



Neuankommende IWM Visiting Fellows im Januar 2025

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen heißt zum neuen Jahr sieben neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen willkommen: Nikola Bečanová, Albert Dikovich, Sámuel Gábor, Julia Golachowska, Artur Klinau, Robert Kostro und Martin Milan Šimečka. Sie verfolgen während ihrer Zeit am IWM die untenstehenden Projekte.



Nikola Bečanová

Charles University Prague

Januar – März 2025

Růžena Vacková as a Critic of the 1930s and early 1940s

In this project, Nikola Bečanová explores Růžena Vacková's (1901–1982) critical writings from the 1930s and 1940s, focusing on her contributions to *Národní střed* and contrasting them with her engagement in right-wing magazines. Central to her texts is the analysis of theater and her examination of Czech avant-garde art, which Bečanová will examine through the binary of organic and inorganic art.

Bečanová furthermore delves into her stance on feminism, along with her approach to ethics, which changed with the political situation in pre-World War II Europe. Ultimately, the aim is to contextualize her work within broader sociopolitical contexts and shed light on her overlooked contributions to Czech criticism.



Albert Dikovich

University of Konstanz

Januar 2025

Europe, Post-Europe, and the Pathic Limitation of the Political

The European project sees itself as Europe's lesson learned from the devastating mistakes of its own history. This lesson includes a particular sensitization to political violence and a break with traditions of thought and imaginaries that are seen as responsible for the violent excesses of the 20th century. The current war in Ukraine has plunged this self-understanding into a deep crisis. The

moral self-commitment to non-warlike political means and the imperatives of self-assertion appear to be incompatible. The project, drawing among others on Jan Patočka's political thought, aims to develop a phenomenologically inspired political-philosophical understanding of the normative significance of the catastrophes of the first half of the 20th century with the concept of the pathic limitation of the political. Furthermore, it aims to examine, from both a historical and a problem-oriented philosophical perspective, tensions arising from the contact and confrontation with the political outside world, but also inner processes of moral depletion in time regarding values and norms that are founded in the

traumatic experience of excessive violence. The former is subsumed under the term pathic difference—the fearful notion of a morally different constitution of the other. The latter is understood as a problem of political boredom.



Sámuel Gábor

Independent translator and researcher

März – Juni 2025

Karl Kerényi: Antike Religion [The Religion of the Greeks and Romans] (GER > HUN)

The offered project consists first of all of a translation into Hungarian of the book *Antike Religion* (revised edition, published in 1970) by the Hungarian-German classical scholar Karl Kerényi (1897, Temesvár, Transylvania – 1973, Kilchberg, Switzerland), and second, of a brief program of preliminary research. In a broader perspective, the

translation aims to promote Kerényi's work in his fatherland, Hungary, and through this to foster the Kerényian tradition of Hungarian humanistic scholarship.



Julia Golachowska

Jagiellonian University

Januar – April 2025

Phantom (Border)Lands in the Late Memory Boom

This project aims to investigate the role of nostalgia for the Borderlands (Kresy) in museums in eastern Poland. Julia Golachowska will analyze the Ludwik Zamenhof Center, Sybir Memorial Museum, and the Museum of the Eastern Borderlands. By conducting a critical analysis and creating a visual essay, Golachowska will approach the matter both academically and artistically, trying to imagine a potential memory narrative of the Borderlands that does not foster

revisionist discourses or idealize past multiculturalism. In doing so, she asks: What kind of story about the Borderlands is possible?



Artur Klinau

Author, publisher, screenwriter, and artist

Januar – März 2025

City of Utopia, City of Empire. Performative Practices of Power

This research project looks at how various social doctrines, specifically manifestations of "right" and "left" ideas, influenced the city, its aesthetics and urban planning concepts. The focus of research is on the Soviet city of the 1920s– 950s. The complexity and at the same time the uniqueness of this period derives from the fact that during

this time in Soviet history there was a turn from the City of Utopia of the 1920s to the concepts and practices of the City of Empire of the late 1930s–1950s. We can observe radical changes in urban concepts and aesthetics, the transition from the construction of a rhizomatic horizontal city to a strictly hierarchical vertical city. The 1920s started with the implementation of practices of "left" ideas, but already by the 1930s the Soviet system had

returned to societal practices of the “right.” While in theory this was seen as a continuity in the declaration of Utopian ideas, the reality began more and more to look like a fictional Reality—or Reality 2.0. The project will consider the Soviet city as performative practice of power and the most important element for building the scenery of a fictional Reality 2.0.



Robert Kostro

Editor and author

Januar – Februar 2025

New Historical Museums and Memory Wars in Poland

Over the past twenty years many new museums and memory institutions have been developed in Poland. The first significant initiative was the Warsaw Rising Museum opened in 2004. Several new museums have gained in national importance, including the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (POLIN) in Warsaw, the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk, the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk, and the Polish History Museum in Warsaw. While many of those projects have become the subject of public debate, a couple dozen lesser initiatives have also been launched by local or regional authorities. Robert Kostro’s project aims to elucidate the social and political circumstances that have led to the museum boom in Poland as well as to present these as various responses to important questions and challenges emerging both from internal Polish discussions as well as from international memory debates.



Martin Milan Šimečka

Author and journalist

Januar – März 2025

How to Live a Good Life in a Bad Regime

Liberal democracy is on the defensive and the number of authoritarian regimes is on the rise. Martin Milan Šimečka lives in Slovakia, where the extreme right is in power. There, many people are trying to preserve their freedom and dignity but at the same time they are frustrated by political developments and are worried about the future of society. It is basically an archetypal situation where a person is put to the test of courage and if they don't want to emigrate, they must find a way to live well in a bad regime with the hope that it won't last forever. But is it even possible to live a happy life in a bad regime? The author, with his personal experience of communism, is convinced that it is. Šimečka’s aim is not only to write a book about this experience but to try to generalize the basic principles that allow people in different countries to live as free and active citizens who give meaning to their lives. And such a life is usually a merry one.

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

Mehr Informationen zu unseren momentanen Visiting Fellows finden Sie [hier](#).

Rückfragehinweis:

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen

Content & PR Management

iwm-pr@iwm.at