



Neuankommende IWM Visiting Fellows im Februar 2025

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen heißt im Februar 2025 sieben neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen willkommen: Solmaz Khorsand, Julie Klinger, Klaudia Kuchno, Sofia Elena Merli, Gwendolyn Murphy, Vojtěch Pojar, und Ondřej Slačálek. Sie arbeiten während ihrer Zeit am IWM an den untenstehenden Projekten.



Solmaz Khorsand

Independent journalist
Februar – April 2025

The Potentially Fragile Future of Dual Citizenship

In her project “Legal Warriors”, Solmaz Khorsand aims to conduct a multiple case study on the dissident spirit among jurists. Khorsand presents the cases of these professionals in countries like Poland, Germany and certain diaspora communities in the UK, who are providing legal blueprints on how to prevent authoritarians from hollowing out democracies, like the organization “Verfassungsblog” in

Germany, or how to reestablish the rule of law in a Kafkaesque legal system without breaking the law, like in Poland after the fall of PiS in autumn 2023.



Julie Klinger

University of Delaware
Februar – Juni 2025

Critical Raw Materials and Competing Futures on Earth and in Space

Many human activities exceed the planetary scale, yet all are inescapably grounded in specific places and times. Whether we are discussing the energy transition, space exploration, warfare, or disaster recovery, these activities rely on hardware positioned on Earth or in space. Hardware is comprised of minerals, metals, and materials wrested from the Earth and transformed by human labor and their automated proxies. It would seem, then, that nearly all large-scale problems, and therefore nearly all solutions, rest on an extractive imperative. Yet the extractive imperative exacerbates many of the same problems it is invoked to solve. This apparent dilemma shapes the way diverse publics imagine and enact possible futures from within the current polycrises as they unfold across local and extra-planetary scales. It is therefore increasingly urgent to reconceptualize these sectorally—and often politically—distinct activities as materially linked in their shared and often conflicting needs for CRM; to connect these activities to labor, land use, and infrastructural regimes fundamental to their realization; and to interrogate the potential futures engendered by these regimes. Toward these ends, and as part of a substantial writing and public engagement

project centered at the IWM, Julie Michelle Klinger will conduct archival research, site visits, and interviews in Austria and greater Europe during the fellowship term.



Klaudia Kuchno

European University Institute, Fiesole
Februar – Mai 2025

What Did It Mean to Be “European” in Early Modern Florence?

The primary focus of this project is to understand how the idea of Europe was conceptualized in early modern Florence and to discern the place Poland-Lithuania occupied within this framework. Building on Clifford Geertz’s emphasis on thick description and by analyzing a wide variety of materials, including maps, political and geographical treaties, and correspondence, the project aims to discuss the following issues: What categories and values constituted the ideas of “Europe” and “shared civilization” in Florence? What similarities and differences between Poland-Lithuania and other countries were observed?



Sofia Elena Merli

Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa
Februar – Juni 2025

Post-Europe and the Ethos of Responsibility. Rethinking Europe since Jan Patočka and CEE’s dissidents

The aim of this research is to explore the relevance of Jan Patočka’s complex theorization of the concept of Post-Europe. Accepting its ethical and political appeal to rethink the continental unity with respect to its different forms of alterity and plurality, this study proposes to investigate the extent to which this concept can provide insights for a non-Eurocentric reformulation of the reality of Europe. Therefore, the purpose is to investigate how these reflections subsequently materialized in Patočka’s political militancy in Charta77, and at which level there are conceptual connections with the experiences of other CEE dissidents.



Gwendolyn Murphy

University of Delaware
Februar – Juni 2025

Theoretical Design and Implications of a Central ET-CRM Data Repository

This project builds on Dr. Julie Klinger’s foundational ETM Governance research by focusing on the ethical, suitability, and scalability implications of a Central ET-CRM Data Repository to enhance mineral transparency and tracking across the supply chain. The analysis will address technical feasibility along with broader design, implementation, and national adoption challenges with an emphasis on social, environmental, and governance impacts. Key activities include investigating systemic guardrails that encourage system adaptation to the needs and values of vulnerable populations and ecosystems, establishing

governance mechanisms for data sovereignty alongside corporate interests, and ensuring equitable narrative control over legality concerns, contested demarcations, and data usage contexts. Additionally, the project assesses safe storage and access to ETM units across all scales. Through these considerations, the project aims to lay the groundwork for an equitable and effective data governance framework for ECM resources to facilitate a sustainable global energy transition.



Vojtěch Pojar

American University of Central Asia, Bishkek
Februar – Juni 2025

Experts in Post-Imperial Transitions: Entanglements and Diverging Trajectories of Eugenicists between the Habsburg Empire and the Nation States, c. 1900–1939

The project proposes a new integrative narrative about the history of eugenics in Habsburg and post-Habsburg territories, interpreted through imperial and post-imperial lenses. Taking a transnational approach that emphasizes entanglements, it draws on a diverse set of archival and printed sources from 10 countries. The project thus aims to bridge the gap between the largely separated fields of Habsburg Studies and the history of eugenics in East Central Europe.



Ondřej Slačálek

Charles University, Prague
Februar – April 2025

The Transformation of Nationalism: A Theoretical Analysis

The project focuses on the key aspects of contemporary Western nationalism. While many considered the wars of the 1990s in the Balkans and the Caucasus to be the swan song of nationalism, the rise of nationalist politics in the 2010s and its continuing attractiveness makes it necessary to revise the theoretical tools we use to understand nationalism. The project is based on theoretical abstraction used to identify the basic traits of the new nationalisms in the contemporary West. As its point of departure it takes four key terms used to analyze nationalism, depicted in pairs: empire (and colony), decline (and revival), culture wars (and moral panics) and belonging (between individualism and civilizationalism). The analysis will consider how their meaning has changed in ways relevant to the theoretical analysis of nationalism.

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

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Rückfragehinweis:

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