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Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
Institute for Human Sciences

Neuankommende IWM Visiting Fellows im Oktober 2024

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen heißt diesen Monat acht neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen willkommen: Liana Blikharska, Rogers Brubaker, Teresa Degenhardt, Krystof Dolezal, Barbara Falk, Yi Li, Francesco Striano sowie Maria Todorova. Sie verfolgen während ihres Aufenthalts die untenstehenden Projekte.

Liana Blikharska
Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv
October 2024

Developing the Concept of an "Emergency Response Archive"
This project aims to initiate the development of a concept and future strategy for a comprehensive archive that represents various aspects of the Russo-Ukrainian War. The main goal is to make gathered materials accessible to researchers in real time while safeguarding them for the future. According to the idea of the creators of the Documenting Ukraine project and the newly established INDEX: Institute for Documentation and Exchange, the future repositories that gather materials collected during the war will serve as secure storage and platforms for international exchange. Such initiatives face unique challenges due to the complexities of wartime archival work. During her fellowship, Liana Blikharska will explore best practices for developing an "Emergency Response Archive."

Rogers Brubaker
University of California, Los Angeles
October 2024

Digital Hyperconnectivity and Politics: Between Populism and Technocracy
Rogers Brubaker's project will analyze the ways in which digital hyperconnectivity—a regime of communication in which everyone and everything is connected to everyone and everything else, everywhere and all the time—paradoxically fosters both populism and its seeming antithesis, technocracy. Hyperconnectivity fosters populism in two main ways: as a technology and ideology of immediacy and as a technology of the popular, which opens up new forms of popular participation, favors "low" rather than "high" styles of communication, and enshrines popularity as the ultimate arbiter of value in the digital public sphere. Yet, the new modes of algorithmic governance enabled by

hyperconnectivity are deeply technocratic. The working hypothesis is that digital hyperconnectivity contributes to a "technopopulist" fusion of populism and technocracy.

Teresa Degenhardt
Queen's University Belfast
October 2024

Finding Hope for a Future Without Borders in the Italian Movement for Migrants' Rights
In an increasingly fractured world, with the emergence of the far right in Europe and beyond and the recent pogroms in the UK, this project articulates a vision of an inclusive future in the narratives of the movement supporting migrants' rights in Italy in the late 1990s to early 2000s. It investigates the emergence of global solidarity in the past as a way to uncover what values and context enable the vision of a future without borders in which all people are afforded public protection. It provides resources to counter the policy of securitization through migrant detention and deportation that is typical of these uncertain times. What sorts of ideas for a future without borders did people have in the late 1990s? The objective is to recover some hope from the past to contribute to the prospect of border abolitionism in Europe.

Krystof Dolezal
Central European University
October – December 2024

Christian Democratic Option: Tracing Ideological Persistence from Postwar to Present in Czechoslovakia and Successor States
During his fellowship, Krystof Dolezal will work on his book project, tentatively entitled *Christian Democracy in Transition: Tracing Ideological Persistence in Czechoslovakia from Postwar to Post-Socialism*. The book explains how the Christian democratic movement served as one of the central proxies through which liberal scripts traveled and were diffused in Czechoslovakia. The wager of *Christian Democracy in Transition* is to provide the reader with a much-needed comprehensive history of the Right and its entanglements with Catholicism and Protestantism in Czechoslovakia, chronicling its remarkable transformations in response to the challenges posed by political liberalism and the radical left and right. Situated at the intersection of comparative politics and conceptual history, the book employs punctual and nominalist analysis to rescue and construct the nearly forgotten Christian democratic canon, zooming in on key moments of ideological relaunches, re-canonizations, and local adaptations.

Barbara Falk
Canadian Forces College, Toronto
October – November 2024

Early Cold War Political Trials Across the East-West Divide
During the early Cold War, domestic justice was politicized in the service of the larger international conflict. Targeting the "enemy within" happened in both "East" and "West." The persecution and prosecution of real and perceived adversaries was a hallmark of this new form of conflict, one that required internal purges as much as external state strategy and military posturing. Political trials were a prominent feature in the "early, hot" phase of the Cold War and helped both the United States and the Soviet Union to "construct" the Cold War—each in opposition to its ideological and political other. This project seeks to compare and analyze four Cold War prosecutions as political trials within the larger context of the construction of the superpower conflict: the 1949 Rajk trial in Hungary, the 1952 Slánský trial in Czechoslovakia, as well as the 1949 Dennis trial and the 1951 Rosenberg-Sobell trial in the United States.

Yi Li
University of Macau
October – December 2024

The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in China: How to Compete and Cooperate from a Global Perspective
AI technologies are increasingly widespread as potent instruments that drive the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the digitalization of economies and societies, enhancing productivity. To mitigate the potential harm to society and security caused by this emerging technology, there is a joint effort to speed up the globe's regulation of AI. Global collaboration is essential for the effective governance of AI to prevent the defragmentation of international legal frameworks and conflicts between laws, while cooperation on AI safety ensures that the benefits of the technology can be harnessed responsibly for good and for all. Yi Li examines the existing regulations of AI in China and subsequently compares AI regulations in China, the EU, and the US. The project aims to establish the foundation for an in-depth national AI law in China and propose how China may capitalize on the chance to collaborate with nations globally and address the difficulties arising from AI.

Francesco Striano
University of Turin, Collège des Bernardins
October – December 2024

What Humanism for the Digital Age?
This project scrutinizes and questions digital humanism comparing two perspectives: one is represented by the Collège des Bernardins in France, and the other is based on the Vienna Manifesto. The aim is to create a framework for these perspectives, to compare them and to establish a dialogue between them. In doing so, the study focuses on two important case studies for which both perspectives have provided conceptual elaborations, namely digital citizenship and trustworthiness.

Maria Todorova
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
October 2024

The Balkans: Mission Possible
No, this is not a mistake. Intellectually obscene as it may sound, the titles of the IWM lectures in Human Sciences at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna were inspired by Mission Impossible, the Tom Cruise film series. And while, at my age, I cannot perform Cruise's physical stunts, even imagining the tricky mountainous terrain of the Balkans (and their trickier history) can often cause vertigo. Still, there is nothing comparable to looking down from a mountain peak in the Balkan mountains and I do have my stunts making the mission possible.

Maria Todorova will deliver the IWM Lectures in Human Sciences 2024.

Für Interviewanfragen kontaktieren Sie bitte iwm-pr@iwm.at.

Mehr Informationen zu unseren momentanen Visiting Fellows finden Sie hier.

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