



## Neuankommende Visiting Fellows des IWM im Februar 2026

Das Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen begrüßt diesen Monat acht neue Gastwissenschaftler:innen, die während ihres Aufenthalts die untenstehenden Forschungsprojekte verfolgen. Wir freuen uns insbesondere, Věra Jourová, frühere Vizepräsidentin der Europäischen Kommission, als ersten Karel-Schwarzenberg-Fellow des IWM willkommen zu heißen. Für Presseanfragen kontaktieren Sie bitte [iwm-pr@iwm.at](mailto:iwm-pr@iwm.at).



### **Manuela Boatcă**

Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg  
*February – March 2026*

#### **Racialization and Enslavement in Interimperial Moldavias**

For over 500 years, Roma were enslaved on the territory of today's Romania as part of a labor regime with an elaborate infrastructure. In focusing on the historical region where Romani enslavement endured, Moldavia in today's Romania and the independent republic of Moldova, or "interimperial Moldavias", this project aims to contribute to relational histories of race regionally (by linking the racialization of Roma and Jewish populations) and on a global scale (by folding East European histories of race into de/colonial histories).



### **Georgi Georgiev**

Central European University, Vienna  
*February – June 2026*

#### **Parallel Monitoring: Intellectual Approaches to Radio and Digital Wartime Propaganda**

The project compares intellectual debates on the use of cutting-edge technologies in wartime propaganda. After invading Ukraine in 2022, Russia mobilized bots and AI for disinformation, while back in the heyday of broadcasting, Nazi Germany developed a comprehensive radio system. Both phenomena have stimulated numerous scholarly publications and investigative reports. A diachronic analysis of works on coercion through new forms of communication enhances our understanding of novelties, overlooked patterns, dangers, and constraints within digital propaganda.



**Nigel Inkster**

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS),  
London

*February 2026*

**Concepts of Humanity in an Age of AGI**

The world is witnessing a race toward the realization of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), a term that lacks an agreed-upon definition but is broadly understood to refer to an Artificial Intelligence system able to perform all human cognitive functions, as well as or better than human beings. The race is being driven by US technology giants and their Chinese

counterparts, in the belief that whoever gets there first will define the future evolution of humankind. This study examines US and Chinese thinking on these dilemmas, drawing on both official pronouncements and policy documents and the views of policy-relevant scholarship.



**Věra Jourová**

Politician and lawyer, former Vice-President of the  
European Commission

*February 2026*

**New Challenges, Trends, and Uncertainty: How Will Society Adapt?**

The current era confronts us with a number of unprecedented new challenges, trends, and a high level of uncertainty. Powerful factors like climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and digital transformation require our society to adapt extremely fast—something that will inevitably produce societal

shocks. These factors are having a severe influence on every aspect of our lives—on individuals and society as a whole. Many questions remain unanswered; a clearly articulated, forward-looking vision is urgently needed. Turning back the clock is not an option. While top-down regulation plays a role, it cannot be the sole solution. It is up to society to switch on its self-protective instincts and activate civic engagement. Is that realistic? When and how? Who will be the main drivers of the changes, and in which direction?



**Sašo Ordanoski**

Center for Strategic Research and Documentation,  
Skopje

*February – November 2026*

**Justice Denied as a Key Failure of Post-Autocratic  
Democratic Reforms: A Case Study of the  
Macedonian Special Prosecutor's Office**

The issue of organized crime and corruption arguably remains the greatest stumbling block in convincing the European Union to expand into the Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine. One of the most serious attempts to address these issues in recent years was the establishment in 2015 of the Macedonian Special Public Prosecutor's Office (Специјално јавно обвинителство, SJO). Over a four-year period, the SJO raised hopes that the then Republic of Macedonia would engage in a sustained campaign to uncover the extent of malfeasance and manipulation at the heart of the political process. The demise of the SJO is a critical case study. Its very creation threatened to pull up the deep roots that corrupt networks have put down over the past 30 years.



**Emilia Siczka**

Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

*February – May 2026*

**Between Floating and Empty Signifiers in the Post-  
Transition Discourse on 'Solidarity' (1989-2024)**

This project sets out to analyze recent conceptual makeovers in political and academic discourse that have appropriated Poland's Solidarity movement in the service of various specific agendas, despite its former heterogeneity. Emilia Siczka argues that after the fall of communism, this heterogeneity gave way to discursive practices in which the reimagined and politically reappropriated causes of Solidarity became a point of reference through which the "transformation" of 1989 was assessed, an empty signifier to be instrumentalized in a political competition.



**Michael Stewart**

University College London

*February – April 2026*

**According to the Nature of That Race': The Persecution and Murder of Europe's Roma and Sinti**

Michael Stewart is currently completing a comprehensive history of the persecution of Europe's Romany peoples from 1933-1945 and the campaigns for restitution and acknowledgement which followed.

Stewart's book treats the diverse forms of persecution neither as the unfolding of a central plan nor of structural features of Nazi rule, but rather the coming together of utopian ideas of a *Volksgemeinschaft* with the apparatus of the modern nation state. From the Romany point of view, this was a holocaust of their families, and Stewart attempts to provide both a history of this persecution and an understanding of how it was experienced by the Roma and Sinti. Austria—where Roma were described as “gravediggers of the Nordic blood”—was a central site of this persecution, with nearly 90% of the country's Romany population eliminated by 1945.



**Hanna Yankuta**

Independent researcher, writer, translator, and literary theorist

*February – April 2026*

**Nostalgia for the Unknown: Polish-Speaking Émigré Writers from the Belarusian Lands and their Reflections on Identity and Home**

The project focuses on the works of émigré writers born in the Belarusian lands (the area occupied by modern-day Belarus) at the turn of the 20th century and who considered themselves Poles, as well as their reflections on their own identity and sense of belonging to their native region. They include Jerzy Giedroyc (born in Minsk), Florian Czarnyszewicz (born near Klichau), and Melchior Wańkiewicz (born in Kalyuzhytsa in the Minsk region), among others. The works and biographies of these individuals have never been considered in a Belarusian context, since their names were erased from Belarusian history during the Soviet period.

**Rückfragehinweis:**

Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen

Jakob Angeli

Content & PR Manager

+43-1-313-58-207

[iwm-pr@iwm.at](mailto:iwm-pr@iwm.at)

[www.iwm.at](http://www.iwm.at)