), Deakin University, Australia.

Ursula Rao

- 21 September 2020 (online), "Echtzeitstatistiken als Medien der Entpolitisierung." DGS-Kongress 2020 'Gesellschaft unter Spannung', Panel: Gesellschaftliche Spannungen durch Zahlen, Indikatoren und Big Data? Problemlagen einer Soziologie der öffentlichen Statistik. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie, Germany.

- 20 April 2021 (online), "Policy as Experimentation: Failing 'Forward' Toward Universal Health Coverage in India." MPI Colloquia Innovative Approaches in Health Care. India and beyond. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 11–11 June 2021 (online), "The Right to Live at Times of Digital Surveillance (https://youtu.be/V1wKRCHBvSo)." Behind Walls, Beyond Discipline: Science, Technology & the Carceral State. Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program (STPP), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.

- 1 October 2021 (online), jointly with Dorle Dracklé, "DFG-Gespräch." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns'. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 11–12 November 2021, "In Between Tinkering and the Grand Development Vision. Towards an Alternative Theory of Digital Innovation (keynote lecture)." (Re)Thinking Smart, (Re)Building Scale in a Digital Urban Age. King's College London, and Learning from Smart Cities, London, UK.

- 24–24 May 2022, jointly with Kavita Dasgupta, "Collaborative Writing. Making Sense, Together, of Urban Sprawl and Life in Delhi's Poor Neighbourhoods." Responsible Documentation and Conscious Outcomes: Explorations in the Ownership of Knowledge, Panel: Examples, Approaches, and Theorisations of Responsible Documentation. Papers and Cases. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany.

Jeremy Rayner

- 23–24 September 2022, "Making, Taking, and Relating: Rethinking Modes of Production for a Polycentric World." Vision and Method in Anthropology: Forty Years of Eric Wolf's 'Europe and the People without History', Panel: Modes of Production. Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen, and Frontlines of Value Program, Norway.

Farrah Raza

- 2–4 October 2022, "Religion's Roles in Peacebuilding." 29th Annual International Law and Religion Symposium 'Religion's Roles in Peacebuilding', Panel: UK and Canada. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, USA.

Abdelghafar Salim

- 19 March 2021 (online), "Practicing Sharia in a Minority Context: Ethnographic Study on Muslim Refugees in Eastern Germany." Sharia in Context – Online Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology and University of Copenhagen, Germany.
- 26–28 March 2022, "Daily Life Practices of Muslim Refugees in the Mirror of Islamic Normativity." Arab Graduate Student Conference. Arab Center for Research & Policy, Doha, Qatar.
- 1–2 September 2022, "Religious Authority in Practice: An ethnographic case study among Imams in Germany." Islam and Authority. Orient Institute Beirut – Cairo Office and Center for Islamic Theology of the University of Münster and King Abdul-Aziz Al Saoud Foundation for Islamic Studies and Human Science, Casablanca, Morocco.
- 15–16 September 2022, "Marriage and Divorce Practices of Muslims in Germany." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.
- 11–12 December 2022, "Religion – Environment – Practices: An Ethnographic Study among Muslim Refugees in Eastern Germany." Religion, Religiosity and Society. Orient Institute Beirut – Cairo Office, Alexandria, Egypt.

Maria Sapignoli

- 27 May 2020 (online), "AIming Toward the Future. Presentation of the Group Project." MPRGL Meeting 2020. Max Planck Research Group Leaders' Network, Germany.
- 9–10 December 2021 (online), "Hunting the Hunters – Digital Infrastructures of Wildlife Policing in South Africa." Situated AI – Global Ethnographies of New Technologies in Policing and Justice. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Günther Schlee

- 14–16 July 2022, "Revenge in the Context of Collective Identification." Let's Talk about Revenge. University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany.

Mario Schmidt

- 23–27 May 2022, jointly with Adrian Wilson, "Urban Experiments in Nairobi: Cities as Laboratories." UTA-DO African Cities Workshop. British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), Nairobi, Kenya.
- 26 July 2022, "Prepacked Success? Migration, Expectation, and Masculinity in High-Rise Nairobi." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons'. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.
- 10–14 October 2022, "'Just' Give Money to the Poor: Some Observations on an Unconditional Cash Transfer Project in Western Kenya." Persistent Barriers, New Frontiers: Fintech Futures in Africa. University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa.
- 8–9 December 2022 (online), "Recreating the Village Field. How Male Migrants Deal with Shrinking Urban Space in Pipeline, Nairobi." Shrinking Domestic Space in Sub-Saharan Africa. NRF Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Luisa Schneider

- 18–19 June 2020 (online), "Let Me Take a Holiday from this Damned Life before it Kills Me! Rough Sleepers Longing for Prison." Carcerality in the Globalised Present: Prison Spaces, Forms and Imaginaries. University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Dittmar Schorkowitz

- 6–9 October 2020 (online), "Mobility and Immobility in the Mongol Empire." Mongolian Studies at the Beginning of the 21st Century: Current State and Development Prospects – II, Panel: Problems of Ethnological, Anthropological and Archaeological Research. Kalmyk Scientific Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences and Institute for Mongolian, Buddhist and Tibetan Studies of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Elista, Russia.

Mascha Schulz

- 14–15 December 2020 (online), "Non-Believing, Non-Practising, and Non-Identifying Hindus, Muslims, and Atheists in Contemporary South Asia." Committed to Religion's Other: The Anthropology of the Secular. University of Zurich, Switzerland.

- 2–5 June 2021 (online), "Beyond the Statist View on Secularism and Non-Religion: Shifting Positionality and Time in Sylhet, Bangladesh." Y-SASM (Young South Asia Scholars Meet) 2021 'The Everyday State', Panel: Constructing Narratives: Media and the Everyday State. Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland.

Michal Šípoš

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), "Locating Others' Pain: The Researcher's Positionality in the Ethnography of Violence." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Affective Dimension of Ethnographic Knowledge Production. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 8–10 October 2020 (online), "Refugees' Perception of Time and Proactive Existence: The Case of Chechen Asylum Seekers in Poland." B/ordering Cultures: Everyday Life, Politics, Aesthetics, 6th Annual Conference, Panel: New Perspectives on Borders, Time and Migration. Kulturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany.

Federica Sona

- 18 September 2020 (online), "(In)formal Polygamy and Muslim Communities in Western Countries." A Shared Interest in Family Legal Pluralism: The Potential of Constructive Alliances between Religious and Queer Groups. Law Faculty, University of Trento, and Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Center for Religious Studies., Italy.

- 19 November 2020 (online), "Criminal, Family, Labour, and Welfare/Social Laws." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, and European Judicial Training Network, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 22–26 March 2021 (online), jointly with Imen Gallala, "Muslims Families and European Courts – Emerging Issues." EJTN Study Visit. MPI for Social Anthropology, Germany.

- 18–19 November 2021, jointly with Imen Gallala, "Muslims Families and European Courts – Emerging Issues." MPI-EJTN Judicial Training 'Diversity in the Courtroom. Judges in Europe Facing New Challenges'. MPI for Social Anthropology, and European Judicial Training Network, Barcelona, Spain.

- 2–3 December 2021, "Comparative Perspectives on Polygynous Unions." CUREDI Annual Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 23 June 2022, "Muslim Moroccan Women and the Italian Judiciary. Intersectional Narratives between Religious and Secular Law." A Case Study of Islamic Heterogeneous Autonomous Legal Orders: Feminist Narratives Navigating Muslim Family Law in Shari'a Councils and Human Rights. School of Law, Birkbeck University of London, UK.

- 11–12 July 2022, "Polyamory, Polyandry and Polygyny in Italy." CUREDI Annual Workshop. MPI for Social Anthropology, Berlin, Germany.

- 5–8 September 2022, "Tying the Knot in Civil Law and Common Law Countries." Marriage, Pluralism and Human Rights in Europe. Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

- 19–21 September 2022, "Muslim Marriages: Polygamy before the Italian and the Spanish Judiciary." 6th ICLARS Conference, Panel: Human Dignity, Law, and Religious Diversity: Designing the Future of Inter-Cultural Societies. International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS), Cordoba, Spain.

- 17–18 November 2022, "Lost in Translation or Solidarity? Illustrations from Sharīʿah-compliant Nuptial Dissolution Forms." Max Planck Law Annual Conference 'Solidarity'. Max Planck Law Network, Berlin, Germany.

- 24–27 November 2022, "Il paziente musulmano, 'Il paziente multiculturale e la sua spiritualità'." Scienza, ricerca e innovazione: la salute futura. Festival della Salute, Siena, Italy.

- 8–9 December 2022, "Accelerating the Digital Transition – The ECFR in (Post) Pandemic Times." ECMI Workshop on Digital Minority Religion: Methodologies, Trends and Patterns. European Centre for Minority Issues, Flensburg, Germany.

Timm Sureau

- 28–29 October 2020 (online), "Inception of the Corona Tracing App of Germany." Medien und Gesellschaft in Zeiten von Corona. Universität Siegen, Germany.

- 7 December 2020 (online), "Programmers Could Know That We Know Nothing: The Gift, Big Data Programming, and Distributed Responsibility." 1st meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Quantification (SSSQ). Society for the Social Studies of Quantification (SSSQ), France.

Kristóf Szombati

- 13–14 February 2020, "An Overlooked Moment in the Making of Rightist Hegemony in Hungary: The 'War of Movement' Led by Racist-Extremist Paramilitaries (2007–2012)." Intermediary Resources: The Brokering of Values, Ideas and Resources in Political Contexts. Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin, Germany.

Bertram Turner

- 25 March 2021 (online), "Cooperatives as Interfaces and Boundary Objects in Supply Chain Infrastructures – Moroccan Argan Oil." Rīga Stradiņš University Research Week 2021. Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia.

- 19–21 April 2021 (online), "Conservation by Design: Extraction, Law, and Technoscience in the Moroccan Argan Woodlands." Virtual Workshop: Conservation in Africa. University of Cologne, Germany.

- 26–30 May 2021 (online), "Multiplicity, Pluriversality and Onto-Legalities." LSA Annual Meeting 2021 'Crisis, Healing, Re-Imagining'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Chicago, USA.

- 27 September – 1 October 2021 (online), "Ruined Landscape beneath Surface – Agro-industrial Water Extraction Technologies and Speculation about Properties and Agencies of an Emptied Groundwater Body in Morocco." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns', Panel: Post-industrial Landscapes and Possible Futures. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 13–16 July 2022, "Techno-Material Normativity, Legal Pluralism, and French Land Appropriation in Protectorate Morocco." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 13–16 July 2022, "Introduction: Decolonizing the Normative Power of Technology and Materiality in (Post)colonial Plural Legal Settings." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 26–29 July 2022, "The Social Life of Manure." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Seminal Matters of Planetary Uncertainty: The Transformational Ecologies of Material Infrastructures and Agricultural Practices [SIEF panel]. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

- 25–28 August 2022, "Introduction: From Global to Local Food Chains: Food Sovereignty and Climate Change." Sixth Baltic Summer School of Anthropology. Rīga Stradiņš University, Cesis, Latvia.

Han Vermeulen

- 1–24 July 2020 (online), "From Kunstkammern to Ethnographic Museums and World Museums." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Making and Remaking Anthropology Museums: Provenance and Restitution. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 26–29 July 2022 (online), jointly with Frederico Delgado Rosa, "Conducting Ethnographic Fieldwork Beyond Studies of Race, 1870–1922." EASA Conference 2022 'Transformation, Hope, and the Commons', Panel: Race, Anthropology and (De)coloniality [History of Anthropology Network]. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Belfast, UK.

Larissa Vetters

- 12–13 March 2020 (online), "Aspirations of Legal Concord in Asylum Appeal Hearings. Rule of Law Practices among Administrative Judges and Their Wider Perception in Public Debates about Migration and the Rule of Law in Germany." Socio-legal Perspectives on the Rule of Law. European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany.

- 21–24 July 2020 (online), jointly with Olaf Zenker, "Conflicting Sentiments of Bureaucracies: Public Servants in and against the Affective Digital Bureaucracies of Germany's New Migration Management." EASA Conference 2020 'New Anthropological Horizons in and beyond Europe', Panel: Politicized Bureaucrats in and beyond Europe: Conflicting Loyalties, Professionalism and the Law in the Making of Public Services. European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Lisbon, Portugal.

- 5–6 May 2021 (online), jointly with Bettina Mann, Hatem Elliesie, "Herausforderungen des FDM aus der Perspektive der qualitativen Sozialforschung." FDM-Kompetenzen: Forschungsdaten an den Max-Planck-Instituten. Max Planck Society, Munich, Germany.

- 28–29 May 2021 (online), jointly with Olaf Zenker, "Affective Digital Bureaucracies: Digitalized Diversity and Its Affective Afterlives in the Administration of Migration in Germany." Diversity Affects Troubling Institutions. CRC 1171 Affective Societies, Berlin, Germany.

- 23 November 2021 (online), jointly with Pablo Ampuero Ruiz, Kristin Magnucki, "Ethnographic Research and Data Protection. A Reflection." Datenschutztagung der MPG. Max Planck Society, Germany.

- 9–12 July 2022, jointly with Sophie Andreetta, "Governance, Administration and Bureaucracy. Legal Pluralism as an Analytical Lens?" Summer School 'International Course on Legal Pluralism'. Commission on Legal Pluralism and University of Lisbon Law School, Lisbon, Portugal.

- 14 July 2022, jointly with Carolien Jacobs, "The Multiple Lives of Legal Pluralism in Migration Studies." LSA Global Meeting 2022 'Rage, Reckoning, & Remedy'. Law & Society Association (LSA), Lisbon, Portugal.

Julia Vorhölter

- 7 October 2021 (online), "(Re)creating Psychology in Africa: Colonial Legacies, Current Debates, Future Visions." 4S Annual Meeting 2021 'Good Relations. Practices and Methods', Panel: The Boundaries of Universality – Contemporary Engagements of Science. 4S – Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, Canada.

- 2 June 2022, "Intricate Interventions – Dealing with Insomnia in a German Sleep Lab." Psychological Anthropology Today: Theoretical and Practical Interventions in an Interconnected World (Interim Workshop of the DGSKA Working Group 'Psychological Anthropology'), Panel: Studying Psychological Interventions in Different Fields of Practice. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, and DGSKA, co-hosted by the Research Group Ageing in a Time of Mobility (MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity), Göttingen, Germany.

Iain Walker

- 16–17 September 2021, "Spatiality, Transnationalism and Area Studies: Some Observations on Research Among a Spatially Dispersed Community in the Western Indian Ocean (keynote address)." New Gulf Streams Middle East and Eastern Africa Intersected. Fourth International thematic Conference on Africa and the Indian Ocean. Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal.

- 29 June – 1 July 2022, "Covid, Mobilities and Identities on the Island of Mayotte." VI ASAI Conferenza, Panel: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on African Indian Ocean Societies and Networks. Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia (ASAI), Urbino, Italy.

Samuel Joseph Williams

- 18 February 2020, "How Much is Enough? Training Animal Spirits in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar." Investing in Values. Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, UK.

- 13–14 September 2022, "Too Intimate to Be Shared? Sex, Ethics, and Ethnographic "Data" in an Era of Open Science." From Transparency to Secrecy and Back Again: Sharing Anthropological Data in the Age of Open Science. Paris Nanterre University, France.

- 6–8 October 2022 (online), "Ethical Uncertainty and Migration." Uncertain Mobilities. Department of Sociology, University of Siegen, Germany.

Markus Wurzer

- 17 January 2020 (online), "Der junge Johann Kohler und sein Weltbild im Spiegel seiner Tagebücher 1863/64 bzw. 1864/65." Johann Kohler und seine Zeit (1839–1916). Institut für Zeitgeschichte, University of Innsbruck, Austria.

- 1 June 2021 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz, "Mapping Dark Heritage: Traces of Fascist Colonialism in Italian Cityscapes." AAIS Annual Conference 2021. American Association for Italian Studies, USA.

- 14 June 2021 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz, "Postcolonialitaly: A Digital Public History Project Unveiling Italian Colonial Heritage." Unwanted Histories: The Legacies of Contested Monuments and Objects: New Homes, New Interpretations, New Meanings. University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

- 21 June 2021 (online), "Da Adua a Firenze. La città come archivio materiale per lo studio del colonialismo italiano." Le colonie in Riva d'Arno. Studi intorno al patrimonio coloniale a Firenze. University of Florence, Italy.

- 17 June 2022 (online), "Between Intervention and Restitution: Postcolonial Approaches to the Visual Legacy of Colonialism in Contemporary Italy." (Post)Colonial Shaming. Practices and Materiality of Degradation. Technische Universität Dresden, Germany.

- 7 October 2022, "Italiani, brava gente? Vergleich als geschichtspolitisches Argument im republikanischen Italien." Der historische Vergleich. Erkenntnisgewinn und Kampfzone, Jahreskonferenz des Instituts für Kulturwissenschaften und Theatergeschichte, Austrian Academy of Sciences. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria.

Biao Xiang

- 9 October 2021 (online), "The Labour Process Reversed (keynote lecture)." Platform Economy. Shanghai University, China.

- 29 October 2021, "Securitization of Mobility During COVID." Disrupted Mobilities: Migration Research in (Multiple) Crises. Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

- 10 November 2021 (online), "Im/Mobility in Times of COVID-19." IUAES Congress 2021, Panel: IUAES Commission on Migration. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), Yucatan, Mexico.

- 13 November 2021 (online), "Social Dimensions and Disruptions Caused by Covid-19 in China and India." 14th All India Conference of China Studies (AICCS). Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) India Office, New Delhi, India.

- 7 December 2021 (online), "The Societalization of Labour in the Digital Era (keynote lecture)." Reconfiguring Labour and Welfare in Emerging Economies of the Global South. ZiF – Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld University, Germany.

- 22 February 2022 (online), "(Im)mobility Infrastructures (keynote lecture)." Infrastructures and (Im)mobile Lives: Interruptions, Failures, and Repairs. National University of Singapore, Singapore.

- 25 February 2022 (online), "Anthropology of Common Worries." Order of Mind: Chinese Modernity and New Forms of Civilization. Conference to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of East China University of Science and Technology. East China University of Science and Technology and Journal of Exploration and Debate, China.

- 11 June 2022 (online), "Trends in Transnational Migration and Migration Studies (keynote lecture)." Inauguration Ceremony Conference of the Research Institute of Global Chinese and Area Studies. Research Institute of Global Chinese and Area Studies, Huaqiao University, Xiamen, China.

- 8 October 2022 (online), "Brutal Moralism: Changes in Popular Worldviews in China since 2008 (keynote lecture)." Humanities Fall Conference 'Ciencia y Caridad'. Duke Kunshan University, Barcelona, Spain.

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann

- 4 December 2020 (online), "A Social Anthropological View of Ethnocosmetics and the Social Dimension of Rose Oil in Turkey." 4th International Cosmetics Congress. Turkish Association of Cosmetic Firms, Ankara, Turkey.

- 6–8 May 2021 (online), "Re-visiting Gellner's Social Theory on Islam, the State and the Turkish Case." Ernest Gellner's Legacy and Social Theory Today. Czech Association for Social Anthropology, Prague, Czech Republic.

- 14–17 July 2021, "A View from Halle: Institutionalizing Research on Transformation and Eurasia." Vox Populi Visegradensis. The Anthropology of East-Central Europe. MPI for Social Anthropology, Schloss Ringberg, Germany.

- 8 October 2021 (online), "Scented Rose: A Plant or a Commodity?" From Armenian Pomegranates to Urban Gardening: Research Perspectives on Gardening, Horticulture and Plants from Transcaucasia and Beyond, Panel: Plants in Anthropological Research. Tbilisi State University and Frobenius Institute for Research in Cultural Anthropology, Georgia.

Tyler Zoanni

- 25 February 2021 (online), "Before Disability: Notes on Astonishment from Central Uganda." Disability and African Indigenous Thought. Disability and Inclusion Africa Network, Lancaster University, UK.

- 28–30 June 2021 (online), "Lives of Quality: A Tale of Two Families in Urban Uganda" Asia and Africa in Transition. University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

- 27 September – 1 October 2021 (online), "National Vision: How Management Consultants Write African Futures." DGSKA-Tagung 2021 'Welten. Zonen. Atmosphären. Seismographien des Anthropozäns'. German Anthropological Association, Bremen, Germany.

- 6–9 October 2021 (online), "Tigers on Safari: Asian Models for African Populations." 4S Annual Meeting 2021 'Good Relations. Practices and Methods'. 4S – Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, Canada.

- 1–3 June 2022, "Religion, Politics, and Pre-Colonial Secularity in Nineteenth-Century Buganda." Multiple Secularities in Africa and the Diaspora. Centre for Advanced Studies "Multiple Secularities", Leipzig University, Germany.

- 7–8 July 2022, "Constitutive Inclusions (keynote lecture)." 2022 ALTER Conference. European Society for Disability Research (ALTER), Brussels, Belgium.

- 5–7 October 2022, "The Many Lives of Death" Critique in Africa. University of Nairobi and Volkwagen Foundation, Knowledge for Tomorrow Program, Nairobi, Kenya.

Lectures Given by Individual Researchers

Michiel Baas

- October 2021 (online), "Muscular India: Social Mobility and the New Middle Class." School of Social Sciences, Central University of Rajasthan, India.
- November 2021, "Muscular India: Navigating Sex and Porn Work in an Unequal World." Centre for Modern South Asian Studies, University of Göttingen, Germany.

Katia Bianchini

- 19 February 2020, "A Discussion on Critical Issues in Refugee law." Oxford Brookes University, UK.
- 14 January 2021 (online), "The Meaning of 'Nationality' under Article 1A(2) of the Refugee Convention." Law School, University of Malta, Msida, Malta.
- 21 May 2021 (online), "The Role of Expert Witnesses in the Adjudication of Religious and Culture-Based Asylum Claims in the United Kingdom: The Case Study of 'Witchcraft' Persecution." EuroStorie Research Seminar. University of Helsinki, Finland.
- 4 June 2021 (online), "Protezione degli Apolidi dalla Detenzione Arbitraria nel Regno Unito." University of Palermo, Italy.
- 11 November 2021 (online), "Grounds of Persecution under Article 1A(2) of the Refugee Convention: Nationality and Traditional Beliefs." Law School, University of Malta, Msida, Malta.

Christoph Brumann

- 25 March 2021 (online), "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena." Research Seminar Series "Anthropology of Heritage and Material Culture". Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, UK.
- 27 May 2021 (online), "From Private to Public and Back? The Townscape Councils of Kyoto." u:japan lecture series. Institute for East Asian Studies, University of Vienna, Austria.
- 1 July 2021 (online), "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena." Lecture Series "Religions and the Politics of Heritage in Asia". University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- 21 September 2021, "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena (book talk moderated by Jens Sejrup)." Asian Dynamics Initiative. University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2 December 2021 (online), "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena." Lecture Series "Shaping Asia: Heritage". Bielefeld University, Germany.
- 20 September 2022, "Technologies and Moralities of Global Sharing: Nation, Culture, Expertise and World-Making Networks in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena." Department of Anthropology, University of Milan, Italy.
- 13 October 2022, "The Dharma and the Dime: Notes on the Economy of Buddhism in Asia." Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
- 22 November 2022, "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena." Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Pierre Druart

- 3 November 2022 (online), "D'Adolf Eichmann à Dominic Ongwen: La responsabilité en Droit pénal international au regard d'Emmanuel Kant et Hannah Arendt." Faculté de Droit, Université de Montréal, Canada.

Hatem Elliesie

- 7 May 2021 (online), jointly with Marie-Claire Foblets, "Extrajudicial Dispute Resolution in Europe: anthropological insights on the impact of religion and tradition." Comparative Procedural Law & Justice Webinars. Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law, Luxembourg.

Marie-Claire Foblets

- 19 January 2021 (online), jointly with Armin Höland, "Law & Anthropology: The Underexplored Potential of Cross-Disciplinary Research." Joint Lecture of the MPI for Social Anthropology and the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 16 April 2021 (online), "Minority Protection in European Countries – Four Reasons to Call into Question Perspectives Inherited from the Past." Minority Experiences and European Narratives. Centre of Excellence in Law, Identity and the European Narratives, University of Helsinki, Finland.

- 22 April 2021 (online), jointly with Annelise Riles and Ralf Michaels, "Public Commissions on Cultural and Religious Diversity." Law, Technology and Social Movement Seminar. Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA.

- 26 April 2021 (online), jointly with Larissa Vetters, Katia Bianchini, Sophie Andreetta, "Anthropology Meets Law: Experiences from a Judicial Training on Diversity in the Courtroom." International Criminal Court Forum – Evidentiary Matters Lecture Series. Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit and Rechtshandhaving and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Hague, The Netherlands.

- 7 May 2021 (online), jointly with Hatem Elliesie, "Comparative Procedural Law and Anthropology." Comparative Procedural Law & Justice Webinars. Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law, Luxembourg.

- 3 June 2021 (online), "Unbehagliche Praktiken. Juristische Argumentation zur (Nicht)Akzeptanz." Vortragsreihe 'Das Völkerrecht in der Krise?' Gesellschaftswissenschaftliches Kolleg, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Germany.

- 8 June 2022 (online), "Can Anthropology Contribute to Legal Thinking? The Challenge of Interdisciplinary Work." Centre for Law and Social Justice Annual Lecture. Centre for Law and Social Justice, University of Leeds, UK.

- 29 June 2022, "Kippa oder Kopftuch. Kultur oder Religion?" Vortragsreihe 'Spiritueller Impuls'. Evangelische Studierendengemeinde, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Michael Fürstenberg

- 12 May 2021 (online), "Von Ariern bis QAnon: Die heterogene Gefahr des modernen Rechtsterrorismus." Studium 50+. Zentrum für Wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung, University of Magdeburg, Germany.

Nina Glick-Schiller

- 28 April 2021 (online), jointly with Ayse Caglar, "Migrants and City Making." UNIVIE Book Series – Hot off the Press 2022. Research Platform "The Challenge of Urban Futures", University of Vienna, Austria.

Chris Hann

- January 2021, "Nationalism in Orbán's Hungary: Soft, Shrill and Strategic-Structural." Osteuropa Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.

- 2 February 2021 (online), "Earthly Upheavals in the Heavenly Mountains." Joint Lecture Series MPI for Social Anthropology and Seminar for Social Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 21 March 2021 (online), "The State Farm in World History." Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw, Poland.

- 11 June 2021 (online), "One Hundred Years of Substantivist Economic Anthropology." Magyar Néprajz és Antropológia Intézet, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

- 21 March 2022 (online), "Economy, Emulation, Equality: Sociogenesis in the Postsocialist Capitalocene." Gudeman Lecture. Institute for Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA.

- 10 April 2022 (online), jointly with Gábor Scheiring, "From Neoliberal Disembedding to Neo-Nationalist Re-embedding in Provincial Hungary." Department of Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden.

- 23 June 2022, "Colonial Encounters. From Caliban and Owain Glyndŵr to Ilham Tohti and Petra Köpping." Valedictory Lecture. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 11 November 2022, "Europe in Eurasia. Levi Strauss in a Hungarian Market Town." William A. Douglass Distinguished Lecture. Society for the Anthropology of Europe, American Anthropological Association, Seattle, USA.

- 8 December 2022 (online), "Das System Orbán in einem ungarischen mezőváros." Institut für Kulturwissenschaft, University of Freiburg, Germany.

Dirk Hanschel

- July 2021 (online), "Claiming the Climate – Chances and Limitations." University of Tübingen, Germany.

- March 2022 (online), "Environmental Rights in Cultural Context – Perspectives from Law & Anthropology." Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT, USA.

Arne Harms

- 22 June 2021 (online), "Regenerative Cultures: Towards an Ethnography of Hospitable Futures on a Damaged Planet." Current Debates Lecture Series. Institute of Anthropology, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

- 25 November 2021 (online), "Striving for Less Bad Futures: Protest, Ethics and Law among Climate Activists." ERCC Lecture Series. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 7 October 2022, "Deep Greening: Activism, Spirituality, Ethics." Department of Anthropology, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Abduletif Kedir Idris

- 23 November 2022 (online), "Development Finance and the Right to Participate in Environmental Decision Making in an Authoritarian Context: Lessons from Gibe III Hydro Dam Project in Ethiopia." Horn of Africa Studies Group 3rd Online Lecture Series "New Perspectives on the Horn of Africa". Wissenschaftlicher Arbeitskreis Horn von Afrika e.V. (WAKHVA), Germany.

Deborah Jones

- May 2021, "Spectral Labour: Ghostwriting as Animation." Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK.

- October 2022, "Words to Sow: Language, Violence, and Peacemaking in Ukraine." Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK.

- October 2022, "Words to Sow: Language, Violence, and Peacemaking in Ukraine." Centre for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Birmingham, UK.

Jacqueline Knörr

- April 2022, "Interactions between Decolonization and Creolization: Towards an Anthropological Turn in Decolonization Studie." Lecture as Invited Professor. Department of Social Sciences and Centre Maurice Halbwachs (CMH), École normale supérieure (ENS), Paris, France.

- May 2022, "From West Africa to Indonesia (and Back): A Personal and Intellectual Encounter." Lecture as Invited Professor. Department of Social Sciences and Centre Maurice Halbwachs (CMH), École normale supérieure (ENS), Paris, France.

Hassan Hussein Kochore

- 26 March 2021 (online), "Do the Locals Count? State Documentation and (Il)legible Temporalities in Northern Kenya." Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Providence, USA.

Mathias Krabbe

- 5 December 2022, "Resistance to (Semi) Peripheral Financialization: The Case of the Frankowicze." Sociological Seminars. Czech Academy of Science, Prague, Czech Republic.

Desirée Kumpf

- 4 March 2021 (online), "Environmental Rights in Agriculture: The Case of Organic Tea Plantations in India." ERCC Digital Talks. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Luc Leboeuf

- 11 February 2020, "Het Europese Migratierecht. Recente ontwikkelingen in de rechtspraak van het HvJ en het EHRM." Leerstoel Migratie- en Migrantenrecht. University of Antwerp, Belgium.

- 2021, "Het nieuwe Europese migratie- en asielpact. Oude recepten voor een vernieuwing van het Europese migratierecht?" Leerstoel Migratie- en Migrantenrecht. University of Antwerp, Belgium.

- 29 June 2022, "The Crises of International Refugee Law." Max Planck Law Network. Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Danaé Leitenberg

- 14 May 2020 (online), "In and Out of Time: Future-Making and Speculation in the Swiss Alps." Institutes Colloquium. Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland.

Annika Lems

- 22 April 2021 (online), "Backwater Histories: Tracing the Socio-Cultural Genealogies of Europe's Reactionary Backlash." Department for Social Anthropology, University of Manchester, UK.

- 4 May 2021 (online), "The Slippery Slope between Inclusion and Exclusion: Understanding European Approaches to Diversity." Seminar "Politics of diversity in contemporary Europe". Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria.

- 31 May 2021 (online), "The Trials and Tribulations of a Slow-Motion Ethnography." MPI cross-departmental seminar series 'Anthropology in Disruption: What is Gained and What is Lost?' MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 28 October 2021, "Gramsci in Oberkärnten: Corona, der gesunde Menschenverstand und die geschichtliche Verankerung anti-kosmopolitischer Alltagsphilosophien im Alpen-Adria Raum." Institute for Cultural Analysis, University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

- 6 December 2021 (online), "Im/mobilities and the Everyday." Lecture Series on "Anthropology of Migration". Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna, Austria.

- 11 October 2022 (online), "Im/mobility and Education: Ethnographic Insights into the Swiss Immigration Regime." Lecture Series on "Ethnographies of (Im)Mobility: Exploring Migration, Borders and Inequality in Europe and Beyond". University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

- 26 October 2022 (online), "Gramsci im österreichischen Bergdorf: Corona, der gesunde Menschenverstand und die geschichtliche Verankerung anti-kosmopolitischer Alltagsphilosophien." Colloquium IZG. Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Geschlechterforschung, Bielefeld University, Germany.

- 7 December 2022 (online), "Frontiers of Belonging." Colloquium. Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.

Romm Lewkowicz

- 10 November 2021 (online), "Migration in the Age of Biometric Identification: Europe as Case-Study." Weltmuseum Lecture Series. Weltmuseum Wien, Vienna, Austria.

- 1 March 2022, "The Document in the Post-Dramatic Theater." Making Performance in The Post-Post-Dramatic Course. Department of Theater Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University, Providence, USA.

- 21 March 2022 (online), "Migration in the Age of Biometric Identification: Europe as Case-Study." Frances Brody Lecture Series. Department of Public Policy, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

- 4 August 2022 (online), "Anti-Trafficking/ Smuggling and the Criminalization of Refuge in Europe." Legal and Ethical Perspectives on Refugees Course. Law Department, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

- 22 November 2022, "Fickle Companions: Evaluating Papers and Their Fluctuating Value(s) Among Migrants Navigating the EU's Border Regimes." Transversal Thinking. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Lukas Ley

- 20 January 2022 (online), "Sinking: The Spacetime of Land Subsidence." Seminar "Dialogues entre recherches classiques et actuelles sur l'Asie du Sud-Est". École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, France.

Alice Margaria

- 16 September 2020 (online), "The Construction of Fatherhood: The Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights." Book Launch and Discussion. Center for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin, Germany.
- 17 November 2020 (online), "The Construction of Fatherhood: The Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights." Book Presentation UCL Public Law Group. University College London, UK.
- 26 April 2021 (online), "Fathers in the Pandemic: Is it Time to Reconsider Family Leave Policies?" Social Policy Research Colloquium. Hertie School, Berlin, Germany.
- 3 June 2021 (online), "Fatherhood Today: A Socio-Legal Analysis." Coffee Time Comparative Conversations. University of Florence, Italy.
- 23 November 2021 (online), "The Reproductive Rights of Fathers before the ECtHR." Legal Gender Studies: Highlighting Different Aspects Series. University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Marek Mikuš

- 21 January 2021 (online), "Household Debt and Financialization in Eastern Europe: Lessons for Anthropology." Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, Germany.
- 25 May 2022 (online), "Hypotekárne trajektórie v Záhrebe: rezidenčný majetok a subjektivita dlžníkov na európskej semiperiférii ['Mortgage pathways in Zagreb: housing wealth and debtor subjectivity in a European semi-periphery']." Institute for Sociology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Lisa Mitchell

- 16 January 2022 (online), "Tracing Genealogies of Indian Democracy: Methods for Global Intellectual History in Translation." Karwaan Special Lecture. Karwaan: The Heritage Exploration Initiative, Delhi, India.
- 18 March 2022 (online), "Respondent for Jonathan Spencer "The Trouble with Golden Ages: Anthropology and the Spirit of Revolutionary Times"." Clifford Geertz Commemorative Lecture. Department of Anthropology, Princeton University, USA.

Christine Moderbacher

- 17 December 2020 (online), "Moving Ants on a Painted Tree." Online Series 'Art and Anthropology'. EASA Anthropologies of the Arts Network (ANTART), Europe.

Mariana Monteiro de Matos

- 10 December 2020 (online), jointly with Samuel Barbosa, Maria Sibylla, Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America (MECILA) and Project Moitará (University of Brasília), "Terras & Donos: Povos indígenas e territorialidades no Brasil e na América Latina." University of Brasilia, Brazil.

Sophie Nakueira

- 16 June 2021 (online), "Protecting Vulnerable Refugees in Uganda: An Empirical Study of the Implementation Practices of State and Global Aid Agencies." Summer School Program "Roots and Routes". Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland.
- 14 October 2021 (online), "Challenges of Ethnographic Fieldwork in Refugee Settlements: A Global South Perspective." VULNER Webinar "Challenges of Ethnographic Fieldwork Within Migrant Communities". MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 5 May 2022 (online), "Uganda Emergency Response to Mass Refugee Influxes." VULNER Webinar "Temporary Protection for People Fleeing War in Ukraine". MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 10 May 2022, jointly with Thomas Widlok, Mario Schmidt, Tyler Zoanni, "The Dilemma of Climate Change-Induced Displacement: Implications for Africa." Transversal Thinking: 'Africa's Future(s) – What to Expect?' A Panel across MPI Departments. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 13 May 2022, "'Insider' – 'Outsider': Positionality in Uganda's and South Africa's Migrant Spaces." The Fields of The Global. Global Research Institute of Paris (GRIP), France.
- 18 May 2022, "Ethnographic Research among Vulnerable Migrants: North-South Relations." Lunch Seminar to Research Group Law and Development. Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Hanna Nieber

- 21 April 2022, "Constellations 4 Astronomy." Cosmopolitan Karoo Working Group, Invited lecture. Department of Anthropology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.
- 24 June 2022, "Drinking the Written Qur'an: An Ethnographic Study on Religion in Zanzibar." Department of Intercultural Theology, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- 13 September 2022, "The Emergence of Astronomy in Madagascar and the Emergence of a New Ethnographic Project." Department of Anthropology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Latvia.

Louisa Piart

- 27 May 2020 (online), "Deregulation and Juridification of Maritime Labour Relations? The Work of Inspectors in the Shipping Industry." Political and Legal Anthropology Network PLAN Kolloquium. Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- 31 May 2021 (online), "Fighting Disruption: Seafarers and Ethnographers in the Covid-19 Crisis and beyond." MPI Virtual Cross-Departmental Seminar "Anthropology in disruption: What is gained and what is lost?". MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 7 July 2021 (online), "Maritime Labour in the Offing: Classification, Audit and Certification Procedures in the Shipping Industry." Political and Legal Anthropology Network PLAN Colloquium. Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- 9 November 2022, "Seafarers in the Anthropocene." Political and Legal Anthropology Network PLAN Colloquium. Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Floramante S.J. Ponce

- 28 November 2022, "(Im)mobility Infrastructures: Extending the Application and Scope of Migration Infrastructure Theory." Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, Sweden.

Ursula Rao

- 7 December 2020, "Vom Überwachen." Lecture Series: Kontrolle & Überwachung. Film-, Theater-, Medien- und Kulturwissenschaften, Mainz University, Germany.
- 12 January 2021 (online), "Inclusive Governance, Care Narratives and the Making of Networked Regimes of Control in India and Beyond." Understanding Asia: Negotiating the Social in Collective Constellations. Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, Germany.
- 29 March 2021 (online), "Covid and the Experience of Meantime." Web Talk Series 'Corona Conversations: Mobility in a Post-COVID Future, Interview by Amrita Datta (https://gssc.uni-koeln.de/veranstaltungen/webinare/recordings-corona-conversations-exploring-the-future-of-mobility-in-a-post-covid-world#c117277). Global South Studies Center, Cologne, Germany.
- 31 March 2021 (online), "Experimental State Making en Route to Providing Universal Health Coverage in India." Economisation of Global Health. A Monthly Online Seminar Series, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, King's College London and McGill University, together with the Accountability & Global Health Network. Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, USA.
- 14 September 2021 (online), "Reflections on the Micro-Time of States: A Case Study of Stumbling Towards Universal Health Coverage in India." South Asian Studies Program. Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, USA.
- 23 September 2021 (online), "Function Creep or Patchy Surveillance? The Social Life of India's Unique Biometric ID (Aadhaar)." Algorithmic Governance and Cultures of Policing. Comparative Perspectives from Norway, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa (AGOPOL) Kick-off Workshop. Algorithmic Governance Research Network, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.
- 20 October 2021 (online), jointly with Matthias Middel, "Blickwinkel: Nation & Nationalstaat, Territorium und Volkswirtschaft als Raumformate." Colloquia. SFB 1199 'Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition', Leipzig University, Germany.
- 29 April 2022 (online), "Biometric Surveillance in India." Semester talk organised by South Asian Regional Committee (SARC). Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University, Medford, USA.

- 27 October 2022 (online), "Performing the Biometric Body. Machine-Human Entanglements in the Biometric Age." Seminar: Understanding the Politics of Contemporary Technologies. International Criminological Research Unit (ICRU), University of Liverpool, UK.

- 9 November 2022 (online), jointly with Sreya Dutta Chowdhury (SFB 1199), Srividya Balasubramanian (SFB 1199), "Project Presentation A05." Colloquia. SFB 1199 'Processes of Spatialization under the Global Condition', Leipzig University, Germany.

- 21 November 2022 (online), "Making Informal Sacred Geographies: Spiritual Presence, Sensual Engagement, and Wayside Shrines in Urban India." Interdisciplinary seminar in the study of religions 'Religion and Land'. Faculty of Theology and Religion, Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK.

Farrah Raza

- November 2022, "The Constitution, Religion and Human Rights." Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, UK.

Abdelghafar Salim

- March 2021 (online), jointly with Leonie Stenske, "Negotiating Ḥalāl Consumption: The Interplay between Religious Authority, Trust and Legitimacy." Institute of Oriental Studies, Leipzig University, Germany.

- June 2022, "Practicing Religion in a Minority Context: Ethnographic Study on Muslim Refugees in Eastern Germany." Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology (BIT), Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

Mario Schmidt

- 6 October 2022, "Pressure and the Expectation of Success in Nairobi, Kenya." Centre for African Studies, University of Leeds, UK.

Mascha Schulz

- 27 February 2022, "Umstrittene Nationalismen: Nationale Einheit und Ethnizität in Bangladesch." Ethnographic Museum, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

- 15 March 2022 (online), "Convoluted Convictions, Partial Positionings: Non-Religion, Secularism, and Party Politics in Sylhet, Bangladesh." Lecture as a nominee for the FAN-Award. Graduate Campus and FAN – Fonds zur Förderung des Akademischen Nachwuches, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

- 9 June 2022, "Performing the Secular: Street Theatre and Bengali Songs as 'Secular Media'." Lecture as part of the series „Material Secularities: Interdisciplinary Perspectives". Leipzig University, Germany.

- 7 December 2022, "Gibt es säkulare Objekte? Materialität, Ästhetik und Säkularismus in Bangladesch." Lecture as part of the series "Religion am Mittwoch". Department of Religious Studies, University of Marburg, Germany.

Federica Sona

- 23 April 2020 (online), "Presentation of Self-authored Monographs." Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna, Italy.

- January – May 2021, "Roundtable, International Arbitration Working Group (IAWG)." Max Planck Law Network, Germany.

- 27 January 2022, "Conversation for International Scholars." Harvard International Office, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

- 23 May 2022, "Islamic and Muslim Marriages in Common Law and Civil Law." PLSMW Seminar. Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

- 2022–23 (online), "Roundtable 'Marriage, Pluralism and Human Rights in Europe'." Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.

Timm Sureau

- 14 January 2021 (online), jointly with Thomas Götzelmann, "(Digital) Networks of Decision-Making in Germany's Migration Administration." Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures. Cultural and Social Anthropology, Institute of Sociology, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany.

Kristóf Szombati

- 25 February 2021 (online), "The Consolidation of Authoritarian Rule in Rural Hungary: Workfare and the Shift from Penal Populist to Illiberal Paternalist Poverty Governance." Russian and East European Studies (REES) Programme Seminar. Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford, UK.

Han Vermeulen

- 12 January 2022, "Die deutsche Erfindung der Völkerkunde. Ethnographie und Ethnologie von Leibniz und Müller bis Schlözer und Kollár, 1690–1790." Wunder und Wunderbares. Eine Diskurs- und Disziplingeschichte. Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Pietismusforschung (IZP), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

Larissa Vetters

- 26 April 2021 (online), jointly with Marie-Claire Foblets, Katia Bianchini, Sophie Andreetta, "Anthropology Meets Law: Experiences from a Judicial Training on Diversity in the Courtroom." ICC Forum' – Evidentiary Matters Lecture Series. International Criminal Court, Den Haag, The Netherlands.
- 25 April 2022 (online), "Public Administration Reforms, Local Self-Government and International Interventions in Post-War Bosnia-Herzegovina." Law Governance and Development. Leiden University College, The Netherlands.

Julia Vorhölter

- 25 October 2022, "Sleeping with Strangers – Techno-Intimacy and Side-Affects in a German Sleep Lab." Anthropology Colloquium. Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Hamburg University, Germany.

Iain Walker

- 28 May 2020 (online), "The Migrant, the Virus and the State: Mobilities in the Comoro Islands during the Coronavirus Lockdown." Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
- 19 February 2021 (online), "Time for a Mimetic Turn? Mimesis and the Other in the Comoro Islands." Strange Intimacies: A Festschrift Conference in Honor of Neil Maclean. Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, Australia.
- 24 March 2022 (online), "Et s'il n'y avait pas de frontière? Covid, (im)mobilités, et altérité ambiguë à Mayotte." Séminaire de recherche, Mondes insulaires de l'océan indien. École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris, France.
- 13 July 2022, "Creating Self and Other: Discourses of Inclusion and Exclusion on Mayotte." Institute of Ethnology, University of Münster, Germany.

Samuel Joseph Williams

- 5 March 2021 (online), "The Gift Business: Learning to Sell Souvenirs in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar." Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK.
- 17 March 2021 (online), "Qualitative Market Research, Ethnographic and Otherwise." Economic Anthropology Seminar Series. Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Lucerne, Switzerland.
- 12 July 2021 (online), "Anthropology and the Market." Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
- 30 November 2021 (online), "'Difference that Makes a Difference' in Bateson and Wolf." Roundtable on Gregory Bateson and Eric Wolf. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 27 January 2022 (online), "The Reception of The Dawn of Everything." Roundtable on David Graeber's Anthropology and The Dawn of Everything. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 21 November 2022, "Morals of the Market: Negotiating Value Pluralism in Istanbul's Nightlife Scene." Colloquium for Research in Cultural Anthropology. Frobenius Institute, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

Markus Wurzer

- 22 January 2020, "Un|Broken Silence. Italian Colonialism in Family Memories." Seminar Series; Unheard Voices, Marginalised Memories. Centre for Memory, Narrative and Histories, University of Brighton, UK.
- 23 September 2020 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz (European University Institute), "Postcolonial Italy: Mapping Colonial Heritage." Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York, USA.
- 6 February 2021 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz (European University Institute), "Encountering Material Traces of Colonialism in Italian Cities." Research Seminar "Empires". Department of History, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

- 23 March 2021, "Mussolini for Sale? Dark Heritage und selektive Geschichtsvermarktung in Italien." University of Regensburg, Germany.

- 1 March 2022 (online), jointly with Daphné Budasz (European University Institute), "Public Space and the Material Presence of Empire's Memory in Italy." Open Society University Network's Global Modernisms Project. Bard College New York, USA.

- 31 March 2022 (online), jointly with Renée Winter (University of Vienna), "Visual History als neues Forschungsfeld der österreichischen Zeitgeschichte." Virtuelle Ring-Vorlesung "Österreichische Zeitgeschichte – Zeitgeschichte in Österreich". University of Innsbruck, Austria.

Biao Xiang

- 3 November 2020 (online), "Competition and Outmigration." Yanjing Lecture. Peking University, Beijing, China.

- 21 January 2021 (online), "Logistification from Below." Public Lecture. National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR), Switzerland (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDJpjTyyHzU).

- 8 February 2021 (online), "Reproduction Migration and Global Order." Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.

- 23 February 2021 (online), "The Nearby." Cambridge City Seminars. University of Cambridge, UK.

- 10 May 2021 (online), "Intergenerational Reproduction Migration: The Case of China." Lecture. Cornell University, Ithaca, USA (https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/110006).

- 12 June 2021 (online), "Reproduction-Driven Labour Migration from China." Lecture. Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI), University of Victoria, Canada (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QPDUBeEPK0).

- 22 June 2021 (online), "A Way Out or a Way In? Social Competition in China and Transnational Mobilities." University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany.

- 19 July 2021 (online), "Buildings and Human." College of Architecture, Nanjing University, China.

- 6 October 2021, jointly with David Ownby, Ian Johnson, "The Changing Intellectual Landscape in China." Talk. Contemporary China Network, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany (https://berlincontemporarychinanetwork.org/bccn-talk-the-changing-intellectual-landscape-in-china/).

- 22 November 2021 (online), jointly with Ingrid d'Hooghe and David Ownby, "Understanding China in Uncertain Times." Discussion (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb6ei65vfQs). China Centre, University of Oxford, UK.

- 24 November 2021 (online), "Knowledge is Power!" Tallinn University, Estonia.

- 30 November 2021 (online), "The First Mile Movement." University College of London Asiatic Affairs Society, UK.

- 10 December 2021 (online), "Anthropology and Common Concerns." Department of Anthropology, University of Helsinki, Finland.

- 12 December 2021 (online), "The Nearby and Social Design." China Central Art Academy, Beijing, China.

- 4 April 2022 (online), "The World, The Self, and The Guojia (Nation-State)." Institute of China Studies, Seoul National University, South Korea.

- 9 April 2022 (online), "Recognizing Bodies: On Liu Xiaodong's Figurative Paintings." UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China.

- 24 April 2022 (online), "The Covid-19 Pandemic and Social Impacts." Columbia China Forum. Columbia University, New York, USA.

- 27 April 2022 (online), "The Reversed Articulation Model." CMR UW Migration Seminars. Centre of Migration Research, Warsaw, Poland (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc4hjtUnsoA).

- 4 May 2022 (online), jointly with Chaoguo Xing, "Securitization of Mobility." The Centre for Employment Relations, Innovation and Change (CERIC), University of Leeds, UK.

- 24 June 2022 (online), "Conceptualizing China." Keynote lecture. China Centre Tübingen, University of Tübingen, Germany.

- 27 June 2022 (online), "Anthropology and Common Sense." Keynote, National Anthropology Summer School. Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China.

- 12 August 2022, "On Transnationalism." Training Workshop on Migration Studies. Tallinn University, Estonia.

- 26 August 2022 (online), "Multi-Scalar Ethnography and the Nearby." Summer School on Qualitative Social Research Methods. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.

- 7 September 2022 (online), "Global South and Development Studies." Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, Paris, France.

- 11 September 2022, "Two Meanings of Change." Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs Summer School, Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with German Federal Foreign Office. German Academic Scholarship Foundation, Germany.

- 17 September 2022 (online), "A Dialogue on the Common Worries of Humans and Nature." Dialogue with Biologist Lu Zhi. Berggruen Institute, Los Angeles, USA.

- 4 October 2022 (online), "Reproduction Migration (part 1)." Guest Lecture moderated by Professor Yayoi Suzuki. Rikkyo University, Tokio, Japan.

- 27 October 2022, "Reflections on Migration Studies." University of Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic.

- 4 November 2022 (online), "Reproduction Migration (part 2)." Guest Lecture moderated by Professor Yayoi Suzuki. Rikkyo University, Tokio, Japan.

- 15 November 2022 (online), "Meritocratic Competition: The View from China." Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA.

- 15 November 2022 (online), "Logistical Power." Contemporary China Research Cluster, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong.

- 8 December 2022 (online), "The Redistribution of Mobility." Architecture College, Shenzhen University, China.

- 27 December 2022 (online), "Self as Method in Social Design." China Central Art Academy, Beijing, China.

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann

- 24 January 2022 (online), "Scented Rose: Observations on a Plant and a Commodity." Colloquium of Frobenius Institute. Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

Tyler Zoanni

- 30 March 2021 (online), "Being in Touch: Disability, Christianity, and Tangibility in Central Uganda." Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland.

- 3 May 2021, "Constitutive Inclusions." Institute Colloquium. Institute of Anthropology, Leipzig University, Germany.

- 10 May 2022, "Africa's Future(s) – What to Expect?" Transversal Thinking: A Panel across MPI Departments. MPI for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 21 June 2022, "Constitutive Inclusions." Institute Colloquium. Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany.

MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Memberships

Beate Anam

- Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO)
- Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG) (Section of Islamic Studies)
- Gesellschaft für Arabisches und Islamisches Recht (GAIR) (Board of Trustees, and Working Group Islamic Finance and Junges Netzwerk Recht & Islam)
- Zentrum für Extremismusprävention
- Gesellschaft für afrikanisches Recht (Member of the Executive Board)
- Gesellschaft für Arabisches und Islamisches Recht (GAIR) (Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee)
- Orbis Aethiopicus (Member of the Board of Trustees)
- Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD)
- Wissenschaftlicher Arbeitskreis 'Horn von Africa' (WAKHVA) (Member of the Board of Trustees)

Christoph Brumann

- Academia Europea
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Gesellschaft für Japanforschung (GJF)
- Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS)
- Vereinigung für sozialwissenschaftliche Japanforschung (VSJF)

Kirsten W. Endres

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Regional Group Southeast Asia)
- Deutscher Hochschulverband (DHV)
- European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Bayar Dashpurev

- Mongolian Bar Association (Environmental Law Section)

Hatem Elliesie

- Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO)
- Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DGM) – Sektion Islamwissenschaft
- Deutscher Hochschulverband (DHV)

Marie-Claire Foblets

- Association 'Droit et Cultures'
- Commission on Legal Pluralism (CLP) (Member of the Board)
- Dutch Association for Migration Research
- International Sociological Association (ISA) (Research Committee on Sociology of Law)
- Laboratoire d'anthropologie juridique de Paris (L.A.J.P.)
- Nederlandse Vereniging voor de Sociaal wetenschappelijke Bestudering van het Recht

- Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts
- Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities
- Scientific Committee of Science Europe – an association of European Research Funding Organisations (RFO) and Research Performing Organisations (RPO)
- Vereniging voor de bestudering van het recht van de Islam en het Midden Oosten (Member of the Board)

Michael Fürstenberg

- Deutsche Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft (DVPW)

Nina Glick-Schiller

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Balázs Gosztonyi

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Thomas Götzelmann

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Working Group Political and Legal Anthropology)

Chris Hann

- Academia Europea
- Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA)
- Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
- British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Learned Society of Wales
- Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)

Dirk Hanschel

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationales Recht (DGIR)
- German Institute for Human Rights (GIHR)
- Gesellschaft für Rechtsvergleichung
- Vereinigung deutscher Staatsrechtslehrer

Arne Harms

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Andrew Haxby

- American Anthropological Association (AAA) (Society for Economic Anthropology)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

David Kananizadeh

- European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Jacqueline Knörr

- Anthropology of Children and Youth Network, University of Amsterdam
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Social Sciences History Association (SSHA)
- Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR)
- Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD)
- West African Research Association (WARA)
- Working Group on Childhood and Migration, Rutgers State University of New Jersey

Anu Krishna

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Desirée Kumpf

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)

Laura Lambert

- Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development (APAD)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Working Group Political and Legal Anthropology)

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Network on Science and Technology Studies in Migration Research (STS-MIGTEC)
- Netzwerk Fluchtforschung (Working Group Africa)
- Netzwerk Kritische Migrations- und Grenzregimeforschung (kritnet)

Danaé Leitenberg

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE)
- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)
- Swiss Anthropological Association (SEG)

Annika Lems

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- Australian Anthropological Society (AAS)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Romm Lewkowicz

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Lukas Ley

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Margarita Lipatova

- LOST Research Network (Law, Organization, Science and Technology)
- Netzwerk Kritische Migrations- und Grenzregimeforschung (kritnet)

Alice Margaria

- Childhood, Law and Policy Network (CLPN) (since 2022)
- ORFECT Network (Observatory on Religious Freedom in the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights) (since 2021)
- The International Network of Constitutional Family Law (INCFL) (since 2021)

Anaïs Ménard

- Mande Studies Association (MANSA)
- Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development (APAD)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE) (Migration Research Hub)

Agathe Ménétrier

- Netzwerk Fluchtforschung

Marek Mikuš

- American Anthropological Association (AAA) (Society for the Anthropology of Europe: 2020–21 Program Chair-Elect, 2021–22 Program Chair and 2020–22 Executive Board Member)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)

Lisa Mitchell

- American Anthropological Association (AAA) (Society for Cultural Anthropology)
- American Historical Association (AHA)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

Christine Moderbacher

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- FC Gloria – Austrian Association of Female Filmmakers
- Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)

Mariana Monteiro de Matos

- Association of Critical Heritage Studies (ACHS)
- Brazilian Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationales Recht (DGIR)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- International Law Association (ILA)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA) (since 2021)
- Network of Iberoamerican Anthropologists (AIBR)

Joanna Mroczkowska

- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)
- Polish Ethnological Society

Sophie Nakueira

- Evolving Securities Initiative (ESI)

Hanna Nieber

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)

Louisa Piart

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Working Groups Political and Legal Anthropology and Economic Anthropology)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Anthropology of Economy Network)
- Swiss Anthropological Association (SEG)

Barbara Pieta

- Association for Anthropology, Gerontology and the Life Course (AAGE)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Age and Generations Network, Visual Anthropology Network)

Floramante S.J. Ponce

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)
- Philippine Sociological Society (PSS)
- St. Gallen's Leader of Tomorrow

Ursula Rao

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- Deutscher Hochschulverband (DHV)
- European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- South Asia Association Australia (SAAA)

Günther Schlee

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland (VAD)

Mario Schmidt

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Luisa Schneider

- African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK)
- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation (AT Gender)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Global Prisons Research Network (GPRN)
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)

Dittmar Schorkowitz

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde (DGO)
- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Strukturbezogene Kommission "Afrika – Asien – Europa")
- Societas Uralo-Altaica (SUA)

Mascha Schulz

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA) (Arbeitskreis Neusprachliches Südasien)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Anthropology of Confinement Network)
- NETZ Bangladesch e.V.

Michal Šípoš

- Czech Association for Social Anthropology (CASA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Federica Sona

- Commission on Legal Pluralism (CLP)
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) (Standing Group Religion and Politics)
- International Network of Scholars Researching Unregistered Marriages (INSRUM)
- Netherlands Inter-University School for Islamic Studies (NISIS)
- Network on Muslim Family and Divorce Law (NMFDL)
- ORFECT Network (Observatory on Religious Freedom in the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights) (Board Member since October 2022)
- Pluri-Legal Forum

Timm Sureau

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Working Group Political and Legal Anthropology)
- LOST Research Network (Law, Organization, Science and Technology)

Kristóf Szombati

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Bertram Turner

- Commission on Legal Pluralism (CLP) (Member of Executive Board)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Working Groups Near and Middle East and North Africa and Political and Legal Anthropology)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Network Anthropology of Law, Rights and Governance – LawNet)
- Law and Society Association (LSA) (CRN 48 Legal Pluralism; CRN 3 Ethnography, Law & Society)
- LOST Research Network (Law, Organization, Science and Technology)
- Sektion Sozialanthropologie / Entwicklungssoziologie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie

Han Vermeulen

- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Founding Member of EASA's History of Anthropology Network – HOAN)

Larissa Vetters

- Commission on Legal Pluralism (CLP)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)

Julia Vorhölter

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA) (Co-Speaker of the Working Group Psychological Anthropology)

Iain Walker

- American Institute of Yemeni Studies (AIYS)
- British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA)

Samuel Joseph Williams

- American Anthropological Association (AAA) (History of Anthropology Interest Group, Society for Economic Anthropology)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) (Anthropology of Economy Network, History of Anthropology Network)

Markus Wurzer

- American Association for Italian Studies (AAIS) (since 2021)
- Association for the Study of Modern Italy (ASMI)
- Associazione Geschichte und Region / Storia e regione
- Forschungsgesellschaft Moderne/Post-moderne (FoMoP)
- Society for Italian Studies (SIS)

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann

- Czech Association for Social Anthropology (CASA)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)
- European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
- Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)

Tyler Zoanni

- American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie (DGSKA)

Memberships in Advisory Boards

Christoph Brumann

- Organisation for Identity and Cultural Development (OICD), Oxford, UK (Advisory Board Member since 2021)
- Zeitschrift für Ethnologie / Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Advisory Board Member)

Hatem Elliesie

- Avicenna-Studienwerk, Germany (Advisory Board Member)
- Kriminalistisch-kriminologische Forschungsstelle, Ministerium des Innern des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany (Advisory Board Member)

Kirsten W. Endres

- SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia, Singapore (International Advisory Committee)

Marie-Claire Foblets

- Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Global Cooperation Research", Duisburg, Germany (Advisory Board Member)
- Laboratorio dei Diritti Fondamentali, Torino, Italy (Advisory Board Member)
- Leuven Institute for Human Rights and Critical Studies, Belgium (Advisory Board Member)
- University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands (Advisory Board Member since 2020)
- Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law (Advisory Board Member)
- Oxford Journal of Law and Religion (Advisory Board Member)

Nina Glick-Schiller

- Anthropology Section, New York Academy of Sciences, New York City, USA (Advisory Board Member)

Chris Hann

- 2020–2022, Conseil Scientifique, Maison des sciences de l'homme Mondes, Paris, Nanterre, France

Sophie Nakueira

- Mina's List, https://www.minaslist.org, USA (Advisory Board Member)

Ursula Rao

- Merian-Tagore International Center for Advanced Studies (ICAS) 'Metamorphoses of the Political', funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research BMBF, New Delhi, India (International Advisory Board Member since 2022)
- Institute for Tropical Medicine, University of Hamburg, Research Group 'Social Anthropology and the Fight against Infections', Germany (Advisory Board Member since 2021)
- Kings College, University of London, ERC Project 'Learning from Small Cities: Governing Imagined Futures in India's Smart Urban Age', UK (Advisory Board Member)
- University of Oslo, Institute of Health and Society, ERC Project 'Universal Health Coverage and the Public Good', Norway (Advisory Board Member)
- University of Oslo, Norwegian Council funded project 'Algorithmic Governance and Cultures of Policing: Comparative Perspectives from Norway, India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa', Norway (Advisory Board Member since 2021)
- Religion and Society: Advances in Research (Advisory Board Member)
- South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies (International Advisory Board Member since 2020)
- Zeitschrift für Ethnologie / Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Advisory Board Member since 2020)

Bertram Turner

- FID Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie & Evifa, Berlin, Germany (Advisory Board Member)

Biao Xiang

- Hong Kong Advanced Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hong Kong (Advisory Committee Member)
- Migration Studies (Advisory Board Member)
- PARISS: Political Anthropological Research on International Social Sciences (Scientific Committee Member)

Committee Work (within the Max Planck Society, EU committees, DFG, etc.)

Christoph Brumann

- since 2021, Scientific Representative of the MPI for Social Anthropology at the Human Sciences Section of the Max Planck Society

Hatem Elliesie

- 2021–2022, (Founding) Member of the International Arbitration Working Group, Max Planck Law
- since 2022, (Founding) Member of Law in Africa Initiative, Max Planck Law
- since 2022, Research Data Management Working Group, Max Planck Law and Max Planck Digital Library

Inge Fiedler

- June 2021 – May 2022, External PhDnet Representative for the MPI for Social Anthropology, MPG PhDnet, Max Planck Society

Marie-Claire Foblets

- since February 2021, Reflection Group Social Sciences, Max Planck Society
- since May 2013, Minerva Centers' Committee, Max Planck Society

Michael Fürstenberg

- since February 2022, Member of Secretary Working Group, Max Planck PostdocNet, Max Planck Society

Jacqueline Knörr

- until 2021, Scientific Representative of the MPI for Social Anthropology at the Human Sciences Section of the Max Planck Society
- Minerva FemmeNet, Max Planck Society
- LeadNet, Max Planck Society

Ursula Rao

- since February 2023, German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat)
- since 2022, Perspective Commission, Max Planck Society
- since 2022, Präsidentenkommission: Feldforschung, Max Planck Society
- since 2019, Senat, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- since 2019, Senatskommission 'Wissenschaftliches Fehlverhalten', German Research Foundation (DFG)
- 2020, ad hoc Gruppe: Folgen der Coronapandemie auf das Fördergeschehen, German Research Foundation (DFG)

Editorships

Michiel Baas

- Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration (Editor)

Katia Bianchini

- The Statelessness and Citizenship Review (Case Note Editor)

Christoph Brumann

- Cambridge Journal of Anthropology (Editorial Board Member)
- Japan Anthropology Workshop, Book Series (Editorial Board Member)

Hatem Elliesie

- Studien zum Horn von Afrika (Series Editor)
- Zeitschrift für Recht & Islam / Journal of Law & Islam (Editor)

Marie-Claire Foblets

- Codex Vreemdelingenrecht (Series Editor)
- Droit et cultures – Revue internationale interdisciplinaire (Editorial Committee Member)
- Migratie- en Migrantenrecht. Recente Ontwikkelingen [Migration Law. Recent Developments] (Series Editor)
- Minderheden in de Samenleving [Minorities in Contemporary Societies] (Series Editor)
- Oñati Series 'Law and Society' (Series Editor)
- Oñati Socio-Legal Series (Series Editor)
- Publiekrechtelijke chronieken [Public Law Reviews] (Editorial Committee Member)
- Revue du droit des étrangers (Editorial Committee Member)
- Schriften zum Migrationsrecht (Series Editor)
- Studia Anthropologica (Series Editor)
- Studien zum Migrationsrecht (Series Editor)
- Debates on Islam and Society, Book Series (Editorial Board Member)
- Tijdschrift voor vreemdelingenrecht (Editorial Committee Member)

Nina Glick-Schiller

- Anthropological Theory (Editor)

Arne Harms

- Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale (Book Reviews Editor since August 2022)

Jacqueline Knörr

- Integration and Conflict Studies, Book Series (Editorial Board Member)

Annika Lems

- EASA Book Series (Editor since October 2021)

Lukas Ley

- Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale (Editor January – December 2022)

Jovan Maud

- Journal of Global Buddhism (Editor)

Joanna Mroczkowska

- Etnografia Polska (Editor)

Ursula Rao

- Comparativ – Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung (Editorial Board)
- South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies (Book Reviews Editor)
- Integration and Conflict Studies, Book Series (Editorial Board Member since 2020)

Günther Schlee

- Integration and Conflict Studies (Series Editor)
- Integration and Conflict Field Notes and Research Projects (Series Editor)

Dittmar Schorkowitz

- "Oriental Studies" (in Russian) (Editorial Board Member)
- Eurasian Studies Library (Series Editor)
- Gesellschaften und Staaten im Epochenwandel (Series Editor)
- Journal of Frontier Studies (in Russian) (Editorial Board Member)
- Journal of Transcultural Medieval Studies (Editorial Board Member)

Federica Sona

- Casebook: Judgments Addressing Diversity in the European Context (Editorial Board Member)
- Daimon. Diritto comparato delle religioni (Editorial Board Member)
- Review of Social Studies (RoSS) (Associate Editor)

Bertram Turner

- Journal of Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis (Associate Editor)

Biao Xiang

- Anthropological Theory (Editorial Board Member)
- Anti-Trafficking Review (Editorial Board Member)
- ARI-Springer Asia Series (Associate Editor)
- China Quarterly (Executive Board Member)
- 海外华人研究 [Chinese Overseas Review] (Editorial Board Member)
- Chinese Sociological Review (Editorial Board Member)
- International Migration Review (Editorial Board Member)
- Migration Studies (Global Editorial Board)
- New Mobilities in Asia, Book Series (Editorial Board Member)
- Pacific Affairs (Editorial Board Member)
- 《开放时代》 [Open Times] (Editorial Board Member)
- Routledge Research on the Politics and Sociology of China (Editorial Board Member)
- Routledge Series of Asian Migration, Book Series (Editorial Board Member)
- 《社会学评论》 [Sociology Review] (Editorial Board Member)
- The Journal of Chinese Sociology (Editorial Board Member)

PUBLIC TALKS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS

Lisa Björkman

- 2020–2022, "Podcast Series Anthropology of Political Assembly". Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany, online available at: https://www.eth.mpg.de/5829931/podcast.

Christoph Brumann

- 25 April 2020, "Kansainvälinen eripura heijastuu maailmanperintöönkin: Aika, sota, turismi ja politikointi hapertavat ihmiskunnan yhteistä muistia". Radio interview (in English), YLE Radio, Helsinki, Finland.
- 23 June 2020, "Die UNESCO: Macht und Ohnmacht". Prominent citation in teaser of TV documentary, ZDF History, Mainz, Germany.
- 22 July 2020, "Warum Garmisch-Partenkirchen (nicht) UNESCO-Welterbe werden will". Interview passages in TV feature, BR Capriccio, Munich, Germany.
- March/April 2021, "Die Probleme am Boden: Was Weltkultur- und Weltnaturerbe ist, entscheidet die UNESCO". Interview passages in magazine article, ZEIT Wissen, Hamburg, Germany.
- 30 March 2021, "Soll die Thüringer Residenzkultur Welterbe werden?" Interview passages in radio feature, MDR Kultur, Erfurt, Germany.
- 12 April 2021, "Nationen und das Weltkulturerbe". Live radio interview, WDR 5, Cologne, Germany.
- 8/9 May 2021, "Welterbe mit Schlagseite". Full-page article on Brumann's research with interview passages, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 25 May 2021, "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena". 75-minute interview podcast, New Books Network, online available at: https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-best-we-share.
- 11 July 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe: Die reichen, erfahrenen Länder sind im Vorteil". Radio interview, Deutschlandfunk, Cologne, Germany.
- 11 July 2021, "Unesco-Welterbe: Es gibt Parallelen zu Heiligsprechungen". Interview, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, Germany.
- 22 July 2021, "Europa zuerst". Interview, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, Germany.
- 23 July 2021, "Why Liverpool lost its UNESCO World Heritage listing". Radio feature with interview passages, Deutsche Welle, Cologne, Germany.
- 23 July 2021, "UNESCO-Titel weg: Schlag für Liverpool?". Radio feature with interview passages, Deutsche Welle, Cologne, Germany.
- 26 July 2021, "Der Drang nach Welterbe ist weltweit ungebrochen". Print interview, DIE ZEIT, Hamburg, Germany.
- 28 July 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe". Live radio interview, Der Morgen, Radio Bremen Zwei, Bremen, Germany.
- 29 July 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe". Live radio interview, MDR Aktuell, Leipzig, Germany.
- 29 July 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe". Live radio interview, Kultur Heute, Deutschlandfunk, Cologne, Germany.

- 29 July 2021, "Experte hält Europa in Welterbeliste für stark überrepräsentiert". Article with interview passages, DIE ZEIT, Hamburg, Germany.

- 30 July 2021, "Mathildenhöhe ist Weltkulturerbe. Und jetzt". Interview passages in radio feature, HR Inforadio podcast, Frankfurt, Germany.

- 30 July 2021 – 2 August 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe". At least two dozen articles in German local newspapers featuring Brumann's research results, all adapted from an article with interview passages by German news service 'Deutsche Presse-Agentur' (dpa), Aachener Nachrichten, Allgemeine Zeitung (Coesfeld), Badisches Tagblatt Baden-Baden, Berliner Morgenpost, Borkener Zeitung, Bremervörder Zeitung, Delmenhorster Kreisblatt, Dürener Tagblatt, Fränkischer Tag Bamberg, Frankfurter Neue Presse Stadtausgabe, Die Glocke Oelder Zeitung, Haller Kreisblatt, Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Main-Echo Aschaffenburg und Umgebung, Offenburger Tageblatt Offenburg (among others), Germany.

- August 2021, "The Idea of World Heritage and the Power of Nation States" / "Die Idee des Welterbes und die Macht der Nationalstaaten". Video series "Spot On – Three Minutes of Anthropology". Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://www.eth.mpg.de/en/spot-on/christoph-brumann-unesco-world-heritage.

- 2 August 2021, "Weltkulturerbe: Pause für Deutschland und Europa?" Radio interview, WDR 3, Cologne, Germany.

- 2 August 2021, "UNESCO-Welterbe: Afrika findet kaum statt". Interview passages in radio feature, Deutsche Welle, Cologne, Germany.

- 4 August 2021, "Why are there so few UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa?" Interview passages in radio feature, Deutsche Welle, Cologne, Germany.

- 18 December 2021, "Welterbe in Gefahr". Interview passages in TV documentary, 3sat, Berlin, Germany.

- 21 February 2022, "Japan Wants to Showcase Gold Mines' History: Just Not All of It". Mention in article, New York Times, USA.

- March 2022, jointly with Jovan Maud, Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko, Beata Świtek, "Monks, Money and Morality: The Balancing Act of Contemporary Buddhism". Video series "Book Chat", Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykkfu-A_TtY&list=PL8_ScPV7YqB-IiZIj4hvlfzxOGn89esk-&index=5&pp=iAQB.

- March 2022, "The Best We Share: Nation, Culture and World-Making in the UNESCO World Heritage Arena" (English, German, Japanese) Video series "Read On – Books in Anthropology", Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8_ScPV7YqB8aIeNy8M877ataLxwN1X4Z.

- 6 September 2022, "Weltkulturbrezel: Ein Gebäck für die Ewigkeit?" Live radio interview, Der Tag, HR Info, Frankfurt, Germany.

- 12 October – 18 November 2022, "Ist der Schein heilig? Womit buddhistische Mönche ihr Geld verdienen (Buddhismus und Ökonomie)", One of six thematic segments in exhibition "Wechsel deine Perspektive – Ethnologie öffnet Türen", featuring anthropology at the MPI for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt, Magdeburg, Germany.

- 17 November 2022, "Eurozentristischer Blick? Ethnologe Christoph Brumann über die ungleiche Verteilung der UNESCO-Weltkulturerbestätten". Radio interview, SWR2, Stuttgart, Germany.

Wanjing Chen

- 10 August 2022, jointly with Xiao Ma, Selina Ho, Jennifer Turner, "China Fast-Tracking High-Speed Trains at Home and on the Belt and Road". Public talk, The Wilson Centre, USA.

- October 2022, "Belt and Road Lost Control, Investment Traps are Everywhere". Media interview, Hong Kong Economic Journal Monthly, online available at: https://entitle.hkej.com/premium/index_monthly?pi=547 (The interview was the base of the magazine's cover story in October 2022).

Harika Dauth

- January 2021, "Die Arbeit mit dem Fleisch. Die Prekarisierung von Rom*nja in Nordsachsen". Local press article, Leipziger Zustände, Leipzig, Germany.

Hatem Elliesie

- 2 December 2020, jointly with Sahar El-Zein, Akin Şat, Mitra Moussa Nabo und Thomas Jungbluth, "Herausforderungen bei der Prävention von 'Clankriminalität'". Expert panel discussion, Fachtagung zur Prävention von 'Clankriminalität', Kriminalistisch-Kriminologische Forschungsstelle des LKA Nordrhein-Westfalen, Essen, Germany.

- 2021, "Dogma vs. Pragma: Zum Islam in Deutschland". Podcast-Series Auf den Grund! Wissenschaft im Gespräch mit Udo di Fabio [Bundesverfassungsrichter a.D.], Podcast-Episode 12, Forschungskolleg normative Gesellschaftsgrundlagen, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany, online available at: https://podcast40ea18.podigee.io/12-hatem-elliesie.

- 6 July 2021, "'Parallelgesellschaften', Islam und die Herausforderungen für die Gesellschaft". Interview, Leipziger Universitätsmagazin, Leipzig, Germany.

- 9 November 2021, jointly with Lena Foljanty, Ralf Seinecke, Christian Boulanger et al., "Challenged by Plurality – Challenges of Pluralism. Law and the Integration of Heterogeneity". Expert panel discussion, German-Israeli Frontiers of Humanities (GISFOH) Symposium, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Hürth (Köln), Germany.

- since 2022, "Instagram Research Account on the Methods and Theories of the Research Project 'Milieus Studies', funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, on Martial Artists, Bouncer, Shisha Bars and Gangsta Rapper". Germany, online available at: https://www.instagram.com/szenefeldforschung_fau/.

- 2022, "Im Schatten des Rechtsstaats / On the fringes of the rule of law". Interview, Max Planck Forschung 2022/2: Geregeltes Durcheinander, pp. 62–67 / Max Planck Research 2022/2: Ordered Chaos, pp. 60–65, Germany.

- 28 January 2022, "Shariah Law in Africa has many Faces". Interview, Deutsche Welle, Bonn/Berlin, Germany.

- 31 March 2022, jointly with Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law 'Paralleljustiz in Nordrhein-Westfalen aus strafrechtlicher Sicht', "National Press Conference with Minister of Justice of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia on the Completion and Publication of the Collaborative Study Report". Düsseldorf, Germany.

- 2022, "Auf einen Kaffee mit Rechts- und Islamwissenschaftler Hatem Elliesie". Wissenschaftspodcast der Universität Leipzig, Podcast-Folge 22, Leipzig University, Office for University Communication, Germany, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCfq1edNp0A.

- 28 November 2022, "Podium Zeitgeschichte 2022: Islam und internationale Politik. Neue Perspektiven auf die Zeitgeschichte des Nahen und Mittleren Ostens zwischen Kaltem Krieg und Dekolonialisierung". Expert panel discussion, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History – Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, Germany.

Inge Fiedler

- 9 November 2022, "Mythos Promotion. Aber wie sieht die Kosten-Nutzen-Rechnung für die Doktorarbeit aus?" Participation in public panel discussion as former MPG PhDnet external representative, Die Junge Akademie an der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften and Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Marie-Claire Foblets

- 15 September 2021, jointly with Karamba Diaby, "Diskussion 'Gerechtigkeit'". Blow off – Ungleichheit, Silbersalz Science and Media Festival, in cooperation with Leopoldina, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 31 May 2022, "Voorstelling Standpunt". De multiculturele samenleving en de democratische rechtsstat. Activiteit in het kader van het Standpunt, Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschapen en Kunsten, Brussels, Belgium.

- 8 September 2022, jointly with Jonathan Everts, Thomas Herzfeld, Oliver Holtemöller, Winfried Kluth, Asta Vonderau, "Podiumsdiskussion 'Zukunftszentrum'". Application of the city of Halle for the 'Zukunftszentrum für Deutsche Einheit und Europäische Transformation', City of Halle in cooperation with Leopoldina, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Michael Fürstenberg

- 18 February 2020, "Ortsbesuch nach Razzia bei mutmaßlichem Rechtsterroristen". TV interview, MDR Sachsen-Anhalt Heute, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 18 February 2020, "Terror nach Anleitung". Background interview newspaper article, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 25 January 2021, "'Die Angelegenheit von 63': Charakter und Perzeption der 'Catilinischen Verschwörung' aus Sicht politikwissenschaftlicher Konfliktforschung". Lecture Series FG Latein, Wilhelm Gymnasium, Braunschweig, Germany.

- 2 May 2021, "Igor Matviyets spricht mit Michael Fürstenberg über Terrorismus". Interview, YouTube Interview series by Igor Matviyets, MdL-candidate for Social Democratic Party, Halle/Saale, Germany, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEbOMmJ4Elo.

- 24 August 2022, "Wie lernen Terroristen voneinander?" Interview, Ach, Mensch! Podcast Series, Detektor.fm, Leipzig, Germany, online available at: https://detektor.fm/wissen/ach-mensch-michael-fuerstenberg-ueber-rechtsterrorismus

Nina Glick-Schiller

- 4 April 2021, jointly with Data Dea Barata and Markus Hoehne, "Colonial Continuities and the Augsberg Zoo? The 'African Village' in the Augsberg Zoo and its Implications". International Weeks against Racism Postcolonial Realities: Rassismus. Macht. Privilegien. Video blog, Postcolonial Realities blog https://postcolonialrealities.home.blog, Germany.

Carolin Görzig

- 19 January 2020, "Wie wird man zum Terroristen?" Interview, MDR Aktuell, Germany.

- February 2020, "Structures of Modern Right-Wing Terrorism". Interview, MDR Wissen, Germany.

- June 2020, "Gefangen im Kopf". Interview, Fluter (youth magazine of the Federal Agency for Civic Education), Germany.

- July 2020, "Mechanisms of Political Violence". Interview, P.M. Magazin, Germany.

- 29 July 2020, "Die Generation Z und die fünfte Welle des Terrorismus". Newspaper article, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany.

- 5 August 2020, "Interview: Woran arbeiten Sie gerade, Carolin Görzig?" Interview, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Germany.

- 26 November 2020, "Structures of Terror". Radio Interview, Neugier genügt, WdR 5, Germany.

- 19 February 2021, "TV Interview on the Occasion of the Remembrance of the Terror Attack in Hanau". Deutsche Welle International, Germany.

- 27 January 2022, "Rätsel Terrorismus – ein Blick in die Black Box". Lecture, Wissenschaft und alternative Fakten, University of Kiel, Germany, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyZAYc7vD98.

- 25 May 2022, "Wissenschaft im Gespräch: Wahrheit – Was kann man noch glauben?" Panel discussion, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany.

- 1 July 2022, "Terror incognita: Kann man Terrorismus verstehen?" Lecture, Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 15 September 2022, "Contribution to the Podcast of the Sueddeutsche Zeitung 'History Daily'". Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany.

Thomas Götzelmann

- 22 October 2020, jointly with Timm Sureau, "Präsentation und Reflexion der ersten Forschungsphase". Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Abteilung 2, IT-Forschung, Nürnberg, Germany.

- 14 December 2020, jointly with Timm Sureau, "Präsentation und Reflexion der zweiten Forschungsphase". Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Abteilung 2, IT-Forschung, Nürnberg, Germany.

- 11 February 2021, jointly with Larissa Vetters, "Ethnologische Forschung zur digitalen Transformation". CIC Thementag "IT Forschung", Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Berlin, Germany.

- 10 March 2021, "Präsentation und Reflexion der dritten Forschungsphase". Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Abteilung 2, IT-Forschung, Nürnberg, Germany.

- 24 March 2021, jointly with Martin Kohls (BAMF), "Digitalisierung der Digitalisierer: Erfahrungsbericht aus der IT-Abteilung des Bundesamts für Migration und Flüchtlinge". What's NExT, NExT e.V., Berlin, Germany.

- 14 June 2021, "Präsentation und Reflexion der vierten Forschungsphase". Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Abteilung 2, IT-Forschung, Nürnberg, Germany.

- 11 January 2022, "Präsentation und Reflexion der fünften und sechsten Forschungsphase". Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Abteilung 2, IT-Forschung, Nürnberg, Germany.

- 23 June 2022, "Digitalisierung der Digitalisierenden. Ethnographische Einblicke in pandemiebedingte Formen digitaler Sozialität". CIC Thementag „Mobiles Arbeiten: Erfahrungen und Innovationen", Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, Berlin, Germany.

Chris Hann

- September 2021, jointly with Ildikó Bellér-Hann, "The Uyghur Situation in China". Interview, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- February 2022, "The Plight of the Uyghurs". Lecture, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK.

Arne Harms

- 2022, jointly with Julia Vorhölter, Michael Mingenbach, Tom Renner, "Ein Kohlekraftwerk am Nationalpark? Entwicklungspolitik und Umweltschutz in Bangladesh". Contribution of a case study for secondary school education in geography, Geographie Heute (Fachdidaktische Zeitschrift), Germany.

- 1 July 2022, "In Stürmischen Gewässern – Klimawandel an südasiatischen Küsten". Public lecture, Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Deborah Jones

- 1 July 2022, "100 Tage ukrainische Geflüchtete in Halle". Public lecture, Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften 2022, Halle/Saale, Germany.

Jacqueline Knörr

- 27 October 2022, "Afrikanische Migrantinnen in Europa / Female African Migrants in Europe". Interview in connection with the Conference: Gender, Migration and Social Mobility among Transnational West African Women, Deutschlandfunk (DLF), Germany, online available at: https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/verzerrte-wahrnehmung-die-rolle-der-frauen-in-der-migration-aus-westafrika-dlf-ebf1fdd8-100.html.

Florian Köhler

- 28 June 2021, "500 Dollar und eine Kalaschnikow: Wie Terroristen vom Klimawandel profitieren". Media interview by Paul Starzmann and Cordula Eubel for newspaper article, Tagesspiegel, Berlin, Germany, online available at: https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/500-dollar-und-eine-kalaschnikow-wie-terroristen-vom-klimawandel-profitieren-171603.html.

- 2022, "Zwischen Stadt und Savanne / Between the City and The Savannah". Interview by Mechthild Zimmermann for feature article on my research on the Wodaabe in Niger, in Max Planck Research issue 3/2022, Max Planck Society, Germany, online available at: https://www.mpg.de/19592896/F001_Focus_022-029.pdf.

- 15 September 2022, "Gehen oder Bleiben? Aufbruch ins Ungewisse". Interview by Lina Kordes for podcast (Forschungsquartett), detektor.fm, Germany, online available at: https://detektor.fm/wissen/forschungsquartett-themenschwerpunkt-gehen-oder-bleiben-migration.

- 29 November 2022, "Space, Place and Identity: Wodaabe of Niger in the 21st Century – An Interview with Florian Köhler". Podcast interview by Maggie Freeman, New Books Network – New Books in African Studies, USA, online available at: https://newbooksnetwork.com/space-place-and-identity.

Laura Lambert

- 6 February 2020, "Externalization in Niger". Symposium "Relaunch Migration-control.info", Migration-control.info, Berlin, Germany.

- 16 December 2020, "Externalization in Niger". Symposium "Border Talks", NEMO e.V., Berlin, Germany.

- 22 June 2021, "Externalizing Migration Control and Refugee Protection to Niger". Online presentation, Seminar European Border Regimes, Göttingen University, Germany.

- 16 September 2021, "Invisible Refugees in Niger. Root Causes and Asylum in the 'Most Underdeveloped' Country of the World". Talk Series "Displacement and Countries of Origin", Diakonie Hochfranken, Germany.

- 12 September 2022, "The Emergency Transit Mechanism – Between Migration Control and Refugee Protection". Presentation, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Africa Exchange Group, Berlin, Germany.

Luc Leboeuf

- 18 January 2021, jointly with Dirk Vanheule, "Bijbel van migratiebeleid' moet eindeloze procedures voorkomen". Press interview (national newspaper), Communication on the work of the Independent Expert Commission in charge of establishing a Belgian Migration Code, De Standaard, Brussels, Belgium.

- 18 January 2022, jointly with Dirk Vanheule, "Aujourd'hui, la legislation sur le droit des étrangers n'est plus compréhensible". Press interview (national newspaper), Communication on the work of the Independent Expert Commission in charge of establishing a Belgian Migration Code, La Libre, Brussels, Belgium.

Annika Lems

- 22 September 2020, "Und dann ging nichts mehr. Wie die Pandemie die Wissenschaft verändert". Interview, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle/Saale, Germany.

- 2 June 2022, "Europa verschieben, Europa bewegen". Public roundtable as part of the Unikum event "Europa verschieben, Europa bewegen", University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

- 12 October – 18 November 2022, One of six thematic segments in exhibition "Wechsel deine Perspektive – Ethnologie öffnet Türen", featuring anthropology at the MPI for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, State Parliament of Saxony-Anhalt, Magdeburg, Germany.

Romm Lewkowicz

- 28 October 2022 – 15 January 2023, "Moving Things. Zur Materialität von Flucht und Migration". Exhibition and Book, Sonderausstellung des Instituts für Ethnologie der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Museum Friedland und Berliner Ausstellungsbüro Die Exponauten, Forum Wissen, Göttingen, Germany.

Lukas Ley

- 30 June 2022, "'Building on Borrowed Time' in Semarang, Indonesia". Symposium, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, The Hague, The Netherlands.

Alice Margaria

- 21 September 2022, "Family Leave, Parenting, Law and Practice". IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness) Seminar Series, Max Planck PostdocNet, Germany.

Jovan Maud

- March 2022, jointly with Christoph Brumann, Saskia Abrahms-Kavunenko, Beata Świtek, "Monks, Money and Morality: The Balancing Act of Contemporary Buddhism". Video series "Book Chat", Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykkfu-A_TtY&list=PL8_ScPV7YqB-IiZIj4hvIfzxOGn89esk-&index=5&pp=iAQB.

- October 2022, jointly with Robert Desjarlais, Khalil Habrih, and Ursula Rao "Traces of Violence – Writings on the Disaster in Paris, France – Part I". Video series "Book Chat", Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://youtu.be/oxRv_MFrfhw.

Anaïs Ménard

- 1 July 2022, jointly with Association for the Anthropology of Social Change and Development, "Book Launch of Marie Derrider, *Elites, Elections et Transformation du Politique au Mali* (Karthala)". Discussion with 2 other participants, Université Toulouse, Toulouse, France.

Agathe Ménétrier

- 24 November 2020, De l'exil à l'asile, les difficultés des parcours des personnes LGBTI, Visio-conférence, Forum réfugiés, Lyon, France, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSk_LtY172U&t=17s.

Marek Mikuš

- 18 February 2022, jointly with Kristína Andělová (Czech Academy of Sciences), moderators Dušan Barok and Ivana Rumanová (tranzit.sk), "Tunelom k slobode a prosperite: vedľajšie účinky prechodu k demokracii [Tunnel to Freedom and Prosperity: Side Effects of the Transition to Democracy]". Public debate, part of the exhibition project Nikdy sme neboli bližšie [We Have Never Been Closer], tranzit.sk, Bratislava, Slovakia, online available at: https://sk.tranzit.org/en/lecture/0/2022-02-18/tunnel-to-freedom-and-prosperity-side-effects-of-the-transition-to-democracy.

- 16 June 2022, "Bitky o dlh: prípad Chorvárska [Struggles over Debt: The Case of Croatia]". Public lecture for general audience, part of the "Antropologické potulky svetom ľudských kultúr" [Anthropological Wanderings through the World of Human Cultures] lecture series, UNESCO Center in the University Library in Bratislava, Slovak Association of Social Anthropology, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Christine Moderbacher

- July 2020, "Ab Hof: Ein Blick nach Südtirol". Newspaper article, Wege für eine Bäuerliche Zukunft, Journal of the Österreichische Berg- und Kleinbäuer_innenvereinigung, Austria.

- 21–24 July 2020, jointly with Iris Blauensteiner, "Moving Ants on a Painted Tree". Online exhibition as part of the EASA 2020 Conference, Field/Works. Kaleidoscopic Activities between Anthropology and Art, Worldwide.

- 23 July 2020, "Red Earth White Snow". Film screening and discussion, EASA 2020, Lisboa, Portugal.

- March 2021, jointly with Michael Karrer; Netzwerkstelle Ethnologie und Praxis, Martin Luther University Halle, "Dis-harmonies: Blicke auf das politisch Andere". Film screening and discussion, Bildungswochen gegen Rassismus, Germany.

- 9 December 2021, jointly with Iris Blauensteiner, "Die Welt ist an ihren Rändern blau". Film screening and discussion, This Human World – International Human Rights Filmfestival, University of Vienna/ Ethnocineca, Austria.

- April 2022, jointly with Michael Karrer and Olaf Nachtwey, "Dis-harmonies: Blicke auf das politisch Andere". Film screening and discussion, Bildungswochen gegen Rassismus, Germany.

- 13 May 2022, jointly with Iris Blauensteiner, "Die Welt ist an ihren Rändern blau". Film screening and discussion, Ethnocineca – International Documentary Film Festival Vienna, University of Vienna/ Ethnocineca, Austria.

- 2 June – 2 July 2022, jointly with Iris Blauensteiner, "Die Welt ist an ihren Rändern blau". Group exposition, "Drinnen-draussen" at KUNST:WERK, St. Pölten, Austria.

- July 2022, "Faito Doc Curation/ Programmation". Selection of films as part of the international jury, Faito Doc – International Documentary Festival, Italy.

- 1 December 2022, jointly with Iris Blauensteiner, "Die Welt ist an ihren Rändern blau". Film screening and discussion, Dutch Ethnographic Days of Film, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Mariana Monteiro de Matos

- 22 April 2021, "Studying, Researching and Working in Germany". Interview about my research career in Germany, Amazonisches Institut für deutsche Sprache und Entwicklung, Belem, Brazil, online available at: https://iageonline.wordpress.com/2021/04/22/um-bate-papo-sobre-estudar-pesquisar-e-trabalhar-na-alemanha/.

- 25 April 2021, "Indigenous Land Rights". Interview about my research on indigenous land rights by Dr. Cléssio Moura de Souza on the programme 'Espaço Aberto', Dreyeckland Radio, Germany, online available at: https://rdl.de/sendung/espaco-aberto-brasilianisch.

Hanna Nieber

- 19 February 2022, "L'universalité". Public talk, Haikintana Talk, Haikintana Astronomy, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

- 17 March 2022, "Finding a Writing Rhythm: Surviving the PhD Marathon". Public talk, Anglophone Studies, Invited lecture, University of Antananarivo, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

- 21 March 2022, "Le rire – une caractéristique humaine". Public talk, Gathering of theologians, FJKM Tranovato, Ambatonakanga, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Louisa Piart

- 29 September – 1 October 2021, "Global Forum on the MLC, 2006. Current and Future Developments". ILO online training, International Training Center of the International Labour Organization, Turin, Italy.

Barbara Pieta

- July 2021, jointly with Patrick Heady, "Strong Families and Infection: European Kinship and the Corona Virus". Anthropological Contributions to the Covid-19 Crisis – Webinar Series, RAI, London, UK, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9KXYlqoroQ.

Ursula Rao

- 19 June 2020, "Nie wieder Händeschütteln? Ursula Rao speaks on ZDF heute plus about the Future of a Greeting". TV interview, ZDF heute, Germany.
- 22 July 2020, "Die Beobachterin". Interview, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Halle/Saale, Germany.
- 9 October 2020, "Hände weg! Der lange Abschied vom Händeschütteln". Podcast with Ursula Rao and other experts, hr info, Germany.
- 21 May 2021, "Mehr Respekt von der Gesellschaft. Wie hat die Pandemie Forschung beeinflusst? Eine Politologin, ein Biochemiker und eine Ethnologin geben Einblicke in ihre Arbeit im vergangenen Jahr". Interview by Adefunmi Olanigan, Luhze – Leipzigs unabhängige Hochschulzeitung, Leipzig, Germany, online available at: https://www.luhze.de/2021/05/20/mehr-respekt-von-der-gesellschaft/.
- 25 June 2021, jointly with Tereza Østbø Kuldova, "A Conversation with Ursula Rao on Digital Identities, Biometric Technology and Bodies of Evidence". Black Box by Algorithmic Governance Research Network, Algorithmic Governance and Cultures of Policing: Comparative Perspectives from Norway, India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa (AGOPOL), Oslo, Norway, online available at: https://algorithmicgovernance.podbean.com/e/episode-4-a-conversation-with-ursula-rao-on-digital-identities-biometric-technology-and-bodies-as-evidence/.
- 15 July 2021, jointly with Srividya Balasubramanian and Ankur-Members (Research Project), "Chronicles of the Family in the Regime of Corona – Stories from Working-Class Settlements in New Delhi". Podcast-Feature & Globe Dialogue, globe21festival – Leipziger Wissenenschaftsfestival 2021, Leipzig, Germany.
- 16 March 2022, "Doing Algorithmic Governance". Recorded video talk and discussion, Curiosity meets discovery lecture series. Host David Fitzpatrick, Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, Palm Beach, Florida, USA.
- 11 October 2022, jointly with Olaf Zenker, "Wechsel deine Perspektive – Ethnologie öffnet Türen". Ausstellungseröffnung, Landtag Sachsen-Anhalt, Magdeburg, Germany.

Jeremy Rayner

- 31 August 2022, "Diálogos Ecologístas: Ciudades y Propuestas de Movilidad". Public, online roundtable discussion, Instituto de Estudios Ecologistas del Tercer Mundo, Quito, Ecuador.

Sajjad Safaei

- 4 August 2021, "Comienza la era Raisi: el oportunista en jefe a un escalón del poder absoluto en Irán". Interview, El Confidencial, Spain, online available at: https://www.elconfidencial.com/mundo/2021-08-04/nuevo-presidente-de-iran-inaugurado_3151655/.
- 23 November 2022, "Ukraine War: Iranian Drone Factory Could Open in Russia, But Mutual Suspicions Remain". Interview, Middle East Eye, UK, online available at: https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/ukraine-war-russia-iran-drone-factory-suspicions-remain.

Abdelghafar Salim

- 2020. "The Religious Life of Muslims in Germany" (German/Arabic). Video series "Spot On – Three Minutes of Anthropology", Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, online available at: https://www.eth.mpg.de/en/spot-on/abdelghafar-salim-muslims-in-germany.

Günther Schlee

- 2020, Blog entries about corona in Northeast Africa, online available at: https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/2020/coronavirus-and-mobility-observations-from-northeast-africa/ https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/zentrum/detailansicht/artikel/blog-corona-diaries-from-northeast-africa-part-1-a-question-of-morality-and-religion-2020-09-1/ https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/zentrum/detailansicht/artikel/blog-27-corona-diaries-from-northeast-africa-part-2-the-plight-of-migrants-in-times-of-corona-2/ https://www.recentglobe.uni-leipzig.de/zentrum/detailansicht/artikel/blog-corona-diaries-from-northeast-africa-part-3-intersections-of-corona-with-politics-and-viol/.

- 9 November 2020, jointly with Ferda Ataman, Karamba Diaby, Karen Schönwälder, "Flucht und Migration – Wie gestalten wir das Zusammenleben?" 78. Zeit Forum Wissenschaft in the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, Germany, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOgj4ZZfMVI.

- 16 March 2021, "Begrifflichkeiten mit Tabus belegt". Interview, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany.

- 27 May 2021, jointly with Anja Weiß, Peter M. Steiner, "Identität und Differenz – Probleme der Globalisierung mit lokal gebundenem Leben". Festival der Philosophie, Hannover, Germany, online available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmcdqzmFhzs.

Luisa Schneider

- 15 January 2020, "Bei den Menschen ganz unten". Interview, Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, Germany.

- 7 February 2020, "Books and Bills: Tackling Sexual Violence in Sierra Leone". Interview, Al Jazeera, online available at: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/books-bills-tackling-sexual-violence-sierra-leone-200204151845385.html.

- 2 April 2020, "Obdachlose in Zeiten von Corona". Radio Interview, MDR Sachsen – das Sachsenradio, Germany.

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SECTION 5

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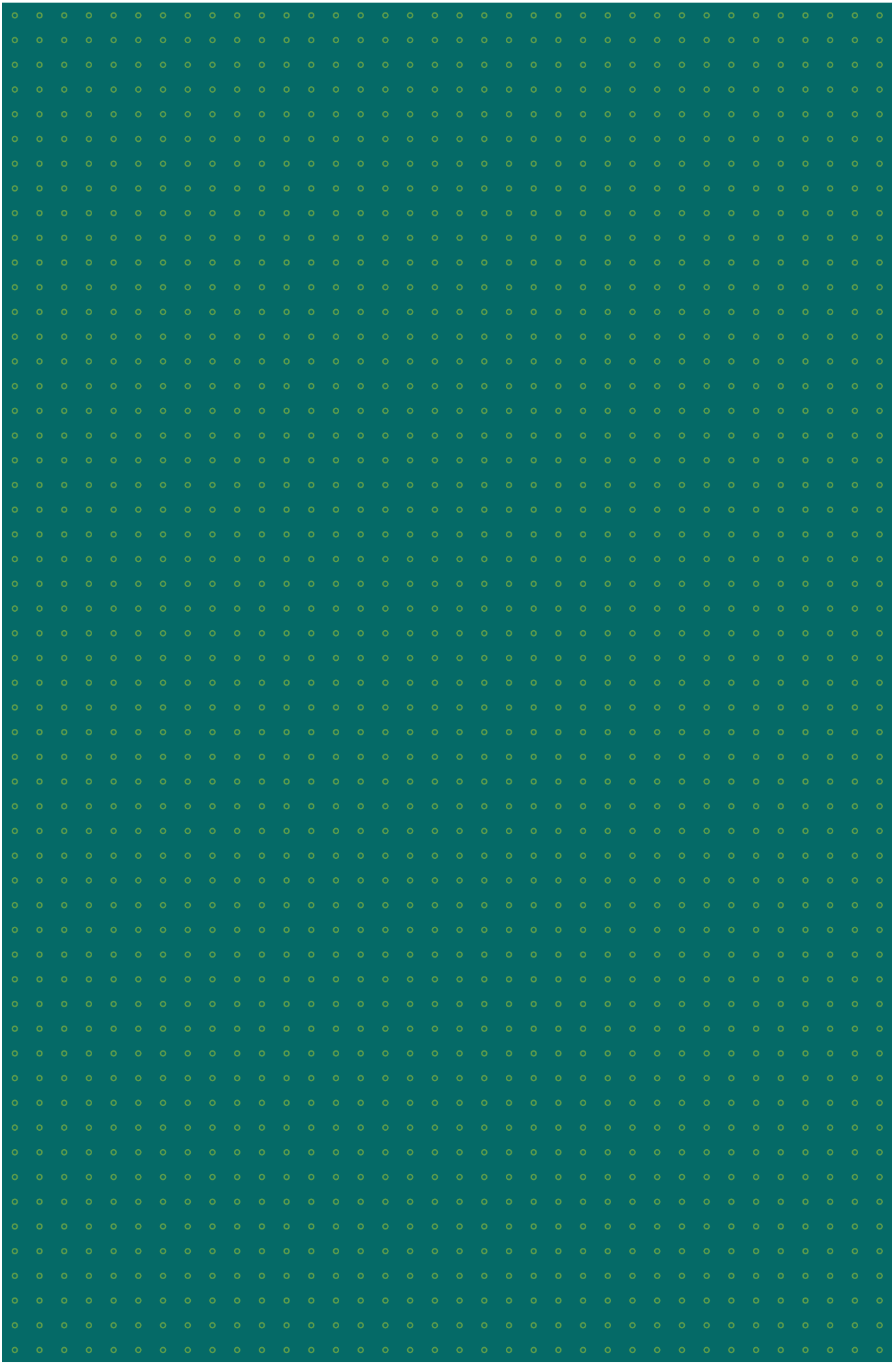

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RESEARCH COORDINATION AND LIBRARY

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Kristin Magnucki (Documentation, Publication and Third Party Funding)
Ralph Orlowski (Assistant Research Coordinator)
Jutta Turner (Language Support and Cartography)
Anja Neuner (Head Librarian)
Simon Glasmacher (Library and Information Manager)
Anett Kirchhof (Assistant Librarian)

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Carlo Diesterbeck-Roll (Multimedia Editor)
Stefan Schwendtner (Press and Public Relations)

IT GROUP

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Alexander Herr (IT Systems Architect)
Christian Kieser (Software Developer)
Stephan Nietzold (Systems Administrator)
Mahmoud Solaiman (Employee)
Oliver Weihmann (Systems Administrator)

ADMINISTRATION

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Dirk Bake (In-House Technician)
Kati Broecker (Procurement Officer)
Ronald Kirchhof (Head Janitor)
Carolin Klevenow (Personnel / Human Resources Officer)
Heike Penneke (Budgeting and Accounting Officer)
Manuela Pusch (Receptionist)
Ingrid Schüler (General Administration)
Ines Stade (Head of Finance Unit)
Nadine Wagenbrett (Personnel / Human Resources Officer)

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Viktoria Giehler-Zeng
Doreen Hofmann
Beatrix Krause
Kateřina Marenčáková
Anke Meyer
Sophie Schreyer
Viola Stanisch

TRAINING, COOPERATION, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT OF RESEARCHERS

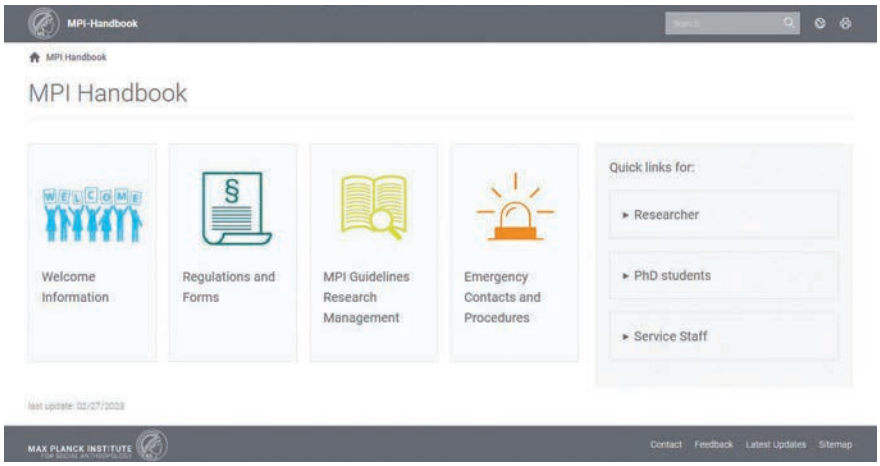
Research Coordinator:
Bettina Mann

As well as ensuring the smooth and effective everyday functioning of the Institute, the service units of the MPI play an important role in providing support for researchers at all stages of their careers. This support includes onboarding services, skills training, and a wide range of professional development workshops and seminars. A special focus is given to the training of academic writing and publishing – including open access – research ethics, and research data management, as well as career development.

ONBOARDING AND TRANSFER OF INFORMATION

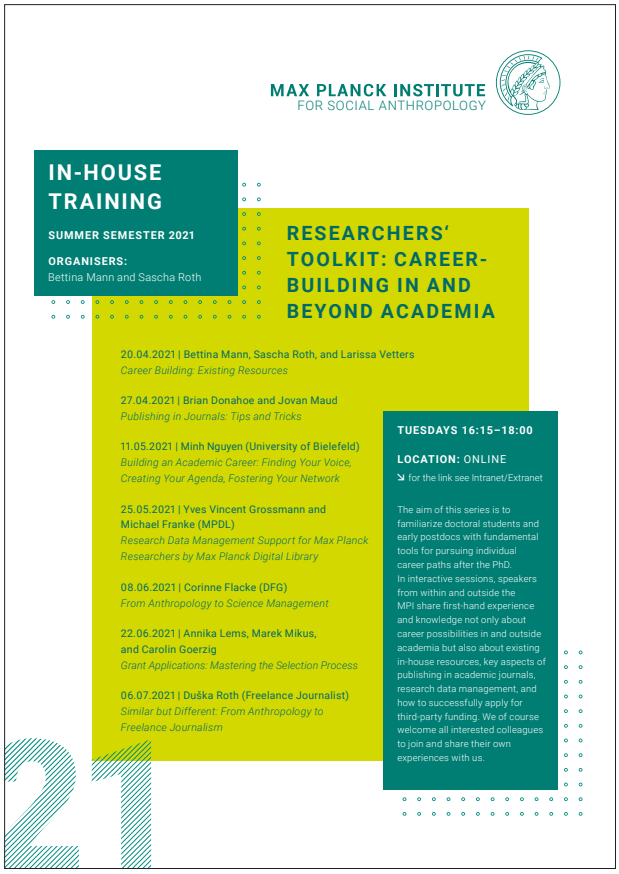
As part of the MPI's commitment to international recruitment and diversity, the service units of the Institute provide a welcome package to all new researchers and offer personal support in administrative and practical questions during the onboarding process. Staff from the Library, the IT Department, the Administration, Research Coordination, and not at least the Secretaries are involved in introducing new colleagues to the services and facilities provided by the Institute. Supplementing this personal assistance, extensive information about the Institute's facilities and services, as well as bureaucratic and practical issues connected with life in Germany and Halle more specifically, is documented in our two main information sources: the MPI Handbook and the MPI Intranet.

During the reporting period, we started to improve the scope and structure of these information sources to ensure equal access to all employees. As a joint project of Research Coordination and IT, we are currently transforming our long-standing MPI Handbook into an online resource which can be accessed from both inside and outside the Institute. The new Handbook will bundle welcome information, regulations and forms, MPI guidelines for research management, and emergency contacts and procedures. In addition, the MPI's Intranet is in the process of being upgraded, updated, and restructured.



TRAINING FOR RESEARCHERS

In addition to activities within the departments and research groups, the MPI has continued to provide and improve opportunities for researchers to receive training and personal career development. This was the case even under pandemic conditions, during which we switched to digital offerings. Training modules are chosen in response to the needs of the researchers, in particular the increasing requirement to acquire additional professional skills and knowledge in science management and administration. Among other things, topics addressed have included research ethics, data management, open access publishing, and proposal writing. During the reporting period, the Research Coordinator and senior researchers from the Departments (Bettina Mann, Jovan Maud, Larissa Vetters and, until his departure, Sascha Roth) have offered the in-house training series "Researcher's Toolkit", which addresses the above-mentioned growing demand for professional skills training by combining in-house knowledge with the expertise of invited speakers on a variety of topics. Within this series, we have explored career possibilities both within and beyond academia with the goal of broadening the horizons of our researchers. To this end, we have invited MPI Alumni to discuss their individual career trajectories as well as colleagues who began their careers working as journalists or within funding institutions.



In-House Trainings

23 January 2020
Grant Applications:
Mastering the Selection Process
Speaker: Carolin Görzig, Annika Lems, Marek Mikuš, Maria Sapignoli | Organiser: Bettina Mann

30 October 2020
How to Write an Ethnography
Speaker: Ursula Rao | Organiser: Department 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance'

20 April 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Career Building: Existing Resources
Speaker: Bettina Mann, Sascha Roth, Larissa Vetters
Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

27 April 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career building in and beyond academia
Publishing in Journals: Tips and Tricks
Speaker: Brian Donahoe, Jovan Maud
Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

11 May 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Building an Academic Career: Finding Your Voice, Creating Your Agenda, Fostering Your Network
Speaker: Minh T.N. Nguyen (Bielefeld University)
Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

25 May 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Research Data Management Support for Max Planck Researchers by Max Planck Digital Library
Speaker: Yves Vincent Grossmann, Michael Franke (Max Planck Digital Library)
Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

8 June 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
From Anthropology to Science Management
Speaker: Corinne Flacke (German Research Foundation DFG) | Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

22 June 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Grant Applications:
Mastering the Selection Process
Speaker: Annika Lems, Marek Mikuš, Carolin Görzig
Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

6 July 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Similar But Different:
From Anthropology to Freelance Journalism
Speaker: Duška Roth | Organiser: Sascha Roth and Bettina Mann

19 October 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Welcome and Introduction to the MPI for new Researchers
Introduction to the MPI:
Services, Resources, Responsibilities
Speaker: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth
Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

2 November 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Research and Labour Dilemmas in Anthropology: Reflecting on Biographical Trajectories and Mobilities
Speaker: Dimitra Kofti (Panteion University, Athens)
Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

16 November 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Tips and Strategies on How to Build a Successful Career Path
Speaker: Leah Cheung Ah Li (RWTH Aachen University) | Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

30 November 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
A Winding Path: How Not Planning Your Career Can Still Work Out
Speaker: Sophie Neuenkirch (Interpretive Planner)
Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

7 December 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
Publishing Open Access: The Central Support of the Max Planck Digital Library
Speaker: Ralf Schimmer and Tina Planck (MPDL)
Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

11 January 2021
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
QualiAnon – the Qualiservice Tool for Anonymizing Textual Data
Speaker: Kati Mozygemba and Tom Nicolai (Qualiservice Data Sharing Bremen)
Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

25 January 2022
Researcher's Toolkit:
Career-building in and beyond academia
How to Improve Your Online Presence
Speaker: Stefan Schwendtner and Carlo Diesterbeck-Roll | Organiser: Bettina Mann and Sascha Roth

8 February 2022
Researcher's Toolkit
Challenges of Research Ethics
Speaker: MPI Working Group on Ethics
Organiser: Bettina Mann

25 May 2022
'Writer's Corner' Workshop
Organiser: Jovan Maud

7 June 2022
Researcher's Toolkit
A Digital Workflow for Ethnographic Field Note Taking
Speaker: Boris Wille (Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, MLU) | Organiser: Bettina Mann

21 June 2022
Researcher's Toolkit
Publishing Open Research Data with Edmond (Open Research Data Repository of the Max Planck Society)
Speaker: Yves Grossmann (Max Planck Digital Library) | Organiser: Bettina Mann

22 June and 21 July 2022
Thesis-to-book Workshop
Organiser: Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'
Speaker: Jovan Maud

8 July, 22 July, 26 August, and 30 September 2022
Writer's Corner: 'Stylish Academic Writing in English' with Adam Bobeck (Leipzig University)
Organiser: Jovan Maud

28 October 2022
Writer's Corner:
'Writing an Engaging Literature Review'
Organiser: Jovan Maud

25 November 2022
Writer's Corner: 'Writing about People'
Organiser: Jovan Maud

In order to improve researchers' professional skills in dealing with the publishing process, the Institute organizes sessions and roundtables on how to prepare and publish manuscripts and how to work with journals when submitting and responding to the evaluation of texts. These sessions benefit from the insights of senior researchers, who draw on their experiences to provide advice about academic publishing. Discussions of and practical consultation on Open Access publishing has been established; this is a topic of increasing relevance given current developments in the discipline as well as the general Open Access policy of the Max Plank Society (see also Library report).

Language training in German and support for the acquisition of necessary field languages is provided for researchers at all levels. External experts are hired to conduct training in academic writing in English. In addition, Senior Scientific Editor Jovan Maud runs an informal monthly session entitled "Writer's Corner" in which researchers from across the Institute can discuss, practice, and improve their writing skills.

The MPI provides career development training in a variety of formats, enabling researchers to take advantage of not only in-house workshops and seminars but also programmes of our larger networks within the Max Planck Society. With the Career Step Network, the Planck Academy, and the Max Planck Minerva FemmeNet, to name only a few, the Max Planck Society provides excellent opportunities for researchers at different stages in their careers to enhance professional skills. Information on centrally organized training opportunities is available on the central Max Planck Intranet and can be booked via the Learning Platform of the Planck Academy.

SUPPORT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THIRD-PARTY FUNDING

To promote the career development of our researchers, the Research Coordination team offers support in applying for third-party funding on national and international levels. In general, we have seen an increase in requests for professional support in applying for third-party funding over the last years. Experienced staff members provide advice on EU research-funding opportunities and national funding schemes and offer support during the application process. In the reporting period, we also organized in-house roundtables with Heads of Research Groups to share their experiences with the process of applying for funding for their groups; as successful applicants, they help demystify the process and set an example for early-career scholars who are trying to determine their options for the next step in their careers. Basic information on funding opportunities and services offered by the MPI is available on the Intranet.

AD HOC WORKING GROUPS

With the support of the Institute's leadership and the Extended Kollegium, three ad hoc working groups were established during the reporting period to develop strategies and improve procedures in specific fields: research ethics, sustainability, and research data management.

WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH ETHICS

(Carolin Görzig, Jacqueline Knörr, Desirée Kumpf, Kristin Magnucki, Bettina Mann, Jovan Maud, Larissa Vetters)

In its 2020 report, the Scientific Advisory Board requested that the MPI Directors clarify the Institute's ethics procedures and decide if changes are necessary. The Ethics Working Group (EWG) was created to review this matter and then report back to the Extended Kollegium with its recommendations. The EWG had the following tasks: review current research ethics-related practice at the Institute; review the "ethics landscape" in Germany; identify core ethics-related issues that are relevant for researchers and research governance at the Institute; and formulate recommendations.

The EWG met several times to discuss key issues. In order to carry out more targeted discussions, three sub-groups were also formed on the topics of "informed consent and data management", "research colloquium and ethics training", and "supervision and ethics for PhDs and early career researchers".

In October 2021, the EWG compiled and submitted its recommendations to the Extended Kollegium. Amongst other things, the working group argued that an internal ethics board was not suitable for an institute of this size. Instead, it recommended that priority should be given to developing a more systematic approach to training and supporting MPI

researchers to develop their capacity to reflect upon and implement ethical research practices in their research. Rather than establishing a rigid bureaucratic structure, this would be best achieved through the creation of a space of reflection and mutual learning. The Institute should therefore develop its ethics governance structure in an integrated, yet flexible manner, particularly in the following areas:

- Internal spaces of reflection and training
- Documenting, communicating, and demonstrating the Institute's ethics approach
- Research data management and technical support

As a result of these discussions the Institute introduced an ethics reflection sheet, based on the reflection sheet developed by the German Anthropological Association, to be filled out and discussed before researchers leave for fieldwork.

SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

(Christoph Brumann, Pierre Druart, Sebastian Ehser, Jovan Maud, Stefan Schwendtner, Jutta Turner, and, until their departures, Beatrix Krause and Annika Lems).

In 2021, a number of volunteers formed the Sustainability Working Group. With the support of the Institute's leadership and administration, they took a comprehensive look at the Institute's energy supply, provisioning routines, garbage disposal, business travel, and gardening, with a view to reducing the climate and environmental footprint of our work. As a result, garbage bins were more clearly marked and instructions posted, so as to enable smooth recycling, and some cleaning supplies were replaced with more ecological alternatives. In the winter of 2022/23, the heating system was operated at lower levels than in previous years, owing of course also to the price hike following the Russian attack on Ukraine. The MPG leadership rolled out a carbon compensation system for business air travel on its own initiative in 2022. For other conceivable steps, the Working Group achieved a clearer picture of the complexities involved, such as MPG-wide energy contracts or the MPG's non-profit status that prohibits feeding self-produced energy, such as from solar panels, into the public grid. This helped to clarify possible steps once these larger-level conditions change in future, as is likely for some of them.

WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

(Sebastian Ehser, Hatem Elliesie, Inge Fiedler, Christoph Korb, Kristin Magnucki, Bettina Mann, Jovan Maud, Larissa Vetters, Samuel Williams)

Another field of increasing importance and necessary collaboration between researchers and service staff is research data management (RDM). As part of the onboarding process, researchers are introduced to the KEEPER service provided by the Max Planck Digital Library, which makes it possible to easily sync and share project data. In addition, the Institute has started to explore further options for collaboration, especially in the field of qualitative data management and archiving. Discussions benefited from online seminars and workshops organised by the Max Planck Digital Library, which brought together colleagues from the wider Max Planck community to discuss common issues and learn from best practice examples. In 2022, a Working Group on RDM was established at the MPI to develop the outline of an institutional RDM policy. Initial goals of the Working Group include developing appropriate training modules for researchers which can be fed into the curriculum of the newly founded International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS), and discussing necessary RDM infrastructure (see also report from IT). Finally, the Research Coordination team has set up a RDM page on the MPI Intranet, which provides general information as well as links to practical tools and relevant statements by professional associations.

OUTREACH TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS

In cooperation with the Institute's Library, the Research Coordination offers regular introductions to the structure and research fields of the MPI to students of anthropology at the Universities of Halle and Leipzig. Students are also informed about how to access library resources and opportunities to benefit from the presence of a Max Planck Institute in their vicinity, e.g., the opportunity to take part in the Institute's lectures and conferences. Under the constraints imposed by the pandemic, introductions were given online. The MPI also offers student internships and, as far as possible, involves them in ongoing research projects. To pique young people's curiosity and arouse interest in anthropological topics (which are usually not included in school curricula), we also offer short-term internships for local secondary-school students.

LIBRARY REPORT

Head of Library: Anja Neuner

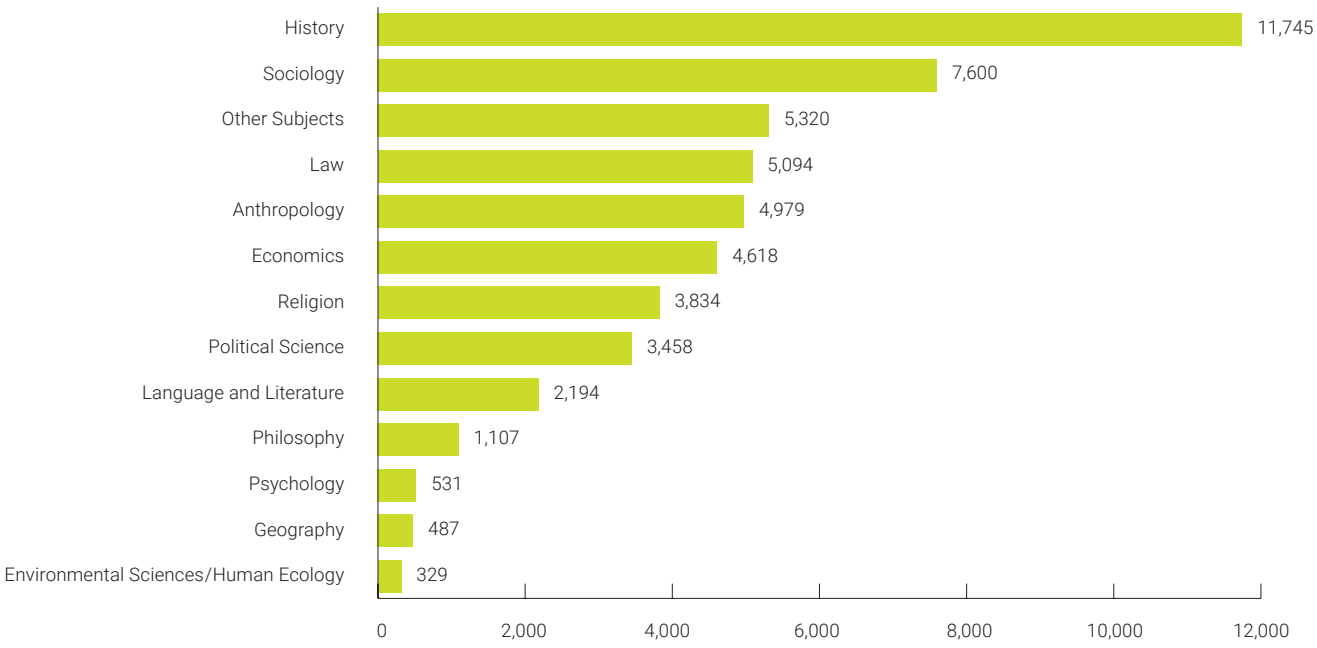
COLLECTION

The Institute library enjoys international recognition as an important specialized library with unique holdings in the field of social anthropology. With its excellent information services for the Institute's international researchers and guests, the library is the central place for searching literature and information resources, as well as a place for working and scientific exchange.

During the reporting period, the COVID-19 pandemic meant restrictions in everyday operations for the library, which in spite of increasing digitization is still a place that is heavily used in the form of in-person visits by researchers consulting physical materials. Although the library had to close to external users, the library staff developed workflows that allowed them to continue to fulfil literature requests and maintain essential information services for MPI researchers.

The library collection continues to grow, reflecting new research in legal, political, and economic anthropology and related social science disciplines. The stock currently includes over 51,800 monographs, 5,600 journal volumes, 700 ethnographic films, 870 maps, and 196 subscribed journals. In addition, the library offers a wide range of scientific databases and electronic information resources tailored to the needs of the research community. Here the MPI library benefits greatly from the central information services and offerings of the Max Planck Society's central library service unit, the Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL).

BOOKS BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT AREA



An important activity during the period 2020–2022 was the acquisition of relevant literature, reference works, and new journal subscriptions for the two new Departments 'Anthropology of Politics and Governance' and 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation' as well as for several new research groups. To keep up with the demands of the digital transformation, the library continues to increase its number of local licenses for e-books and essential e-dictionaries. These include the Institute's series with the publisher Berghahn, which are fully licensed as e-books, as well as the Berghahn e-book package on Migration and Development Studies and key Routledge Handbooks from the discipline.

PERSONNEL

In 2021, staff turnover necessitated hiring a new employee for the position of a specialist for publication data management, open access, and library systems. In connection with the creation of two new Departments, the reporting period also saw the reconstitution of the library commission, which advises on new acquisitions and systematic expansion of the collection. Arne Harms and Jovan Maud joined as the new representatives of Ursula Rao's Department, while Christoph Brumann and Kirsten W. Endres took over for the Department of Biao Xiang.

DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIERS (DOIS)

In 2021 the library introduced the ability to generate DOIs for project-related publications. The workflow for assigning a DOI and metadata uses the German DOI repository at DataCite Fabrica. The purpose of registering DOIs is to provide persistent identifiers for publication-quality online documents, allowing for citability and quality assurance in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice. Currently this DOI functionality is being used for the MoLab Inventory blog of the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'.

MPG.PURE

MPG.PuRe is the central publication repository of the Max Planck Society and is used to record the complete publication output of the Institute. The Institute library team manages the administration and further development of the local use of MPG.PuRe. Recent accomplishments here include enabling more efficient evaluation and analysis of publication data by enabling the automatic generation of a list of the journals in which the researchers of the Institute publish the most. It is now also possible to add ORCIDs (Open Researcher and Contributor IDs) to the publication metadata and use this to automatically add records to ORCID profiles of researchers, using the search engine BASE as a proxy service.

COOPERATION AND EVENTS

One important networking and cooperating partner of the library is the Social and Cultural Information Service (FID SKA) of the University Library of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. This includes collaborating with FID SKA to make the Institute's catalogue available through the information portal. In addition, the MPI library assisted in the evaluation of various subject-specific electronic resources for a DFG grant application that will support the continuation of this service. Such collaborations enable the library to remain networked within the field and provide optimal services to MPI researchers, who benefit from the availability of a centralized portal for searching and accessing diverse electronic resources.

In addition, the library, together with the Research Coordination, organizes introductory seminars on the use of library and information resources for the next generation of anthropological researchers. These seminars are held annually for new students of the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and at irregular intervals for students of the Institute of Anthropology at Leipzig University.

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Head of Library: Anja Neuner

Scientific publishing has undergone major changes in the course of digitization. The transition to immediate open and permanent access to research results in a citable, peer-reviewed, and typeset version and under an open licence is progressing rapidly.

This "transformation" of scholarly publishing refers to a change in the business models behind the dissemination of scholarly publications: paying for publishing service instead of paying for reading access. This paradigm shift is fundamentally changing the financial flows and the roles of the actors in the scholarly publishing system and poses a great challenge for institutions. As one of the central initiators of the movement, the Max Planck Society is committed to Open Access and Open Science.

The MPI actively follows the path to open access (OA) and authors are strongly encouraged to publish their results using this model. For this purpose, the central scientific service unit Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL) offers a variety of transformative open access agreements, which are locally supplemented by OA publishing options supported by the Institute's library.

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING AGREEMENTS

Max Planck Researchers can publish their results in journals for which OA article processing charges (APCs) are fully covered through centrally negotiated agreements with publishers; for the field of anthropology, the most important publishers here are: Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, SAGE, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley. In addition, the MPDL negotiated Open Access Monograph Publishing agreements with the publishers Brill, Cambridge University Press, Nomos, and Springer Nature in which authors receive a discount on the standard book publishing charge. The MPDL covers half of the costs of the reduced total amount.

The MPDL is striving to successively transform all agreements with scholarly publishers so that former subscription payments are repurposed to cover open access publications in a sustainable way.

Since 2019 the library supports on the local level Berghahn Open Anthro, the open access project of the social science publisher Berghahn. Berghahn Journals has switched all its 15 anthropology journals to open access on a subscribe-to-open basis. Publisher's costs are collaboratively supported by subscriptions from participating libraries worldwide, so that authors are not charged with APCs. Moreover, authors retain copyright of their work by using a creative common license. In 2022, the flagship journal of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, *Social Anthropology / Anthropologie sociale*, joined the Berghahn Open Anthro initiative to full open access as sustainable model for free access to its articles. Since the launch of the project, the collection has seen a substantial increase in its scholarly impact and usage due to the expanded discoverability and accessibility.

OPEN ACCESS FUND

In 2021 the MPI established a local open access fund to support the open access publication of the Institute's research that falls outside other central, external, or local financing options. The Kollegium has secured funds from the Max Planck Society to cover the publication costs of manuscripts that have been accepted for publication. All researchers employed at the MPI are eligible to apply. They may apply for full coverage of OA fees for journal articles or a contribution to the costs for the OA publication of a monograph. Applications are evaluated and decided on by the Kollegium.

The library monitors the fund and documents expenses in order be able to respond to changes in overall publication costs. In cooperation with the Research Coordinator and the Administration, the library is currently establishing procedures for the long-term management of the fund.

MPG.PURE

Another important aspect of the transition to OA models is ensuring that the open access status of publications is correctly displayed in catalogues and repositories. Accordingly, records in the Institute's publication repository on MPG.PuRe now include a label that indicates OA publications and the type of open access that applies (green, gold, hybrid, miscellaneous). This secures optimal searchability and visibility of the metadata on search engines like Google Scholar.

IN-HOUSE TRAINING AND INFORMATION MATERIAL

Research Coordination and the library offer regular training sessions and practical information for researchers on the topic of OA publishing. In 2021, the library hosted an event with colleagues from the MPDL on the topic "Publishing Open Access – The Central Support of the Max Planck Digital Library".

The library offers an Intranet page with links and documents regarding the topic of open access. This page also includes a helpful document with author guidelines that covers all the relevant information for publishing open access at the Institute. In the future, this will be converted to an Open Access section in the digital MPI Handbook that is currently under development.

MULTIMEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Carlo Diesterbeck-Roll
Stefan Schwendtner

The MPI's public relations activities were expanded considerably with the newly created position of a multimedia editor in November 2020. The increase in staff has allowed existing outreach channels and formats to be expanded, as well as new fields of PR to be explored and developed. For example, 141 videos and 31 video teasers have been produced since January 2021.

In May 2021, a YouTube channel was set up for videos created as part of the MoLab project in the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'. A YouTube channel for the Institute as a whole was started in July 2022; since then, all videos produced by the multimedia team are published here as well as on the Institute's homepage.

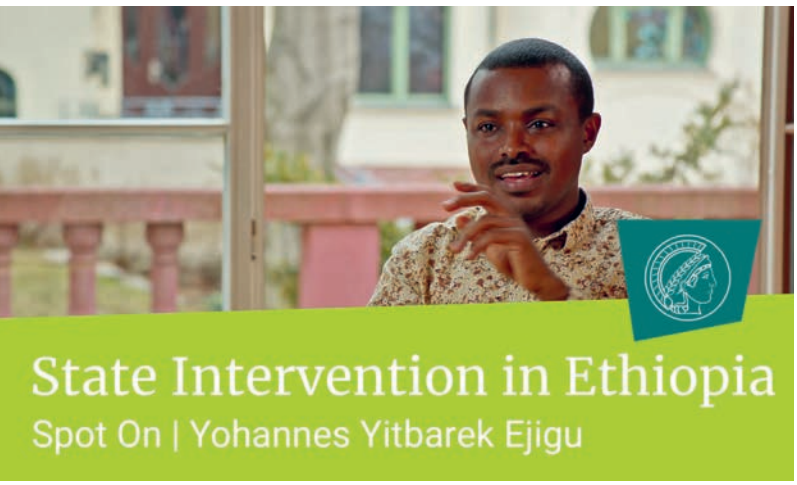
In April 2022, the MPI launched a Twitter account as an additional communications channel. Since then, the number of followers has increased continuously by about 120 per month and had grown to over 1,330 by March 2023.

In December 2022, the existing LinkedIn account was reactivated. There, about 1,100 followers inform themselves about current developments at the MPI.

VIDEO SERIES "SPOT ON – THREE MINUTES OF ANTHROPOLOGY"

This series, which now contains 37 videos, kicked off the systematic development of multimedia content at the Institute in 2019. In each 3-minute video, researchers at the Institute introduce themselves and talk about their current research project in response to three standardized questions. This format is open to all researchers at all stages of their careers. The goal of this series is primarily to showcase the diversity of the MPI's research and to introduce the people conducting that research. Many of the videos created as part of this series were recorded in two languages – once in English and once in the researchers' native language.

↘ *https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-l9VItC9Gn2m5lQuLs50F2_G94JeZe1h*



"READ ON – BOOKS IN ANTHROPOLOGY" VIDEO SERIES

"Read On" builds on the idea of "Spot On". Here, too, researchers have the opportunity to present their research – in this case, a recent book publication – in front of the camera. However, instead of responses to a set of standard questions, the guiding principle is the content of the publication itself. Researchers are asked to present the core ideas of their book in such a way that they can be understood by an audience unfamiliar with expert discourse. In other words, the videos present a particular section of anthropological research that can be discussed in more detail. At 5 to 7 minutes, the "Read On" videos are slightly longer than those in the "Spot On" series. As with "Spot On", researchers have the option to record the video in English and in their native language.

↘ *https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8_ScPV7YqB8aleNy8M877ataLxwN1X4Z*

VIDEO SERIES "BOOK CHAT"

The "Book Chat" series is less formal than "Read On" and "Spot On" and videos feature two to four participants as well as a discussion host. Episodes are recorded either in German or in English. To emphasize the serial nature and create continuity, the conversations are moderated by two regular hosts. For the English episodes Jovan Maud takes on this role and for the German ones Christoph Brumann. The subject is a recent publication – monograph, edited volume, or article – either by one of the participants or of general cross-disciplinary interest.

↘ *https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8_ScPV7YqB-IiZIj4hvIfzxOGn89esk-*

VIDEO SERIES "INTRODUCING RESEARCH GROUPS"

The idea of this series is to introduce projects and members of research groups. In short interviews, group members explain their research interests and how this fits into the research programme. The group leader gives a concise overview of the project as a whole. Initial interviews may be recorded, for example, at the beginning of the project with subsequent instalments at irregular intervals. In this way, viewers can follow the development of the project and gain insight into how anthropologists work.

↘ *https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8_ScPV7YqB8mBpoq99tWOU_qBwvNUbPd*

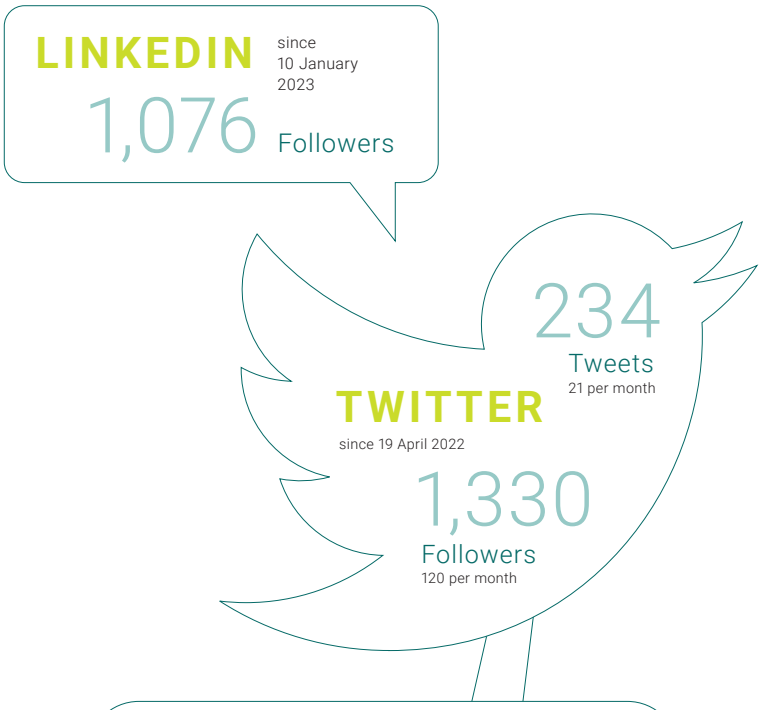
PODCAST SERIES "TALK ON"

This series features conversations about recent publications by researchers at the Institute. As with the "Book Chat" series, Christoph Brumann and Jovan Maud take on the role of hosts; this continuity of personnel ensures the recognizability of the series. The series will primarily be broadcast as a podcast accessible on platforms such as iTunes/Apple Podcast, Spotify, and Deezer. The first season of six episodes is currently in production and will be released in mid-2023. This series is expected to have a wide reach, as podcast distribution platforms are more science-savvy than mainstream video platforms. In addition, pure audio formats offer more flexibility for listening in a variety of contexts: podcasts can always be listened to on the side – while driving, going to work, doing housework, etc. In addition, the conversations are also recorded as video so that they can be watched on the MPI's own YouTube channel.

MOLAB VIDEOS

The MoLab YouTube channel documents various discussions with the Department 'Anthropology of Economic Experimentation'. MoLab researchers study how mobilities trigger changes in economic and social life. They study how mobilities are socially organized and how they in turn can change socio-economic relations.

↘ *https://www.youtube.com/@maxmolab*



YOUTUBE

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology @mpisocialanthropology since 24 March 2022	Videos	**35**
	Total views	**10,000**
	Subscribers	**242**
The MoLab @maxmolab since 10 May 2021	Videos	**44**
	Total views	**6,300**
	Subscribers	**200**
Spot-On series The first 21 videos of the series were hosted by the Youtube channel of the Max Planck Society	Videos	**21**
	Total views	**24,000**
Most successful video Book Chat on *Anfänge: Eine neue Geschichte der Menschheit* with Christoph Brumann and Thomas Widlok	Total views	**6,000**
Total views of published videos		40,300
Total number of published videos		100

Figures as of March 2023

"BIG SLIDER" PHOTO SERIES

This photo series is featured on the big slider at the top of the Institute's homepage. It features MPI employees shown in the context of the Institute – in the library, foyer, villa, or garden. The name of the employee is linked to their profile page, where website visitors can find further information such as curriculum vitae, research projects, etc. Here the focus is not exclusively on the presentation of scholarship and research. Rather, these photos are intended to highlight the diversity of the people who contribute to the everyday functioning of a research institution and whose excellent performance makes the MPI what it is. Therefore, service staff from the library, IT, administration, or student assistants can also be portrayed and presented here.

↘ *https://www.eth.mpg.de/2169/en*

TWITTER

In April 2022 the Institute launched its Twitter account, which primarily serves as an additional outreach channel for all information related to the Institute and its research. This is primarily used to report news regarding publications, researchers, awards, projects, conferences, job advertisements, etc. The channel is very successful and has been gaining about 120 new subscribers per month. As with all public relations activities and measures, the decisive factor for success is regular posting of information. So far, 234 posts have been published here – an average of five per week. In this way, the Twitter account has enabled the Institute to increase the continuity and dependability of its public relations work.

↘ *https://twitter.com/MaxAnthropology*

LINKEDIN

Since January 2023, the multimedia team has also been posting selected information on LinkedIn. Subscribers on LinkedIn have somewhat closer ties to the Institute than its Twitter followers, as many former and current employees have an account on this platform. Thus, LinkedIn is an excellent way to communicate with this segment of the Institute's networks.

↘ *https://www.linkedin.com/company/max-planck-institute-for-social-anthropology/*

"ANTHROPOLOGY OPENS DOORS" – EXHIBITION IN THE LANDTAG OF SAXONY-ANHALT

What does it mean for anthropologists to spend months in a foreign place, immersing themselves in the lives of others? Where does their research take them and what insights does it bring?

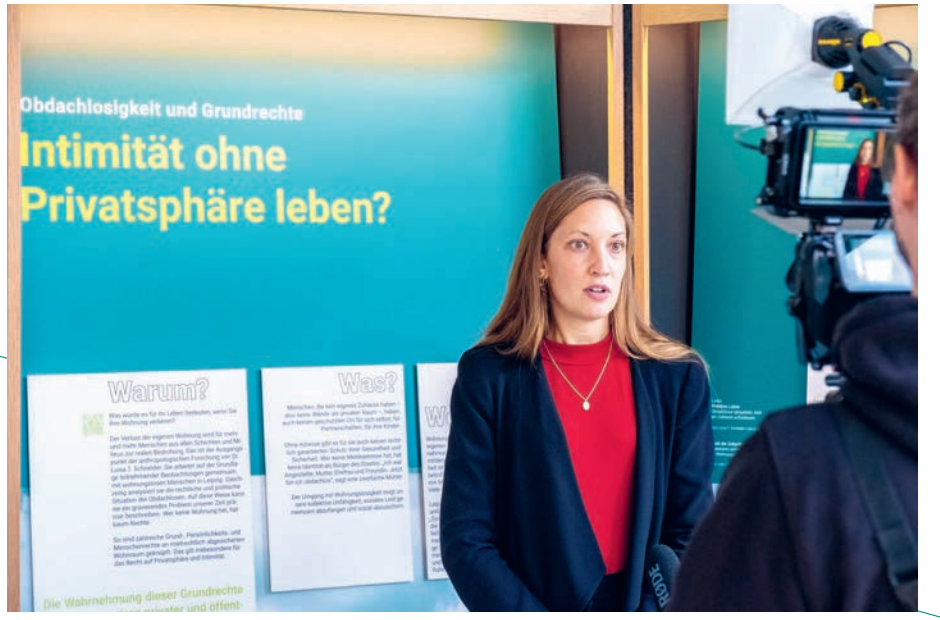
In the joint exhibition "Change Your Perspective – Anthropology Opens Doors", the MPI and the Seminar for Ethnology of MLU attempted to provide some answers to these questions. Displayed from 11 October to 18 November 2022 in the Landtag (State Parliament) of Saxony-Anhalt in Magdeburg, the exhibition offered a look into the workings of anthropology for a broad audience that is not familiar with intra-disciplinary discourses.

On a wall area of about 125 square meters and a floor space of 200 square meters, the exhibition featured detailed presentations of 6 research projects at the MPI; another 10 were outlined with short descriptions and a link to further information. The exhibition was opened by the President of the Landtag, followed by introductions by Ursula Rao (MPI) and Olaf Zenker (Seminar for Anthropology) representing their respective institutions. The opening was well attended by about 100 guests. Among the guests were the Minister President of Saxony-Anhalt and numerous members of the state parliament and the ministerial bureaucracy. The exhibitions in the Landtag are open to the public and are regularly viewed by visitors and guests.

Link to the video of the opening event:
↘ *https://youtu.be/eER7-1PQpGU*

Link to the video in which the six focus projects are presented:
↘ *https://youtu.be/hWpHJebMUeM*

Luisa Schneider gives an interview about her research on houselessness in Leipzig.



Asta Vonderau, Olaf Zenker, and Ursula Rao in conversation with Gunnar Schellenberger, President of the Landtag of Saxony-Anhalt, after the opening of the exhibition.

More than 100 visitors attended the opening of the exhibition in the Landtag on 11 October 2022.

STATUS REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE'S IT

Head of IT:
Sebastian Ehser

Since spring 2021, the IT department, including all processes, systems, and staff deployment, has been undergoing a comprehensive reorganization and strategic reconceptualization. But there is still much work to be done. The goal for the next 2–3 years is to bring the infrastructure, security, and management of the Institute's IT up to date and replace outdated systems. The guiding principle here is "Keep it simple!" – i. e., introduce a small number of tried-and-tested, established products that create maximum synergies with existing products and each other.
The strategic goal of this project is to establish a reliable and highly available IT infrastructure that provides optimal support for research activities (both on-site and remotely or during fieldwork). At the same time, it should reduce the routine system administration requirements to a minimum in order to unburden IT staff, open up capacity for continuous strategic development of the IT systems, and enable the IT team to work with researchers to identify and implement solutions for their everyday research needs.

Modernization work is ongoing in all areas of the Institute's IT as follows:

Hardware
Here the focus is on establishing (geo-)redundancy and comprehensively modernizing the technology and principles that form the basis of the networks, storage and backup systems, firewall, virtualization, and internet connectivity.

Software
The most important software desideratum is implementing modern IT management that will allow the current staff to meet the growing complexity and scope of the IT needs; one element of this is automation and self-service functionality for researchers. Some projects in this area include an upcoming relaunch of the Intranet, the introduction of a comprehensive software suite for IT service management, implementing mobile device management, and updating the current antivirus system.

Processes
The IT management software solutions will enable IT-internal processes to be simplified and subsequently automated. This can then be extended to other processes in which the IT is involved and, where desired and necessary, to additional processes in the service area. One key consideration here is how to best meet research data management needs.

IT security
In all of the above-mentioned areas, central criteria in the conceptualization and implementation of new solutions are not only functionality and practicality, but also ensuring IT security. Alongside this, the IT department has undertaken a number of measures explicitly concerned with increasing IT security. In accordance with the recommendations of the Federal Office for Information Security, approximately 20% of the Institute's IT budget is to be permanently allocated to IT security needs.
These measures are the precondition for establishing a modern, effective IT infrastructure. It must be noted in this regard that the current state of affairs still falls short of an acceptable standard; in addition, the implementation of the Institute's IT modernization goals has encountered delays on various fronts: restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic; personnel shortages in the IT sector, supply and delivery difficulties for hardware components.
The following paragraphs briefly outline the initial situation, the progress made so far, currently ongoing projects, and plans for the next 2–3 years.

INITIAL SITUATION

Up until 2021, a variety of circumstances led to substantial innovation and investment deficits in the Institute's IT systems. As a consequence, the Institute has been relying on an IT infrastructure that consisted of many individual solutions which usually did not work well together. Where there are interfaces between systems, they were administratively very complex to run. In addition, the processes and

systems were only partially standardized and therefore required substantial work to keep running. Other standard IT processes (e.g., release management) had not been established at all; as a result, proactive management of IT and the implementation of IT security principles was impossible.

This created a number of difficulties: The infrastructure was not consistently reliable and the IT systems were operating at the limits of their capacity. There were significant security issues. Due to this situation, the IT staff was completely occupied with managing everyday operations and future-oriented IT work was not possible.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Hardware: structural foundations
A variety of measures have been completed that will enable the further modernization of the basic hardware infrastructure and creation of redundancy. These include the renewal and expansion of the fibre optic cables and the strengthening of the server and distribution rooms, as well as increasing the rack space and restoring or expanding the capacity of the uninterruptable power supplies. Last but not least, the migration of the Institute's data to a new storage system was completed; this process was started in 2020 and was urgently necessary due to the age of the storage devices (no longer supported by the manufacturer and without enough storage capacity to meet current needs). However, this is merely a temporary solution in light of the planned comprehensive overhaul of the storage systems.

Software: IT service management
A new software suite for the IT service management has been implemented and a number of processes (contract, release, and asset management) have already been transferred into this system. This will form the basis for transferring additional IT processes into the software and subsequently providing extensive self-service offerings and automated processes.

Software: monitoring, test environment, automation
For the first time, the Institute now has a monitoring system that makes it possible to proactively monitor all IT systems, from clients to multifunction printers to servers and network components. Additionally, a high-performing virtual test environment and ansible deployment allow for more professional management of the network, which will ensure fewer service disruptions and an equal standard of availability in all parts of the network.

Software / processes / IT security: mobile device management
A pilot project for mobile device management addresses software and security needs connected with IT use during field research. The usual plethora of various technical systems (voice recorder, camera, camcorder, etc.) required up until now for recording data are to be replaced in the future with a high-performance smartphone and peripheral devices as needed.

Processes: stocking inventory
As part of the new approach to providing for field equipment needs, as well as the experience that international supply shortages can directly impact the implementation of projects at the Institute, the IT inventory has been modernized and enlarged. In the future, equipment that kept in stock will include not only client hardware and peripherals, but also an assortment of replacement parts for the basic IT infrastructure.

Processes: online time-tracking
An online system for tracking work hours has been implemented. Unlike the previous system, which required employees to physically log in and out using their chip keys, this system can be used when working remotely. The online time-tracking software thus reduces the need for HR personnel to manually enter such data.

Processes: IT governance, reorganization of personnel structures and deployment
New IT governance structures have been implemented to ensure better coordination of the IT activities and communication of the extensive overhaul and modernization measures (and the temporary disruptions/limitations of service that at times result from this). Weekly team meetings have been introduced, as well weekly check-in meetings between the Head of IT and the Institute management. In addition, at the level of middle management, the Head of Administration, the Head of IT, and the Research Coordinator meet once a month to discuss cross-department matters. The multimedia team works closely with the IT team in areas where their spheres of activity overlap.

At least one meeting of the full Kollegium per year is reserved exclusively to discuss IT topics.

The reporting period also saw extensive restructuring of the IT team and the distribution of duties. In particular, the position of an IT systems architect was created in order to ensure optimal interoperability, scalability, and future viability of the Institute's services. The members of the IT department take part in an annual retreat in order to develop plans for the upcoming year and discuss interdisciplinary topics as needed.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Hardware: replacement and modernization of network infrastructure
The renovation of the Institute's central network infrastructure is both necessary in terms of the technology and of urgent importance from the standpoint of IT security. When finished, the infrastructure will be converted to a modern spine-leaf network that ensures maximum performance, scalability, future-proofing, and fail-safing. In this context, a virtual local area network (VLAN) is being implemented that will allow for effective partitioning of network segments and thereby substantially increase the protection level of the infrastructure.

Hardware: modernization of the storage and backup infrastructure
An additional project is the modernization of the storage and backup systems using the Ceph system. This solution provides a high level of flexibility in the deployment of hardware as well as being scalable; thus, it constitutes an effective foundation for further expansion of storage capacity and the overall growth in demand even beyond the planned initial service life of five years.
In this context, a construction project is underway to adapt the physical facilities to the increased cooling requirements of the new system.
In the future, these systems will also provide the basis for optimal long-term archiving of research data.

Hardware / software: modernization of IT security
Currently the IT team is working on the renewal of the firewall and assessing tenders for a new antivirus solution. Other activities include the implementation of mobile device management and the further improvement of IT service management.

Software: Intranet / MPI Handbook
In order to make information for employees – particularly those new to the Institute – easier to find and to bring the MPI Handbook into a form that is more commensurate with a changing work environment and increased remote work, a digital form of the handbook is being created. With the help of new software technologies, this information will subsequently be available in a format that is intuitively structured, easily searchable, and regularly updated. An important aspect of this is responsive design that will work on all devices. The technological basis created here also forms the basis for modernizing the Intranet. The contents will be linked in such a way that they can be entered and updated centrally for use in various contexts (Handbook, Intranet, PDF guides, etc.).

Software / security: IT security awareness training
Even with the securest infrastructure and client hardware, the greatest threat to IT security will always be the human factor. A careless click on an email attachment or a link to a compromised website potentially opens up the door to attacks that circumvent all antivirus technologies in place.
Therefore, the best way to minimize such threats is by means of IT security awareness training for all employees at the Institute. A security training package was purchased in late 2021 and all employees completed the modules in the course of 2022. The programme also includes regular simulated phishing emails. The success of the training modules was evident in a noticeably increase in employees' recognition of spam emails and a reduction in the click rate on links in the simulated phishing emails.

Hardware: modernization of the technology in the seminar rooms
Together with the multimedia team and the facility management services, an overhaul of the media systems available in the seminar rooms is underway. The expanded and updated equipment will ensure that meetings can take place using modern forms of communication technology and the multimedia presentation of the Institute's research will continue to be state of the art.

PLANNED PROJECTS

Hardware: 3-tier expanded backup architecture
Upon completion of the updating of the storage technology, the backup system will be overhauled. This is important both for everyday operations and to provide the technical basis for long-term archiving. Here it is necessary to distinguish between volatile data, which should be backed up regularly but with longer incremental phases, and archivable data (e.g., research data). Accordingly, greater use should be made of the storage infrastructure available from the MPG, so that capacities can be freed up in terms of IT staff and space in the institute.
The current storage system is to be reallocated for use as a primary backup for active storage. The open source S3 protocol will store snapshots of this data in compressed form. A secondary backup will be set up using existing hardware at a second location on-site to ensure georedundancy. Here, too the configuration will be simplified by using the S3 protocol and snapshots. The tape libraries of the GWDG and the MPCDF will provide a tertiary, off-site backup. Thus, a uniform S3 server level will be created for the backup.

Hardware / software / processes: long-term archiving
There is currently a basic technical solution for the long-term storage of research data as well as a plan for how this can be improved in the future.
However, the scientific working methods of anthropology mean that both the data collected and the data formats used are often highly heterogeneous. This increases the complexity of long-term archiving of data. The lack of a research data manager, whose

core task would be to analyse this heterogeneity, resolve difficulties connected with this, and establish standards, means that key questions have not been considered or not yet been adequately addressed. Two tasks are particularly important in this context: the establishment of metadata standards, which enable the systematization of data and its retrievability and reusability, and the decoupling of data from certain, partly proprietary technologies.
A first pilot project with software support is already running at the Institute, but lack of sufficient staff has thus far limited the extent to which it could be adopted.
It should be noted that the establishment of systematic organizational long-term archiving is concerned above all with future data, not existing material.

Hardware: expansion of the virtualization cluster
Due to the changes in conceptual requirements, the current virtualization cluster will likely reach its maximum acceptable load limit by 2024. It must therefore be expanded; thanks to the Ceph technology that is also used for the storage system, additions do not require adhering to the same manufacturer or technologies already in use. Unlike proprietary systems, it is thus not necessary to replace the entire cluster, but rather just add new nodes.

Hardware / software: unified workplace
In the medium term, an important goal is to make the same virtual working environment available to all employees, regardless of whether they are working on-site or remotely. The first conceptual considerations have already taken place and initial services are available as a pilot. However, an essential precondition for this project is the reliable and secure implementation of the new basic IT infrastructure. Consequently, it is not expected that it will be possible to test this on a larger scale until 2024.

Software / IT security: identity and access management, 2-factor authentication
As part of the establishment of a unified workplace, IT security must be substantially increased in the area of identity and access management. The plan here is to implement privileged access management with 2-factor authentication.

Software: gradual development of the Intranet as a central information platform
The redevelopment of the Intranet has the goal of making it into a central hub available to all employees that brings together all the diverse sources of information relevant for work at the Institute. The transfer from other systems is to be automated as far as possible. The decision to use a system developed in-house based on open source standards is a strategic choice that makes it possible to keep the costs of implementation low while ensuring high interoperability.

Hardware: WLAN infrastructure
The final step in the current round of hardware renewal will be the modernization of the WLAN in 2025. In 2026, as individual components that were replaced in 2021 and after they reach their planned "end of life", the modernization cycle will begin anew.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT OF RESEARCHERS

Gender Equality Officers:
Kirsten W. Endres
Berit Eckert

The MPI for Social Anthropology is committed to supporting all employees regardless of gender, nationality, religion, disability, age, cultural background, or sexual identity. In accordance with the overarching goals of the Max Planck Society, we actively seek to remove gender-specific obstacles to a career in research and academia. Efforts to ensure equal opportunities and diversity are well established at the Institute and find expression in a variety of measures that we constantly refine. The Institute considers equality of participation and opportunities to be essential to a postcolonial global anthropology, and also attaches great importance to gender-specific issues in research and teaching. At the Institute election held in 2020, Kirsten W. Endres was re-elected as Gender Equality Officer for a period of 4 years. Her re-elected deputy was Berit Eckert.

As an essential part of implementing equal opportunity measures at the Institute, the Institute regularly sets up a Gender Equality Plan. Its goals build on past and current efforts to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for everyone, irrespective of their gender. The current Gender Equality Plan was adopted in 2021 and is valid for a period of three years.

The Institute is committed to the maxim that qualification paths in science should be accessible without gender-specific barriers. Besides workshops aimed at empowering female researchers, various measures have been taken to increase awareness about gender issues and create spaces for diversity. In October 2021, all employees were invited to participate in a workshop with Cristian Magnus on "Creating an Inclusive Work Environment: An Introduction to Gender and Sexual Identities". In an effort to create a more inclusive work environment, the Institute also designated three of the restrooms as all-gender facilities.

The Institute takes various measures to support researchers and service staff in reconciling the demands of family and career – for example, by providing assistance in obtaining childcare and offering flexible working hours. The Max Planck Society works together with pme Familienservice GmbH, a family service provider that offers a variety of services such as arranging emergency care.

The Institute's service team helps to ensure the placement of preschool-age children in suitable kindergartens, day-care centres, or with nannies. We currently have cooperation agreements with two kindergarten providers in Halle, where the children of employees and stipend holders can receive full-time care until they reach school age. Because anthropologists undertake fieldwork for extended periods, the Institute also finds it essential to support its researchers by subsidizing expenses for the purpose of child care for accompanying spouses and children. Financial support is also granted to cover costs of care for children during business trips.

The Institute's all-gender rest area and lactation room has recently been refurbished with a comfortable nursing chair and is available for all staff members who need some privacy for nursing and/or pumping.

New researchers and guests are provided with an MPI Handbook containing helpful information about the Institute and the city of Halle. A special flyer offers an overview on gender equality and diversity at the Institute. Additional support and assistance in practical matters – especially for non-German colleagues – is provided by the Department secretaries, Research Coordination, and the MPI Administration.

Family Services, Health and Safety

Head of Administration: Janka Diallo

CHILDCARE

During the reporting period, the Institute had cooperation agreements with two childcare facilities: Volkssolidarität Saale-Kyffhäuser e. V. / Kinderland Halle gGmbH and the Verein zur Förderung der Waldorfpädagogik Halle e. V. The Institute contributed to the costs of reserving and providing kindergarten and day care spots in these facilities. For new employees in particular, this was particularly important for allowing them to arrange childcare without the long wait times that are common for such facilities.

Number of childcare spots used by Institute employees

	2020	2021	2022
Volkssolidarität Saale-Kyffhäuser e. V. Kinderland Halle gGmbH	7	9	8
Verein zur Förderung der Waldorfpädagogik Halle e. V.	1	2	0

In addition, the Institute made it possible to claim reimbursement for the costs of childcare during work-related travel, up to a total of € 600 per year.

Institute employees can also access the following information and placement offerings of pme Familienservice free of charge:

Short- and long-term childcare

- Assistance finding in-home childcare (babysitter, au pair, nanny)
- Assistance in arranging placement in day care facilities
- Emergency childcare at home / hotline for finding alternatives when regular childcare is unavailable on short notice
- Assistance in finding holiday childcare
- Childcare during conferences

Homecare for the elderly/disabled

- Comprehensive advisory services regarding care options, daily living, and financial support in cases of close family members with serious illness or in need of caregiving
- Assistance in finding in-home nursing services, outpatient care, and placement in caregiving facilities
- Emergency care

Online portal

- Searchable database of day care and babysitting service providers
- Tutorials on topics concerning everyday family and healthcare needs – e. g. planning for old age, the bureaucratic paperwork connected with the birth of a child, and more

Discounted access to offerings of service providers that have cooperation agreements with pme (e. g., tutoring services)

DUAL CAREER NETZWERK MITTELDEUTSCHLAND

The Institute is an active partner in the Dual Career Netzwerk Mitteldeutschland, a regional network of 30 non-university research institutes, universities, educational institutions, and companies in central Germany. The initiative is a response to the needs of highly qualified academics at the participating institutions, who – along with their spouses and families – have to grapple with the challenges of the high geographic mobility that comes with this career path. One particular concern is helping integrate spouses in the local employment market. In addition, researchers and their families require access to support for private matters (housing, government bureaucracy, childcare, school, language courses, culture, social life) that enable integration and participation in local society.

The dual-career couples at the participating institutions greatly benefit from events and activities that allow for regular exchange of ideas and experiences.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Institute employees benefit from numerous offerings of the Max Planck Society to help reduce conflicts between work and private/family life and support equal opportunities:

- Comprehensive approach to supporting work-life balance
- In 2006, the MPG was the first academic organization to be certified by audit berufundfamilie, a strategic management instrument designed to support the development of family-friendly workplace policies; subsequent audits were carried out in 2009, 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2021, with the certification from the most recent audit valid through 2024
- Programmes to increase the number of female researchers top-tier (W2/W3) positions (e.g., Minerva Fast Track Programme, Lise Meitner Excellence Programme)
- MinervaFemmeNet: a mentoring programme to support young female researchers (http://www.minerva-femmenet.mpg.de/)
- Career development offerings for female postdocs (e.g., the 2019 launch of the Boost! Programme enabling the conversion of E13/E14 positions to E15 positions for qualified female researchers)
- Strengthening the role of Gender Equality Officers
- Management seminars on gender and family policies
- Guidelines on gender equity and preventing discrimination in hiring processes
- Increasing the percentage of women in permanent positions
- Further development of dual career networks
- Guidelines on how to avoid hidden and unconscious discrimination
- Support for suprainstitutional childcare facilities
- Child allowances, possibilities for child-related contract extensions, and childcare subsidies for employees and scholarship holders
- Access to the offerings of the organization pme Familienservice (see above)
- Intranet portal on the topic of career and family
- Access to pme Familienservice's Employee & Manager Assistance Program (EMAP), an anonymous and free-of-charge hotline for employees and scholarship holders dealing with work or personal problems or other struggles connected with their wellbeing and mental health
- The MPG is a sponsor of the Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard Foundation, which provides financial support for female graduate students with children (http://www.cnv-stiftung.de)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Occupational Safety Committee ensures workplace health and safety at the Institute; the members and their roles are as follows:

- Oliver Weihmann (Occupational Health and Safety Professional)
- Dr. Tina Ziem (external occupational health physician, since 1 Jan 2018)
- Janka Diallo (Head of Administration since 1 Jan 2022)
- Ronald Kirchhof (Safety Officer)
- Dirk Bake (Fire Safety Officer)
- Anke Meyer (member of Employee Representative Council)
- Christian Kieser (member of Employee Representative Council)
- Berit Eckert (Deputy Gender Equality Officer)
- Kati Broecker (member of Occupational Safety Committee)

During the period between 2020 and 2022, the Occupational Safety Committee met four times a year to discuss relevant topics concerning health and safety at the Institute. One particular concern was assessing risks connected with the COVID pandemic and implementing relevant measures to prevent the spread of infection at the Institute. Other regular topics included general health assessments (e.g., preventive measures concerning ergonomics and potential eye strain at computer workstations), organizing evacuation drills, first-aid and fire protection measures, debriefing after building inspections, and organizing the annual safety training for employees.

PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING HEALTH AT THE WORKPLACE IN 2020–2022

Occupational health measures undertaken at the Institute during the reporting period included improving Institute workstations to avoid ergonomic and visual strain and providing information on configuring home workspaces while working remotely. The Institute also offered a variety of fitness courses and health seminars for employees. Because in-person events were often not possible due to the pandemic, these offerings were supplemented with webinars.

The following events took place during the reporting period:

- 20 May 2021: Webinar "Eye Health and Brain Fitness"
- 27 May 2021: Webinar "Ergonomics"
- 2 June 2021: Webinar "Healthy Eating while Working from Home"
- May 2022 onwards: Regular fitness courses for back health
- 24 Nov – 14 Dec 2022: Employee questionnaire on psychosocial factors at the workplace; the survey and assessment of results were carried out by the Freiburg Research Centre for Occupational Sciences (FFAW)

In addition to these events, the occupational physician provides preventative examinations (G37 exam for users of computer workstations; G35 exam prior to travel in tropical and subtropical regions) and advises on vaccinations for employees preparing for field research. Employees are also encouraged to contact the Occupational Health Committee and the occupational physician if they have other workplace-related health questions or concerns that are not addressed in the regular offerings of the Institute.

Keebet von Benda-Beckmann

1946–2022

Keebet von Benda-Beckmann passed away on 5 October 2022 at the age of 75. She was an influential and internationally recognized scholar in the field of legal anthropology.

With her husband Franz von Benda-Beckmann, she headed the project group 'Legal Pluralism' at the MPI from 2000 to 2012, and together they helped to shape the legal anthropology research at the MPI in the first decade of the institute's existence.

After her departure, she continued to maintain close ties with the institute in Halle.

Keebet will always be remembered as an exceptional colleague, a dedicated mentor, and a gifted teacher.

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