



Neuankommende IWM Visiting Fellows im April 2025

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM) heißt im April acht neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen willkommen: Hans Akkermans, Paulina Ciucka, Franziska Davies, Nino Gozalishvili, Christopher R. Hill, Sophia Korn, Stefan Meister und Ayobami Onanuga. Während ihrer Zeit am IWM verfolgen sie folgende Projekte.



Hans Akkermans

Web alliance for Regreening in Africa (W4RA) and University for Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana
April 2025

Digital Transformation and Global Development: Decolonizing the Future

Digital Humanism addresses the social, ethical, and policy-making issues of the ongoing worldwide digital transformation. As such, it is and aims to be global. Digital Humanism's cultural, ethical, and philosophical roots are clearly (North)Western, as they directly refer to the (European) Renaissance Humanism and the (European/American) Enlightenment. These are undeniably important and valuable traditions; to be truly global, however, we must consider and include other important human-centered traditions in the world. One example, among many others, is African philosophy and ethics such as expressed in ubuntu. We are currently facing an unholy alliance of BigTech companies and governments in different countries trying to shape our digital future in a rather authoritarian way. As a response, we need to build such a concept of global citizenship that democratizes digital technologies and is founded on many different traditions that can help make the world a better place.



Paulina Ciucka

Independent translator
April – Juni 2025

Aneta Anra: Jehudit. Pasaulis galėtų būti toks gražus [Jehudit. How Beautiful the World Could Be] (LIT > POL)

The aim of the project is to translate Aneta Anra's book into Polish. *Jehudit* is a documented story about the Shoah, told from the point of view of two women in their declining years: a Holocaust survivor and a Polish savior of Lithuanian Jews. Today, in the face of a new war, this double testimony is particularly poignant. Thanks to the author's Lithuanian perspective, Polish readers can enrich their knowledge of World War II with previously little-known themes and contexts.



Franziska Davies

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
April – Juni 2025

Beyond Empire: Poland, Ukraine, and the End of Moscow's Hegemony in Central Eastern Europe, 1980-1991

When telling the story of the end of the Soviet Union, the focus is still mostly on events in Russia and Moscow. How much democratic movements in the “peripheries” of the Soviet Union and the “Eastern Bloc” contributed or were even crucial for the disintegration of communism is still under-appreciated, not only in historiography but in

particular in Western memory culture. One example is the developments in Poland and Ukraine in the 1980s. The success of Polish solidarity in 1980 not only laid bare the shaky foundations of state socialism in Poland, it also indirectly challenged Moscow's hegemony in Central Eastern Europe. In this period, Polish dissidents and solidarity activists also began to discover Ukraine from a different perspective, namely, as a country that had suffered under Russian imperialism just like Poland had, and advocated for a reconciliation with Ukrainians. To reconstruct how these Polish events influenced the re-emergence of the anti-Soviet national movement in Ukraine is one of the aims of Franziska Davies' book. When Peredubova, the Ukrainian variant of Perestroika, emerged a few years later, this ultimately led to Kyiv's declaration of independence in 1991, which turned out to be the final nail in the coffin of the Soviet Union.



Nino Gozalishvili

The University of Georgia (UG) / Central European University (CEU)
April – Juni 2025

An Anti-Nationalist Organic Wholeness? Walter Benjamin and the Body of Humankind at the Turn of the 1920s

This study sheds light on the multidimensionality of contemporary far-right mobilization, examining how digital pathways facilitate the intersection of local and transnational narratives. The project aims to uncover the

underlying mechanisms of digital recruitment, the fluid dynamics between supporters and media platforms, and the global influences shaping far-right movements in the Georgian context. By focusing on the case of Georgia, the study contributes to a broader understanding of far-right mobilization strategies in Eastern European contexts, where youth engagement with these ideologies is increasingly visible.



Christopher R. Hill

Former Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Serbia

April – Mai 2025

The Balkans: Thirty Years after the Dayton Peace Accords

The Dayton Peace Accords, which were reached in November 1995, remain the seminal peace process in the post-Cold War, post-Yugoslav era. Ambassador Hill, himself a member of the U.S. delegation, plans to examine the talks from the perspective of the subsequent decades, what went right in ending the Bosnian War, and what changes should be considered to enhance the prospect for security and prosperity for future generations in the Western Balkans. During his time at the IWM, Ambassador Hill will interview those who were present at the talks, as well as region key players in the intervening years. He will examine Bosnia's current problems, its political and economic makeup, and the continued elusive inter-ethnic cooperation that has hindered the country's perspectives. In interviews with participants of the Dayton Peace Agreement, he will deliberate on what went right, and what the framers of the Accords believe could have been done better.



Sophia Korn

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

April – Juni 2025

Rabbi Nachman: Sipurei Maasiyot [The Tales of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav] (YID > UKR)

This project is a translation of *The Tales of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav* from Yiddish into Ukrainian, with a foreword for the Ukrainian readership. Rabbi Nachman (1772–1810) was a Ukrainian tzadik, the founder of Bratslav Hasidism. His *Tales* were transcribed by his disciple, scribe, and successor, Rabbi Nathan Sternhartz, in Yiddish. Rabbi Nathan translated them into Hebrew and published them in both languages in 1815–1816, including an introduction, prefaces, and commentaries by Nathan, along with additional lessons by Nachman.



Stefan Meister

German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

April – Juni 2025

The End of Russian Hegemony: Changing Regional Order in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia

This research and book project will investigate the end of Russian hegemony in the post-Soviet region as a result of the Russian large-scale war against Ukraine. This war has accelerated the decline of the Russian regional and global positioning, and will lead to new regional orders in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. Because of the focus on the war against Ukraine, Russia is lacking the resources to be the key security actor in its post-Soviet

neighborhoods. In terms of its economic, technological, and demographic competitiveness it is a country in decline. This is a crucial trend for the European security order as well as the competition between authoritarian and democratic norm setting. We see with China, Turkey, Iran but also the EU other actors becoming more active in these regions. New regional orders are in the making which will lead to more regional instability, transactionalism as well as changing coalitions.



Ayobami Onanuga

Independent researcher

April – Juni 2025

Female Sexual Agency, Liberatory Advocacies, and the Digital Space in Nigerian Online YouTube Platforms

Deriving from two crucial observations: (1) that a strong “archival impulse,” a phrase Hal Foster uses to describe a compulsive inclination to record or document experiences, characterizes online practices surrounding gender and sexuality among African netizens; and (2) that this archival impulse highlights the failures of gender and sexuality

struggles in Africa, Onanuga’s project broadly explores contemporary Nigerian online archive-making practices in relation to gender and sexuality. She will focus on the works of Nigerian social media influencers and gender/sexuality activists and approach their work as forms of archival art or culture.

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

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

Rückfragehinweis:

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