



## Neuankommende Visiting Fellows des IWM im April 2026

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen begrüßt diesen Monat sieben neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen. Mehr Informationen über die im April ankommenden Fellows und ihre Projekte finden Sie auf unserer Website. Für Interviewanfragen kontaktieren Sie bitte [iwm-pr@iwm.at](mailto:iwm-pr@iwm.at).



### **Khalid Bencherif**

Independent investigative journalist

*April – June 2026*

### **The Lost Oasis**

This project explores the human impact of climate change through Morocco's disappearing oases of Tafilalt, interweaving personal narrative with investigative journalism to document how environmental degradation intersects with social inequality. Beginning with the author's intimate connection to Tafilalt, the narrative chronicles how rising temperatures and persistent drought are transforming this ancient landscape while serving as a microcosm of global climate injustice. The investigation combines personal storytelling from the author's knowledge of oasis life with extensive research across Morocco, Africa, the Middle East, and European communities, gathering stories of climate displacement, adaptation, and resilience.



### **Richard Cockett**

The Economist, London

*April – May 2026*

## **The Intellectual Roots of the Global Turn to the Hard Right—The European Dimension**

This project will focus on the history of the populist right. During his stay in Vienna, Richard Cockett will paying particular attention to the roots of the populist-right movement in Europe—specifically Austria, Hungary, Italy, and Germany. His longer-term intention is to produce a book on the populist right as a global phenomenon, so he will also be studying similar movements in Russia, the UK, the US, India, and selected Latin American countries. While Cockett’s project is primarily an intellectual history that analyzes and chronicles the evolution of those ideas that have formed and shaped these populist-right movements, he will also consider the political and sociological contexts.



**Naja Dyrendom Graugaard**

University of Copenhagen

*April 2026*

## **Land, Body, and Healing in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland)**

During her fellowship at IWM, Naja Dyrendom Graugaard will be working on a research project that examines the relations between land, body, and healing in the Arctic, with a specific focus on coastal communities in Kalaallit Nunaat. This project springs from the cross-Arctic EU-project “Birgejupmi – Bridging knowledge systems for inclusive, resilient and prosperous Arctic coastal futures,” in which Graugaard leads a work package on “Coastscape Relationalities” and Indigenous approaches to “One Health.” As part of this research, the project seeks to center Inuit terminologies and epistemologies of land, body, and healing as central to the creation of culturally appropriate, ethical, and trauma-responsive approaches to Indigenous research.



**Milorad Ivanovic**

BIRN Serbia, Belgrade

*April – June 2026*

## **The Geopolitics of False Narratives: Decoding Serbia and Russia's Emotional Alliance**

This project investigates the emotional manipulation underpinning the relationship between Serbia and Russia, challenging the prevailing myth of an unshakable Slavic-Orthodox brotherhood. Drawing on narrative analysis, open-source intelligence, and emotional geopolitics, the research reveals how false narratives—rooted in nostalgia, humiliation, and defiance—are weaponized to shape public perception and foreign policy. From obscure YouTube disinformation campaigns to staged diplomatic spectacles, the project uncovers the hidden mechanics of geopolitical storytelling. While officially, Serbia balances carefully between East and West, emotionally charged propaganda continues to tether its public imagination to Moscow.



**Matteo Nebbiai**

King's College London

*April – June 2026*

## **The EU in a Weaponized Digital World: A Network Analysis**

In today's interconnected world, technological networks can be weaponized by countries that control their most critical nodes—such as social media platforms or semiconductor manufacturers. This project investigates which digital networks are likely to become the next sources of vulnerability for the EU. The research proceeds in three stages: first, qualitative sources (academic and policy papers) are scraped to identify networks that are gaining strategic relevance; second, public data is used to quantitatively model these networks; and third, social network analysis is applied to determine which of them could be weaponized against the EU.



**Thomas Seifert**

Journalist, filmmaker, and lecturer

*April 2026*

## **Resilience, Resistance, Revolt: Cultural Resilience in Belgrade, Chisinau, Kyiv, and Tbilisi**

This project explores how urban creators in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and Serbia sustain cultural spaces amid brain drain, authoritarianism, and war. Through interviews and multimedia storytelling, Thomas Seifert examines how underground venues—techno clubs, art collectives, community centers—function as (temporary) autonomous zones fostering democratic resilience in Kyiv, Tbilisi, Belgrade, and Chisinau. While it is focused on four capital cities that share common characteristics—high youth emigration and deep political crises, the project addresses broader European questions about cultural identity and the development of civil society in times of crisis.



### **John C. Swanson**

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

*April - June 2026*

## **Lili's World: Lili Jacob, Bilky, and the Auschwitz Album**

The aim of this project is to write a triple biography of Lili Jacob (the woman who found the Auschwitz Album in 1945), her home village of Bilky (formerly in Hungary, now part of modern-day Ukraine), and the album itself (which contains the only photographs of Jews arriving at Auschwitz-Birkenau). This is a kind of microhistory, an investigation of life on a local level through the voices of specific individuals, places, and things. John C. Swanson's documents, images, conversations, and experiences allow him to complicate as well as complement more established narratives of the Holocaust, Eastern and Central Europe, and the modern world.

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### **Rückfragehinweis:**

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