

Collegium Helveticum Fellow Year 21/22

The background features a minimalist, abstract design. It consists of a large white rectangular area on the left and a large black rectangular area on the right. These two areas are separated by a vertical white line. Scattered across the entire composition are numerous circles of varying sizes. Some circles are solid black, while others are solid white. There are also several circles that are partially overlapping, creating a layered effect. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and geometric.

Fellow Year 21/22



ETH zürich



**Universität
Zürich** UZH



hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts

The design concept of this annual report diverges playfully from the Collegium's corporate design concept to acknowledge that each fellowship year is unique. The Collegium puts the fellows and their projects first and supports them individually. However, over the course of the year, the fellows and their projects coalesce into a community of shared interests. This overlap is reflected in the collages in the middle of the annual report. We hope you enjoy the visual design by ROLE Studio and the written content in equal measure.

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Editorial

The first year of the new international fellowship program at the Collegium Helveticum was a huge success. The diverse mix of people—in terms of their backgrounds, career stages, disciplines, and the like—was truly inspirational and generated a productive working atmosphere. Taking the contentment, engagement, and dedication of fellows and staff as early indicators of success, the new fellowship program seems to have really struck a nerve. Given that the Collegium is committed to putting its fellows first, their feedback is important for us. Recently, a Zurich-based former fellow of the Collegium returned to the Semper Observatory as an associate fellow of the visiting academic he hosts. For the visiting academic, as she pointed out, the opportunity to apply for a senior fellowship at the Collegium was an important additional incentive to come to Zurich. Her associate fellow confirmed that the interdisciplinary exchange at the Collegium altered the trajectory of his research and led to several fresh publications in this new field.

The first year of the new fellowship program was a leap of faith for the Collegium. So I was exceedingly pleased that the feedback from last year's fellows was overwhelmingly positive. There is one statement that I keep on the whiteboard in my office: “academia as it should be.” While I agree with the sentiment, what the Collegium can offer is merely a necessary addition to the busy work in the labs, seminars, studios, and classrooms. What we provide at the Collegium is a limited period of protected time, and a space that invites exchange across disciplines and fields of research. It feels good to see how the fellows at the Collegium make the best use of these resources by engaging in open-ended and cross-disciplinary conversations, and I am often amazed at the unexpected ideas and surprising connections between projects.

The Collegium provides a conducive space for international colleagues to rethink their work and find new lines of inquiry. In that sense, the former observatory offers a space for dialog between different cultures, disciplines, and generations, nurturing that most important resource: diversity. The Collegium serves in some sense as a fallow field within the academic ecosystem, an interstitial space between

ploughed fields which both contributes to the health of the surrounding crops and ensures the conditions for the ecosystem in general to flourish. As do the growing number of institutes of advanced study around the globe, the Collegium contributes to fostering the diversity which alone can ensure the future sustainability and productivity of the academic ecosystem. The experience of my first months as director, together with the expertise of the German Wissenschaftsrat, suggest that institutes for advanced studies like the Collegium constitute indispensable residual spaces in the academic ecosystem of the 21st century.

We were lucky enough to make a temporary intellectual home for a wonderful and thriving community of fellows and guests who were inspired by their time at the Semper Observatory. The fellows served as interlocutors for each other, as did many colleagues at our supporting universities in Zurich. Having moved on or returned to their home institutions, they are now in many ways ambassadors, creating an international network both for the Collegium and for our three supporting universities. Some of the junior fellows found positions at the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, further strengthening the local links. As director of the Collegium, I certainly had mixed feelings when it came time for the fellows to move on. However, a new community of fellows is already emerging, continuing to make the Collegium a home for exchanging new ideas, and I take pleasure in observing how the curiosity of our fellows allows them to transcend disciplinary boundaries.

In return, the Collegium asks its fellows to contribute to the cultural and intellectual life of Zurich by convening workshops, symposia, conferences, or exhibitions. With the help of our fellows, partners, and staff, the Collegium was able to host more than 100 events throughout the 2021/22 fellowship year. These events not only turned out to be central to the fellows' projects but also served as further opportunities for dialog, and were perceived as a very welcome addition to the local academic calendar. In May of 2022, the Collegium was able to entice the formidable Princeton historian Michael Gordin to deliver the annual Ludwik Fleck Lecture. Michael offered intriguing insights into his highly topical work on pseudoscience and made a convincing case for how to rethink the status of science in the age of alternative facts and fake news. There

is no doubt that artists, scholars, and scientists feel a sense of responsibility to engage with the public in novel ways. This is one of the many topics that keeps coming back in discussions and conversations between fellows.

The precious academic and intellectual freedom we can provide for our fellows is also a constant reminder of those colleagues in less privileged or precarious political situations. As such, we are committed to helping protect scholars under threat and to promoting the unconditional freedom to think, ask critical questions, and share ideas. For this reason, the Collegium Helveticum followed the example of its supporting institutions and joined the Scholars at Risk network. Our new managing director took the initiative and invited Zurich-based scholars at risk to a gathering at the observatory. We listened to what they had to say and tried to find out how we could provide additional support for at least some of them. Over the summer, the Collegium Helveticum was ultimately able to secure funds from two foundations to support up to three scholars at risk as part of its fellowship program in the near future.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Collegium Helveticum. We celebrated the occasion with members of the three supporting institutions, former fellows, and staff. One of the members of the advisory board, Sir Charles Godfray, was kind enough to give a lecture on the role of institutes for advanced study in interdisciplinary research. The members of the Collegium's governing board, Marijke Hoogenboom (ZHdK), Detlef Günther (ETH), and Elisabeth Stark (UZH) shared their perspectives. I am truly grateful that Elisabeth gave us permission to make her speech available in this report, in which she looks back on the past twenty-five years of cross-disciplinary exchange in the former Semper Observatory. For me, hearing all the different experiences of the Collegium provided an opportunity to realize that what we are trying to achieve today combines elements of these different eras. In that sense, I am delighted that the Collegium continues to remain a place of research and conversation between the arts and the sciences, across all disciplinary boundaries.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who made this year both a pleasure and a success. First, I want to thank the Collegium's governing board and the leadership of ETH, UZH, and ZHdK for their trust and

continued commitment to, and support of, Zurich's institute for advanced study. I also want to thank the members of the advisory board for the time they give the Collegium to provide feedback and make suggestions. I know how precious their time is. I could not have fulfilled my task as director without the help of the Collegium's team. Christian Ritter, who was so instrumental in getting the new program off the ground, moved on to a new role as Vice Dean and Head of Interdisciplinarity and Transformation at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. With Mario Wimmer as the new managing director, we found someone who immediately understood what makes the institute tick. Mick Lehmann joined the team focusing on communications and community management. Andrea Truttmann, together with two interns—Eva Meier and Ella Oetiker (2021–22) and Lily-Marie Beyeler and Jessica Mani (2022–23)—worked hard to keep the administration and event planning running smoothly. Thank you all! And of course, all of this would be nothing without the fellows, who make the Collegium such a wonderful place, one that bridges gaps between disciplines and institutions, and where people and ideas meet.

Sebastian Bonhoeffer

Fellow Year 21/22



ALICE ALIPOUR senior fellow

“The merger of different fields across the body of senior and junior fellows allowed me to get exposed to topics that I would have never come across in such depth.”

SOFIA FORSS junior fellow

“The opportunity to organize an event that I designed myself and which corresponded to my research interests was highly useful. I will most likely write a grant application with some of the researchers I was able to invite and connect with.”

SUJEET GEORGE junior fellow

“The opportunity to work and research independently while receiving all the support you need, in particular to organize an event of your choice is extremely valuable for personal development and academic careers.”

MICHAEL MURRELL senior fellow

“It was an extremely enriching intellectual experience at the Collegium and brought significant excitement to my visiting position at the ETH Zurich.”

PANKAJ PANKAJ senior fellow

“I particularly enjoyed attending workshops in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, and those that bridged the disciplinary divide. I believe that some will be helpful in developing a holistic attitude for the research I conduct.”

BÉNÉDICTE SAVOY senior fellow

“Trans- and interdisciplinarity are essential components of my work, so I very much appreciated the friendly and open way of talking to each other at the Collegium.”

ARKADIUSZ WUDARSKI senior fellow

“The Collegium performs a very important integrating function and becomes an intellectual home for foreign researchers. I was captivated by the hospitality and warmth of the Collegium, but also by the uniqueness of the people I met there.”

Fellows First

As the joint institute for advanced studies of ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts, the Collegium Helveticum is committed to putting its fellows first. We offer academics and artists an inspiring and international environment in the historic Semper Observatory where they can work on their individual research projects and exchange ideas across disciplines.

As members of the Collegium community, fellows are actively involved in academic life and have ample opportunities for interdisciplinary dialog around their projects. The Collegium offers three fellowship types: junior fellows are postdoctoral researchers or art school graduates at an equivalent stage in their career; senior fellows are established artists or academics visiting one of the three supporting institutions; and associate fellows act as academic partners for both junior and senior fellows at one of the three supporting universities. As faculty members at one of these institutions, they support the fellowship application. In addition, they help junior and senior fellows to establish contacts within academic and artistic circles in Zurich.

Roadmaps fellows

Place of birth ● — Previous/home research institution ● Collegium Helveticum



Disciplines

- Architecture
- General linguistics
- Creative economy
- Phonetics
- Composition
- Peace and conflict studies
- History and theory of architecture
- Phonetics and speech sciences
- Cultural history and visual culture
- Science studies
- Musicology
- Social anthropology
- Cultural analysis
- Philosophy
- Classics and political science
- Literature and cultural studies
- Brazilian literature
- Environmental chemistry
- Art history
- Linguistics
- History
- Evolutionary anthropology
- Business administration
- Philosophy
- Media studies
- International law
- Latin american studies
- Private law
- Public law
- Musicology
- Environmental chemistry
- Construction management
- Environmental studies
- Innovative and industrial construction
- Climate geology
- Chemistry
- Civil engineering
- Fluid dynamics
- Biomedical engineering
- Ecological plant genetic
- Computational biomechanics
- Organic geochemistry
- Civil engineering





Sofia Forss



Tea Lobo

Junior fellows

Junior fellows are early-career researchers and artists working in academic or artistic disciplines at postdoctoral or equivalent level for art school graduates. In the 2021/22 fellowship year, the Collegium was able to host nine fellows from diverse backgrounds, visiting from both Swiss and international universities, including the Collegium's supporting universities. Junior fellows are free to pursue their individual projects as proposed in their applications. In addition, they are invited to convene a meeting, organize an event, or make use of the Collegium's exhibition space, and thus make an independent contribution to the academic and artistic program at the Collegium.

Sofia Forss



Born 1981 in Jakobstad, FI
PhD: University of Zurich, CH (2016)
Evolutionary anthropology

Sofia's research focuses on what makes animals explorative and creative, thus increasing their ability to innovate. Her broad expertise includes experimental work exploring animal minds both in their natural environments and in captivity. Sofia was awarded a place in the 2020 Diverse Intelligences Summer Institute, and the Early Career Award 2022 by the Einstein Foundation. In September 2022, Sofia created her own research team at the University of Zurich funded by an SNSF Ambizione Grant.

With this cross-disciplinary workshop on curiosity, perception, and learning, Sofia brought together experts from the fields of animal cognition, philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, and computational cognition to explore the many facets, motivations, and systems of information-processing behind curiosity.

Sujeet George



Born 1987 in Mumbai, IN
PhD: ETH Zurich, CH (2021)
History

Before his PhD, Sujeet did a BA in English literature at Mumbai University, an MA in cultural studies in Hyderabad, and an MPhil at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences in Calcutta. His research interests include histories of science and imperialism, the processes and politics of knowledge-making in the digitization of natural history collections, along with the development of the ecological sciences in colonial and postcolonial South Asia.



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Beyond Human Curiosity:
A Transdisciplinary View

Curiosity has been studied mainly using language-based tasks, and therefore existing knowledge about curiosity thus far excludes both infants and non-humans. As part of an interdisciplinary research team, Sofia's fellowship project at the Collegium reviewed how curiosity has been formalized by philosophers and psychologists, and why ignoring animal cognition prevents behavioral measurements of the traits necessary to explain evolutionary continuity as well as developmental trajectories in human infancy.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ADRIAN JÄGGI, Professor at the Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, UZH.

WORKSHOP, March 31–April 1, 2022
The Cabinet of Curiosity



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
The Herbarium as Historical
Memory: Chronicling Plant
Science in the Present

Sujeet's project conceptualized the herbarium as a dynamic storehouse of both knowledge production and historical memory. This project delved into the emerging discipline of plant humanities by examining the collections of the United Herbaria Z+ZT, the herbarium of the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich. The term "plant humanities" emphasizes the mutually beneficial possibilities of aligning the methodologies and research imperatives of natural scientists and historians. Sujeet focused specifically on plant transfers from South Asia to Europe in the nineteenth century. This story of the relationship between plants, people, and the larger natural world highlighted the multifaceted development of the discipline of botany and the role of Switzerland within European colonialism.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ALEX WIDMER, Professor at the Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zurich.

CONFERENCE, June 13–14, 2022
Situating Knowledge:
Natural History Collections
in the Digital Age

Using the digitization of millions of natural history collections (NHC) as an entry point, the conference aimed to initiate a dialogue across disciplines to foreground the multi-sited nature that has determined the complex geographies of NHCs. While current research around NHCs has invariably circulated within specific disciplines, the conference emphasized the immense potential of cross-disciplinary pollination.

Tea Lobo



Born 1984 in Belgrade, RS
PhD: University of Fribourg, CH (2017)
Comparative literature

Before joining the Collegium, Tea was a junior fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg in Bern and a Holcim Foundation fellow at ETH Zurich. She is a member of the Philosophy of the City research group, received the Elisabeth and

Werner Leinfellner Award in 2016, and was short-listed for the British Society of Aesthetics Essay Prize in 2020. Tea is currently a postdoctoral researcher affiliated with the Chair for Practical Philosophy at ETH Zurich.

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
The City and the Wild

Cities have traditionally been imagined as distanced from nature, based on a fundamental opposition between the city and the wild. This dichotomy hinders our ability to view the city as an ecosystem and to conceive of urban nature as a political space. During the tenure of her fellowship, Tea worked on a book manuscript that investigates philosophically how cities can be imagined as wild, and the political consequences of such an imaginary.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW MICHAEL HAMPE, Professor for Philosophy at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.



WORKSHOP, April 11, 2022
The City and the Wild

The increasing recognition of cities' potential for biodiversity together with the social inclusion associated with green commons makes cities an interesting subject of study for ecologists who have traditionally focused on "untouched" wilderness. This workshop brought together practitioners and scholars working in philosophy, urban ecology, urban studies, architecture, literature, history, the arts, and cultural studies to discuss cities and urban nature.

Medinat Abdulazeez Malefakis



Born 1988 in Kaduna, NG
PhD: Nigerian Defence Academy, NG (2018)
International studies

Medinat is an academic and policy expert on violent conflicts and peacebuilding. Before joining the Collegium, she was an information analyst

at the Norwegian Refugee Council, a research fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, and a junior researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle. Medinat currently sits as a member of the Independent Review Panel for the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva and holds a senior researcher position at the NADEL-Center for Development and Cooperation at ETH Zurich.



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Conflict Catalyst and
Peacebuilding Tool?
DigitalTechnology in Nigeria’s
Conflict Landscape

In recent years, digital technologies such as social media have become central tools in the organization of social movements and the communication of conflicts. Medinat’s project scrutinized the use of digital technologies in Nigeria to analyze how the role of digital technologies can be transformed from catalysts of social conflicts into peacebuilding tools. The project consisted of case studies of two social movements in Nigeria, namely the #ENDSARS movement and the Boko Haram terrorist insurgency. Medinat investigated the extent to which digital technologies can be used to identify the best peacebuilding approaches, as well as how extremist ideologies might be countered using digital technologies.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ANNUSKA DERKS, Associate
Professor in the Department of Social Anthropology, UZH.

SYMPOSIUM, June 7, 2022
Digital Technologies, Conflict,
and Social Change

This symposium promoted exchange about practitioners’ use of digital technologies in conflict and conflict management, as well as in social change, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and mediation, prevention, and countering of violent extremism. Representatives from UNDP, swisspeace, Search for Common Ground, Citizen Lab, United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Mercy Corps, Peace Tech Lab, Action Aid, and many others responded to Medinat’s invitation and contributed to the discussion.

Freideriki Michailidou



Born 1991 in Ioannina, GR
PhD: University of St Andrews,
UK (2016)
Chemistry

Following a postdoctoral fellowship at WWU Münster, Frida joined ETH Zurich as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow in 2019. She has recently been nominated as a “ChemBio Talent” by ChemBioChem (Wiley) and was a participant in the 71st Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting and the Global Young Scientists Summit. In addition, she received the STARTUP CAMPUS award for innovative entrepreneurship in the field of fragrance development.



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Sustainable Perfumes: Bridging
Biocatalysis, Toxicology,
and Consumer Behavior

In nature, odorants play a primordial role in the survival, communication, and evolution of species. As a result, perfumes have been an integral part of societies for millennia. Today, environmental and safety considerations necessitate innovation and transdisciplinary initiatives to address the need for novel, sustainable, and safe fragrances that will be embraced by consumers. Frida’s project aimed at developing biocatalytic platforms for the efficient and environmentally friendly production of novel fragrance ingredients. She assessed the safety of the fragrances using in-vitro testing, as well as investigating how consumer perception and art can play a role in the adoption of these technologies by society.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW SHANA STURLA, Professor of
Toxicology in the Department of Health Sciences and Technology, ETH Zurich.

SYMPOSIUM, April 28, 2022
Fragrance Today: Science,
Art, and Society

Driven by environmental and safety considerations as well as the social perception of fragrances, the development of innovative technologies for sustainable and novel fragrance production and safety assessments is shaping future directions in the fragrance sector. Frida



Medinat
Abdulazeez
Malefakis

Freideriki Michailidou

organized this symposium to explore the interdisciplinary dimensions of contemporary fragrances by bringing together perfumers, chemists, biotechnologist, art historians, and social scientists.

on a book manuscript about the 1927 film *Entstehung von Wirbeln bei Wasserströmungen*. Together, they traced the 100-year history of this film through different disciplines and contexts, from fluid dynamics to art.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW MICHAEL HAGNER, Professor at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Sarine WaltenSpül



Born 1987 in Basel, CH
PhD: University of Basel, CH (2018)
Media studies

Sarine was an interim professor for Media Aesthetics at the University of Basel in 2021/22. Her film *Unlearning Flow* (2019), co-directed with Mario Schulze, was screened at international film festivals and nominated for several awards. In September 2022, she started her SNSF Ambizione project *Visualpedia* at the University of Lucerne.

SERIES OF FILM SCREENINGS AND TALKS
More Than 100 Years of
Scientific Films

Flow Visualization—October 21, 2021
Films of Primates in the Lab—February 17, 2022
Films of Fluid—March 21, 2022
Films of Experiments in the Arts—May 12, 2022

This series represented an encounter between disciplines. At each event, Sarine and Mario invited two experts to comment on a scientific film, one expert from the discipline from which the film originates, and one from a discipline that views the film from a different angle. Based on the series of screenings, they developed an audiovisual installation which was displayed at the Collegium.

Sarine and Mario were featured in *Globe* 02/22, the magazine of ETH Zurich and ETH Zurich Alumni.

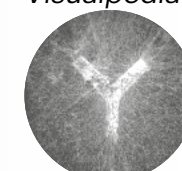


Mario Schulze



Born 1986, Halle/Saale, DE
PhD: University of Zurich, CH (2017)
Cultural analysis

Mario has held research positions at the Humboldt University Berlin and the Zurich University of the Arts. In 2021/22, he served as interim professor for Media Aesthetics at the University of Basel. Since July 2022, Mario has been a NOMIS fellow at eikones, the Center for the Theory and History of the Image, at the University of Basel, and is working as curator for the SNSF project *Visualpedia* at the University of Lucerne.



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Film, Research, Fluidity

In their collaborative project, Sarine and Mario focused on the epistemologies, aesthetics, and politics of moving images in the sciences. With *Film, Research, Fluidity*, they continued their work on a transdisciplinary visual history of science. During their time at the Collegium, they worked

Alfredo Thiermann



Born 1987 in Santiago de Chile, CL
PhD: ETH Zurich, CH (2020)
Architecture

During his fellowship at the Collegium, Alfredo was appointed Assistant Professor for the History and Theory of Architecture at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). He has been a visiting professor at Harvard University and a fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Radio-Activities: Architecture and Broadcasting in Berlin

During his fellowship at the Collegium, Alfredo has been involved in two projects. The first of these

Sarine Waltenpül



Mario Schulze



Alfredo Thiermann



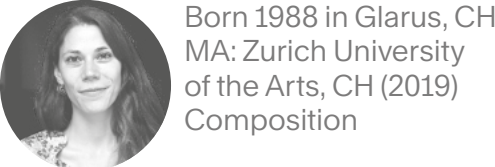
was *Radio-Activities*, a historical investigation of the entangled relationships between architecture, the city, and electronic technical media designed for mass communication. With a historical focus on radio technology in the city of Berlin, he completed a book manuscript and produced an exhibition, showcasing the status and agency of the built environment with regards to our increasingly hyper-connected, ubiquitous, and apparently invisible modes of co-existence with media technology. The second was the project *Turba Tol*, a multidisciplinary investigation of the peatlands in Tierra del Fuego, an archipelago between Chile and Argentina. The preservation of peatlands is linked to the resurgence of the Selk'nam people in Patagonia. In collaboration with a filmmaker, a sound artist, an environmentalist, and an indigenous (Selk'nam) poet, the project was exhibited at the 59th Venice Art Biennale.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW PHILIP URSPRUNG, Professor of the History of Art and Architecture at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich.

EXHIBITION
November 9 to December 17, 2022
Radio-Activities

The exhibition presented the outcome of Alfredo's research on the materiality of communication, displaying sounds, archival drawings, and cartographic representations. His aim was to raise awareness of the role of the built environment today by looking back at the time when the intricate worlds of politics, aesthetics, and information technologies began to populate the ether.

Rahel Zimmermann



Born 1988 in Glarus, CH
MA: Zurich University of the Arts, CH (2019)
Composition

After completing her master's at the Zurich University of the Arts, Rahel received the *Werkjahr für zeitgenössische Komposition* from the Christoph Delz Foundation in 2020. In her artistic work and her research, she explores auditory perception in space through experimental and empirical approaches. Rahel creates composi-

tions using innovative aural environments, and works as a composer for installations, film, and theater. For her fellowship project at the Collegium, she was nominated for the Prix Netzhdk 2022.



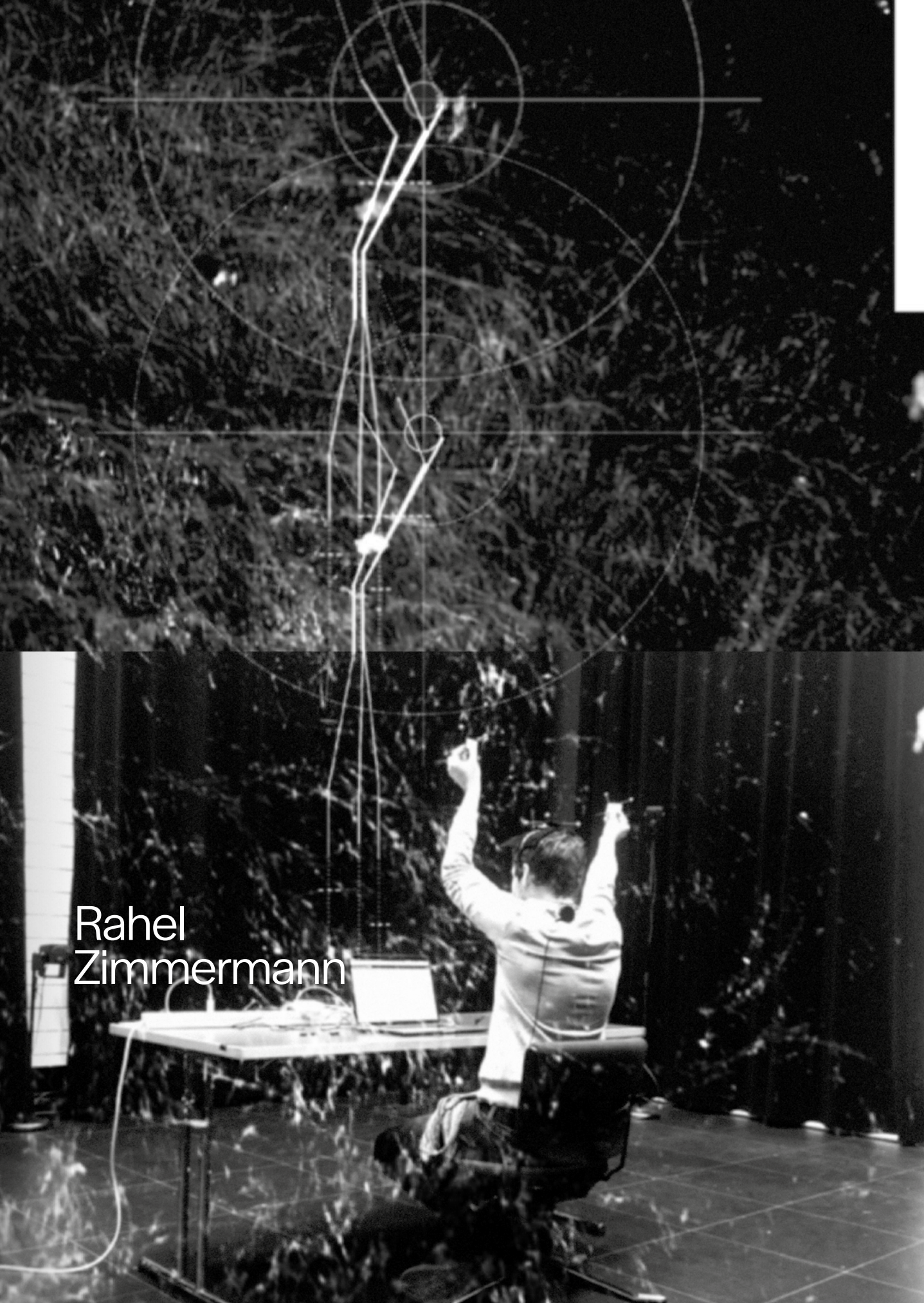
FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Listening to Changing Shapes

Rahel's artistic research project focused on the perception of dynamic shapes moving through aural space. She explored the limits of spatial hearing by transforming dynamic shapes into sound within a three-dimensional aural space. She combined an ambisonic surround space with a bone-conducted binaural space. This project was situated at the intersections of creative, empirical, and technical methodologies, thus addressing the topic of transformative processes in scientific and artistic research. The first outcomes of Rahel's study were presented in a small exhibition at the Collegium.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW GERMÁN TORO-PÉREZ,
Professor for Electroacoustic Composition, ZHdK.

WORKSHOP April 29, 2022
Listening to Changing Shapes

How do we perceive complex dynamic shapes in aural space? Is it possible to transform the parameters of these shapes into sound and space? In this workshop, Rahel included a listening session of transformed shapes in a novel aural spatial setting. After input from sound artists and experts from the fields of sound technology, neuropsychology, and animal cognition research, the participants discussed the broader topic of complex dynamic shapes and perception in auditory space.



Rahel Zimmermann

Senior fellows

Senior fellows are scholars on sabbatical, longer-term academic guests, or artists in residence at ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, or the Zurich University of the Arts. They apply for fellowships at the Collegium with the aim of engaging with, and contributing to, the exchange and conversation across disciplines. Depending on the length of their visiting position, senior fellows can spend between three and ten months at the Collegium. During their fellowship, senior fellows are also invited to organize an event to initiate dialog about their work and make new connections in Zurich and beyond.

Alice Alipour
Iowa State University, US
Civil engineering

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–June 30, 2022
Alice is a professor in the Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering at Iowa State University. Her research focuses on the development and practical application of data-driven methods for assessing and improving the resilience of civil infrastructure. As a senior fellow at the Collegium Helveticum, she researched solutions to improve the safety of interdependent critical infrastructure systems impacted by natural disasters.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW BRYAN ADEY, Professor for Infrastructure Management at the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zurich.

Homa Asadi
University of Isfahan, IR
Linguistics

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–June 30, 2022
Homa is a lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Isfahan. Her primary research interest lies in exploring the impact of intra-speaker variability in voice-identity perception and the effect of this variability on human and computer recognition performance. As a senior fellow at the Collegium Helveticum, she worked on factors affecting voice recognition by humans and machines.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW VOLKER DELLWO, Associate Professor of Phonetics at the Institute of Computational Linguistics, UZH.

Brendan Bohannon
University of Oregon, US
Biology and environmental studies

FELLOWSHIP December 9, 2021–March 15, 2022
Brendan is Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at Michigan State University. His research focuses on microbial biodiversity. During his fellowship at the Collegium, Brendan benefitted from the diverse backgrounds of the fellow community, gaining new insights to better understand the causes and consequences of microbiomes.

GUEST OF THE COLLEGIUM'S DIRECTOR

Oliver Bond
University of Surrey, UK
Linguistics

FELLOWSHIP February 1, 2022–May 31, 2022
Oliver is a reader in linguistics at the University of Surrey. His research examines the systemic properties of language through an exploration of the diverse solutions that have evolved to meet similar communicative goals. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he investigated the syntactic and information-structural evidence that reveals how humans and AI agents monitor, encode, and interpret reference to discourse participants in different linguistic systems.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW BALTHASAR BICKEL, Professor of General Linguistics at the Department of Comparative Language Science, UZH.

Lydia Bourouiba
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
Environmental engineering

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–January 31, 2022
Lydia is an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Fluid Dynamics of Disease Transmission Laboratory at MIT. During her fellowship at the Collegium, Lydia focused on the interface of fluid dynamics and epidemiology. She explored the fundamental physical mechanisms shaping the transmission dynamics of pathogens in human, animal, and plant populations where drops, bubbles, and complex flows are at the core.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW THOMAS RÖSGEN, Professor of Fluid Dynamics at the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering, ETH Zurich.

Cammy Brothers
Northeastern University, US
Architecture and design

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–December 20, 2021
Cammy is an associate professor at Northeastern University where she holds a joint appointment in architecture and in art & design. During her fellowship at the Collegium, Cammy worked on her third book, titled *The Architectural Legacy of Islamic Spain*, which focuses on the cities of Granada and Seville in the aftermath of the Reconquista.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW MAARTEN DELBEKE, Professor of History and Theory of Architecture at the Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich.

Kathleen Claussen
University of Miami, US
International law

FELLOWSHIP April 25, 2022–June 25, 2022
Kathleen is an associate professor in International Law at the University of Miami School of Law and serves on the executive council and executive committee of the American Society of International Law and as co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of International Economic Law*. During her fellowship at the Collegium, she studied the place of the corporation in international trade law through an interdisciplinary perspective.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW JOHANNES REICH, Professor of Public Law, Environmental Law, and Energy Law at the Institute for International Law and Comparative Constitutional Law, UZH.

Michele Cometa
University of Palermo, IT
Italian literature and culture

FELLOWSHIP February 21, 2022–June 3, 2022
Michele teaches cultural studies and visual culture at the University of Palermo. He was a DAAD scholar and a fellow at the Clark Art Institute (Williamstown, MA) and at the Italian Academy (Columbia University, New York). His publications on German and European culture, literature, and aesthetics focus on topics ranging from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. During his fellowship at the Collegium, he worked on a book on literary autopathographs and organized a colloquium on the double talent of painter-writers.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ANDREAS KILCHER, Professor for Literature and Cultural Studies at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Thierry Favier
University of Poitiers, FR
Musicology

FELLOWSHIP March 1, 2022–May 31, 2022
Thierry is Professor of Musicology at the University of Poitiers and a member of the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire en Histoire, Histoire de l'art et Musicologie (CRIHAM). His research focuses on religion, politics, and identity in seven-teenth- and eighteenth-century French music. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he investigated the complex and multifaceted relationship between music and religion, and their impact on the European Enlightenment.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW INGMA MAI GROOTE, Professor of Musicology at the Institute of Musicology, UZH.

Yongsong Huang
Brown University, US
Chemistry

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–November 30, 2021
Yongsong is Professor of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Science at Brown University. His research focuses on the development and

application of lipid biomarkers as proxies for studying past climate change. One ongoing project uses arctic Alaskan lakes as paleoclimate, paleoecological, and permafrost dynamic archives. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he organized an interdisciplinary workshop on aspects of chemistry, biology, ecology, phycology, and genomics related to long-chain alkenones.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW HEATHER STOLL, Professor of Climate Geology at the Department of Earth Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Michael Murrell
Yale University, US
Biomedical engineering and physics

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–December 15, 2021
Michael is an associate professor at Yale University in the Biomedical Engineering and Physics Department. His research focuses on understanding the physics of living systems and on the engineering of biologically inspired materials. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he carried out a comparative analysis of the political factors that influence the acceptance of scientific and technological advancements among the general public in Switzerland and the United States.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ERIC DUFRESNE, Professor of Soft and Living Materials at the Department of Materials, ETH Zurich.

Pankaj Pankaj
University of Edinburgh, UK
Biomechanics and engineering

FELLOWSHIP February 1, 2022–May 31, 2022
Pankaj is Professor of Computational Biomechanics at the School of Engineering's Institute for Bioengineering at the University of Edinburgh. He works in the field of computational solid mechanics with a focus on applications for clinical problems in orthopedics, in particular on the biomechanical behavior of bone and bone-implant systems. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he explored the relationship between aesthetics, design, and function in natural and engineered products. He convened a workshop on this issue, bringing together experts from industrial design, architecture, mechanical and biomechanical engineering, and anthropology.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW RALPH MÜLLER, Professor for Biomechanics at the Department of Health Sciences and Technology, ETH Zurich.

Kerstin Pull
Eberhard Karls University of
Tübingen, DE
Business administration

FELLOWSHIP March 1, 2022–June 30, 2022
Kerstin is Professor of Business Administration at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen. One of her primary research interests is assessing the effects of increasing the representation of women in management positions and governing bodies. In the context of her work at the Collegium, she used scenario experiments to address the question of whether and to what extent female students and junior researchers deal with feedback differently than their male counterparts, what implications this has for their career ambitions, and through what channels any differences between the genders could be appropriately addressed.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW USCHI BACKES-GELLNER, Professor of Business Economics at the Department of Business Administration, UZH.

Andrew C. Pratt
City, University of London, UK
Cultural economy

FELLOWSHIP March 15, 2022–June 15, 2022
Andrew runs the Centre of Culture and the Creative Industries and is Professor of Cultural Economy at City, University of London. He specializes in the analysis of cultural industries on a global scale and has previously worked on projects related to knowledge transfer, innovation, and creativity in creative economies. As a senior fellow at Collegium Helveticum, Andy worked on the topic of innovation in the arts and on what we can learn about the creation of “value” through similarities and differences with the sciences.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW CHRISTOPH WECKERLE, Director of the Zurich Centre for Creative Economies, ZHdK.

Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães
Federal University of Pará, BR
Brazilian literature

FELLOWSHIP September 1, 2021–June 30, 2022
Mayara Guimarães is an associate professor of literature at the Federal University of Pará. During her senior fellowship at the Collegium, in collaboration with Adriana López-Labourdette, she

developed a project in Latin American literary studies titled “Metamorphosis as Destiny: Humanity and Non-Humanity in Latin American Art and Literature.”

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ADRIANA LÓPEZ-LABOURDETTE, Professor of Latin American Studies at the Romanisches Seminar, UZH.

Hisham Said
Santa Clara University, US
Construction engineering

FELLOWSHIP January 1, 2022–May 31, 2022
Hisham is an associate professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Sustainable Engineering at Santa Clara University. His research focuses on construction industrialization by developing spatiotemporal management methodologies, generative design models, and a theoretical understanding of the industry organizational and workforce dynamics. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he explored the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of industrialized construction organizations.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW DANIEL HALL, Assistant Professor for Innovative and Industrial Construction at the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zurich.

Bénédicte Savoy
Technical University of Berlin, DE
Art history

FELLOWSHIP March 1, 2022–March 31, 2022
Bénédicte is Professor of Modern Art History at the Institute of Art History and Historical Urban Studies at the Technical University of Berlin. In 2016, she was awarded the Leibniz Prize by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Bénédicte Savoy is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities of the German Academy for Language and Literature. In 2016, she was appointed professor at the Collège de France in Paris. During her fellowship at the Collegium Helveticum, Bénédicte organized two public events on how we deal with art collections, with a particular focus on the fate of art objects in times of war and peace, and the ethics and politics of restitution.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ANDREAS KILCHER, Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Emma J. Sayer
Lancaster University, UK
Ecology

FELLOWSHIP March 1, 2022–February 28, 2023
Emma is Professor in Ecosystem Ecology at the Lancaster Environment Centre and a research associate at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Her research focuses on the effects of global change on plant-soil interactions and ecosystem function. Emma is also dedicated to science communication. During her senior fellowship, she is exploring how the arts and sciences can work together to get broad audiences to engage with climate change research. Her fellowship continues until February 2023, and will result in a public engagement event on climate change.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW OWEN PETCHEY, Professor of Predictive Ecology at the Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, UZH.

Giulia Sissa
University of California,
Los Angeles, US
Classics and political science

FELLOWSHIP October 1, 2021–December 31, 2021
Giulia is Professor of Political Science and Classics at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She studies aspects of classical antiquity, closely linking them with key contemporary debates, including feminism, sexuality, and the body, as well as political emotions. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, she organized the workshop “The Power of Women: A Challenge for Democracy.”

ASSOCIATE FELLOW ANDREAS KILCHER, Professor for Literature and Cultural Studies at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Ryan Sullivan
Carnegie Mellon University, US
Chemistry and mechanical engineering

FELLOWSHIP October 1, 2021–December 31, 2021
Ryan is a professor at Carnegie Mellon University in the Department of Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering, and associate director of the Institute for Green Science. His research centers on understanding the chemical behavior

and impacts of chemical contaminants in the environment. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, he explored how different disciplines, countries, and societies approach our relationship with chemicals—from industry and agriculture to those found in ubiquitous consumer products—and their deleterious effects on the environment and human health.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW KRISTOPHER MCNEILL, Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the Department of Environmental Sciences, ETH Zurich.

Christoph von der Malsburg
Frankfurt Institute for
Advanced Studies, DE
Neuroscience

FELLOWSHIP February 1, 2022–February 28, 2023
Christoph is a senior fellow at the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies (FIAS). The focus of his research is the self-organization and function of the brain using visual perception as an example. As a senior fellow, he continues to benefit from the interdisciplinary orientation of the Collegium, initiating conversations between representatives of different perspectives on mind and brain.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW BENJAMIN GREWE, Professor of Systems and Circuits Neuroinformatics, ETH Zurich.

Arkadiusz Wudarski
European University Viadrina, DE
Law

FELLOWSHIP February 1, 2022–February 28, 2023
Arkadiusz is a professor of law at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and the University of Zielona Góra, Poland. His research activities are characterized by a comparative and cross-border approach, especially in the field of land law and law of succession. As a senior fellow at the Collegium Helveticum, he explored the legal position of the biological father in different jurisdictions focusing on the situation in Switzerland, Germany, and Poland, from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.

ASSOCIATE FELLOW WALTER BOENTE, Assistant Professor of Private Law at the Faculty of Law, UZH.

Senior fellow 2021/22

Where Disciplines Meet and Learn From Each Other



“Fostering the balance of depth and synergistic exchange between disciplines is a critical task for the universities. Although research funding increasingly encourages interdisciplinary approaches, such integration remains inadequate, in part because true integration is a major challenge in an education and science that has historically been separated into disciplines. A more promising attempt is to build truly interdisciplinary centers that focus on problem solving with depth in each discipline, but in which researchers from different fields work side by side to share research questions from their respective disciplines. Institutions like the Collegium are places where disciplines meet and learn from each other. And that creates the basis for long-term exchange and collaborations.”

Lydia was featured in the article *Future Visions* in *Globe* 04/21, the magazine of ETH Zurich and ETH Zurich Alumni.



Lydia is an associate professor and director of the Fluid Dynamics of Disease Transmission Laboratory at MIT. She recently received a 2.2 million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research biophysics of airborne droplet transmission of mycobacterium tuberculosis. Her scientific research focuses on problems at the interface of basic fluid dynamics and health, with a particular emphasis on fundamental physical mechanisms in the transport of microorganisms and pathogens, and their adaptation and evolution. For her, the pandemic has clearly demonstrated that we can only address societal and health challenges of great magnitude with a combination of sound disciplinary knowledge and true transdisciplinary collaboration. For her research projects to be successful, Lydia relies on knowledge and contributions of various disciplines. For that reason, she was excited about the possibility of applying for a fellowship at the Collegium as an academic guest at ETH Zurich.

Junior fellow 2021/22

Find the Time to Listen and Widen the Focus



Medinat Malefakis

“For me, specifically, it was crucial to initially organize a round table on my planned project in a focused discussion. Experts from various fields participated and I could feed all the input into the further development of my ideas and research questions. In the academic world, you often work towards a very specific goal and are under pressure at the same time to provide a certain result. In that environment, your focus can get sometimes too narrow, and you miss important aspects from disciplines that are not obviously related. At the Collegium, you have the possibility of widening this focus, and you find the time to listen. This is very stimulating and empowering, in the sense that you gain confidence from the fact that your research integrates many important aspects. Towards the end of my fellowship, I organized a symposium. In this regard, the support I received for the event from the Collegium’s staff was essential. My personal profile benefitted greatly from the fact that I could invite and personally host colleagues in a highly professional setting. The symposium allowed me both to expand my network and to finally bring together researchers and practitioners in the same room.”

Medinat is an academic and policy-oriented expert on terrorism, conflict, and peacebuilding, with broad experience in humanitarian displacement program management. During her junior fellowship at the Collegium, Medinat scrutinized the use of digital technologies and social media in conflict and peacebuilding, resettlement, sexual violence, and reparations in conflict and post-conflict settings. Medinat’s research project was not only situated at the intersections of these various disciplines, but also of research and practice, and thus required input from various sides.

Artistic Research at the Collegium

Mario Wimmer [mw] in conversation with Sarine Waltenspül [sw] and Rahel Zimmermann [RZ]

The Collegium Helveticum brings together fellows from the humanities, arts, and sciences. Mario Wimmer spoke with two former fellows, the film and media scholar, Sarine Waltenspül, and the composer, Rahel Zimmermann, about their work and their understanding of artistic research.

Rahel, how do you work as a composer?

RZ : At the beginning there is a concept, a theme, a question, a form, or a mood. From this situation, my search for suitable sounds and formal or dramaturgical arcs or spatial concepts develops. I usually record the sounds to process them, for instance by sampling. The composition process is experimental, conscious decisions and serendipity coincide. It requires fascination, craft, imagination, experience, a back and forth between detachment and complete immersion—and luck.

Would you refer to this process as artistic research?

RZ : That’s an interesting question. Is the exploration of sound and sound aesthetics in a compositional process already artistic research? Is artistic research defined by a certain type of systematic investigation? For me, compositional work develops from a relationship with the material, which is not defined by language, but on a deeper and sensual level, through experimentation and listening, in order to assess the experimental material. Of course, there are underlying concepts and considerations, but the immediacy is paramount.

Sarine, how did you come into contact with artistic research?

sw : I got into the field as a grad student. During my doctoral work in media studies, I was part of a transdisciplinary team at the Zurich University of the Arts and was confronted with the institutional reality of artistic research: the tedious search for methods and formats, which some-

times seemed to make it impossible to get to the content; the attempt to introduce disciplinary standards to a field such as art, which inherently rejects disciplinary rules; and of course also political and financial interests connected to the question of whether art schools should be allowed to award doctorates. Nevertheless, I see significant potential in artistic or rather in practice-based research: it allows us to approach things differently, and thus allows for new perspectives.

Where do you see the potential in your own work?

sw : The variety of formats forces me to rethink my position as a researcher in relation to my object of research. It matters whether I do research *on* something or *with* something, such as a scientific film, for example. The combination of different approaches—through words and visuals—allows me to learn more about both the subject matter and my own blind spots.

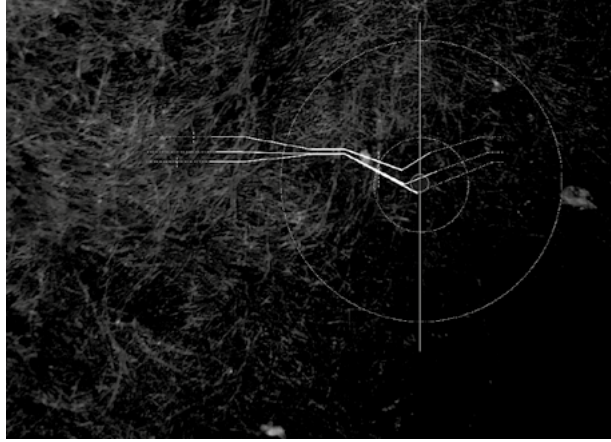
This seems to correspond with recent theoretical efforts at rethinking the relationship between researcher and the researched object: the work of Donna Haraway, Bruno Latour, or Anna Tsing were also taken up heavily in the arts.

Do you see a convergence of scientific and artistic research?

sw : Yes, absolutely. I see this convergence as a movement from both sides towards each other, but at the same time as very different movements. This convergence of artistic and scientific research sometimes provokes demarcations that play out in emotional debates. It seems more productive to me to combine the best of the two worlds instead.

Rahel, your work *Listening to Changing Shapes*, which you created during your time at the Collegium, is about the perception of dynamic and moving shapes in sonic space. Can you explain what you were trying to achieve?

RZ : The central idea of the project was to transform moving shapes into an auditory, three-dimensional space. I borrowed shapes from other disciplines (such as live mycelium) and



experimented with them to find out how they can be transformed into sound and space by testing how people perceive them. The ramifications were particularly exciting: Can you perceive with your ears how the growing of the mycelium takes shape in space? Sound is something that tends to merge, especially when the sounds are similar. So how can you translate a coherent structure in such a way that the subtle differences become perceptible?

You tried to find an answer to these questions. The image (1) is a visualization of the process of translating shapes in space into sonic shapes?

RZ : In the foreground, you see a schematic representation of sound sources that change in pitch (y), intensity (represented by the thickness of the lines), and structure (dotted vs. solid), over time (x). This schematic representation precedes the diagrammatic representation of auditory space, which is the blueprint of an ambisonic space. The inner wavy circle is the auditory space played through headphones, the outer one is the auditory space sounded through loudspeakers, the crosshairs are x-y. Both representations come from the attempt to create a kind of transformation catalog that shows and systematizes the results of my investigations in a three-dimensional room where people can listen to different sounds. The background of the picture represents, for me, in a palpable way, moving sounds, which unite to form an overall sound structure.

Sarine, in recent years you have worked with Mario Schulze, particularly in the context of your fellowship at the Collegium. I remember a seminar on string figures that you gave together. Is the string figure a suitable

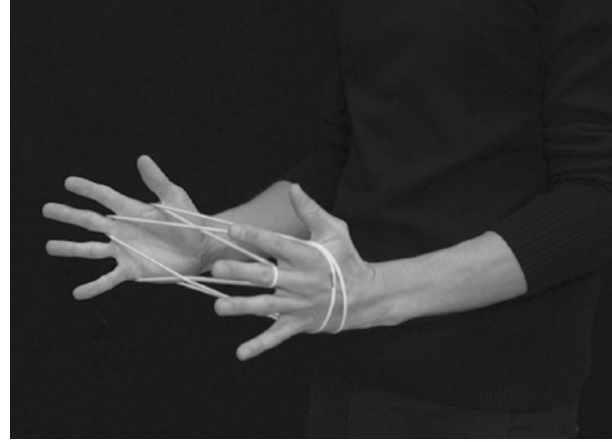


image or metaphor for describing the practical collaboration in a web of people and things that are intertwined with each other? (2)

sw : Absolutely, because as Donna Haraway says, "it matters what stories tell stories." If we use, for example, the more technical image of the network, it implies other relations than those of the embodied string figures. In that case, the research that Mario and I have been doing refers first of all to the model or metaphor of string figures as method and practice in cultural theory as suggested by Donna Haraway. Second, we are also practicing this method as part of the research project *Visualpedia*, in a transdisciplinary team with performer Ute Sengebusch and designer Moritz Greiner-Petter. Third, we are researching string figures in anthropology. These complex figures, which were often linked to narrated stories, have fascinated many ethnologists since the late 19th century. But unlike other objects of fascination, they could not be transformed into material possessions. As a result, these string figures possibly produced an imaginary surplus that inspires the theory of Haraway and others.

Would you recommend a fellowship at the Collegium Helveticum to your peers?

sw : I experienced the Collegium and the people there as very supportive—also in terms of experimenting with formats. And I was able to focus on my work during my time there. So, yes, definitely.

RZ : I could not agree more. I enjoyed meeting so many interesting researchers and artists, the mixture of different fields, all the interesting and stimulating events, and the freedom to work on what really inspires me.

Outreach & Scientific Exchange

Formats of the Fellowship Program

Weekly Workshop Discussions

The fellow community meets on a regular basis. Each week, one fellow presents their ongoing work followed by an in-depth discussion. It has become a ritual to continue the conversation in an informal setting.

Monthly Jours Fixes

Once a month, the fellows meet for lunch in the library of the Semper Observatory. In the afternoon, the Collegium community makes a site visit or excursion to a location around Zurich to deepen the interdisciplinary discussion based on a shared experience. Over the past year, fellows have visited art and lab spaces or explored areas of urban wilderness in the city of Zurich.

Reading and Discussion Groups

Fellows are encouraged to discuss texts and topics of shared interest in smaller groups.

Selected Public Events

The events organized by the junior fellows are presented in the chapter “Fellows First”.

Reconstructing Earth Past Climate and CO₂ Using Biomarkers

WORKSHOP October 26, 2021. Organized by Yongsong Huang and Heather Stoll, senior and associate fellows at the Collegium 2021/22.

Long-chain alkenones represent probably the best geological paleo-thermometer ever developed for recording past ocean temperatures. The main objective of the workshop was to review the recent advances in the field and discuss possible ways of dealing with challenges regarding the application of this important class of biomarkers.

Observational Drawing between Science and the Arts

WORKSHOP November 9, 2021. Organized by Cammy Brothers, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22.

In the sixteenth century, naturalists, botanists, anatomists, and artists used the tool of observational drawing to learn about the world. This workshop invited historians of medicine and botany, scientific illustrators, and architects to consider how past connections between these fields might inform stronger ties today, through drawing.

The Power of Women: A Challenge for Democracy

WORKSHOP December 10, 2021. Organized by Giulia Sissa, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22. A joint event by the Collegium and the Cattedra de Sanctis, Visiting professorship for Italian Literature and Culture.

Power is not only domination. The word “power” expresses first of all possibility and capacity. This workshop invited participants to explore the power of gendered ideas and prejudices that have shaped our thinking from antiquity to the (political) present.

Active Fluids: Entropy and the Symmetry of Time

PANEL DISCUSSION March 21, 2022. Organized by Michael Murrell, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22.

Core concepts for understanding the difference between ordinary and active fluids include flow, time, and entropy. In science, these concepts have multiple interpretations. How are these concepts represented differently in science and in art? This question was discussed in dialog involving physicists, artists, and historians.

Everyday-Everywhere Chemicals and the Human Exposome

WORKSHOP March 24, 2022. Organized by Ryan Sullivan, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22.

While chemical pollution is a global sustainability crisis, until recently, it had received little attention. This panel of experts from universities and NGOs in Europe and North America discussed the sources of toxic chemicals in modern life, the public’s perception of this often confusing issue, and recent efforts to implement better international regulations.

Kafkas Zeichnungen (Kafka’s Drawings)

SYMPOSIUM March 28, 2022. A collaboration between the Collegium and the Graphische Sammlung ETH Zurich.

In 2019, more than 100 drawings by Franz Kafka surfaced, which had been kept under lock and key for decades in a Zurich bank safe. Bénédicte Savoy, Andreas Kilcher, and Linda Schädler discussed the handling of Kafka’s estate and these fragile and enigmatic drawings.

Aesthetics, Design and Function in Nature and Engineered Products

WORKSHOP May 2, 2022. Organized by Pankaj Pankaj and Ralph Müller, senior and associate fellows 2021/22.

This workshop further explored the ideas of pioneering nineteenth-century researchers who combined knowledge of human anatomy and construction technology. Future potential

was discussed in this multidisciplinary forum, which included industrial designers, architects, mechanical and biomechanical engineers, anthropologists, and practitioners from the field of biomimicry.

Sex and Gender in Immunity

WORKSHOP May 5–6, 2022. Organized by Chloé Pasin, Sebastian Bonhoeffer, and Roger Kouyos.

Due to gender biases in medical research, women have historically been under-represented in clinical studies, which resulted in a gap in knowledge and detriments to women’s health. This workshop brought together experts to discuss this urgent matter.

Industrialized Home-Building: How to Sustain the Revolution?

SYMPOSIUM May 10, 2022. Organized by Hisham Said, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22. A joint event by the Collegium and the Chair of Innovative and Industrial Construction, ETH Zurich.

The housing-supply crisis is magnified by the inefficient, segregated structure of the home-building industry. This symposium was organized with the aim to expedite the delivery of housing units through collaborative, integrated organizations, innovative construction materials, design strategies, and automated operations.

Doppelbegabung—Doppio Talento (Double Talent)

COLLOQUIUM May 17, 2022. Organized by Michele Cometa, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22. A joint event by the Collegium, the Cattedra de Sanctis, Visiting professorship for Italian Literature and Culture, and the Italian Cultural Institute Zurich.

The focus of the colloquium was the large group of artistic works and experiences based on the “double talent” of writers who deploy visual media in their literary work. The colloquium addressed the implications—for theory and poetology—of the creative work of artists who have continuously cultivated both forms of expression.

Arts and Culture in Eighteenth-Century Europe: Challenging Enlightenment Values

WORKSHOP May 20, 2022. Organized by Thierry Favier, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22 Institute of Musicology.

The Enlightenment does not form a coherent doctrine: facing the challenges of modernity, the *philosophes* defended different, even opposing, ideas and values. This workshop proposed to confront the most representative and controversial values of the Enlightenment with different aspects of artistic life in eighteenth-century Europe.

Poetics, Ethics, and Politics of the Forest in Latin American Cultures

CONFERENCE June 22–23, 2022. Organized by Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22.

This conference was part of the project “Metamorphosis as Destiny: Humans and Non-Humans in Latin-American Art and Literature,” which was developed at the Collegium. Practitioners and scholars working in literary and cultural studies, the arts, anthropology, ethnography, and philosophy, along with the biological and natural sciences discussed the urgent transformation of the social and political relations of life and Earth.

Voice Identity: Perception, Production, and Computational Approaches

CONFERENCE July 4–6, 2022. Organized by Homa Asadi, senior fellow at the Collegium 2021/22. A joint event by the Collegium and the Institute of Computational Linguistics, UZH.

The conference brought together researchers interested in vocal identity and recognition from different disciplines such as psychology, biology, linguistics, physics, and engineering. Through this conference, the organizers promoted the dialogue between these often heterogeneous scholarly traditions involved in the study of voice.



Event Calendar Fellow Year 2021/22

2021 SEPTEMBER, 1

Welcome at the Collegium

Collegium Helveticum

SEPTEMBER, 9

Kick-off Fellow Year 2021/22

Collegium Helveticum

OCTOBER, 2–3

Open House Zurich

Exhibition and architectural tour in cooperation with ETH Zurich

OCTOBER, 5

Resilient Infrastructure under Hazards–Past, Present, and Future

Lecture by Alice Alipour

OCTOBER, 7

Translational Microbiology

Workshop in cooperation with ETH Zurich & USZ

OCTOBER, 8

OCTOBER, 9–NOVEMBER, 13

In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben

Exhibition opening

Exhibition at the Collegium

OCTOBER, 21

Flow Visualization–More Than 100 Years of Scientific Films (1/4)

Screening & talks by Sarine Waltenspül and Mario Schulz

OCTOBER, 26

Reconstructing Earth Past Climate and CO2 Using Biomarkers

Workshop by Yongsong Huang

OCTOBER, 27–29

History and Philosophy of Computing

Conference in cooperation with The Turing Centre, ETH Zurich

NOVEMBER, 2

Animal Knowledge—What Art and Science Can Discover About the Life of an Animal

Panel discussion, part of the exhibition

“In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben”

NOVEMBER, 2/4/5/8

In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben

Guided tour of the exhibition

NOVEMBER, 3

Doctoral Colloquium

Colloquium by Florent Thouvenin, UZH

NOVEMBER, 9

Observational Drawing between Science and the Arts

Workshop by Cammy Brothers

NOVEMBER, 9/10

In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben

Guided tour of the exhibition

NOVEMBER, 9

NOV. 10– DEC. 17

Radio-Activities

Exhibition opening

Exhibition at gta Exhibitions

NOVEMBER, 11

Paying Attention

Seminar by Philipp Ursprung , ETH Zurich

NOVEMBER, 12/13/18

In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben

Guided tour of the exhibition

DECEMBER, 6

The City and the Wild

Lecture by Tea Lobo and Michael Hampe

DECEMBER, 10

The Power of Women: A Challenge for Democracy

Workshop by Giulia Sissa

DECEMBER, 15

The Afterlife of Islamic Architecture

Lecture by Cammy Brothers

DECEMBER, 17

Radio-Activities

Exhibition finissage

DECEMBER, 22

Paying Attention

Seminar by Philipp Ursprung , ETH Zurich

2022 JANUARY, 13

The Amerindian Perspectivism as a Cosmopolitical Theory of Meaning

Lecture by Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães

JANUARY, 13

Conflict Catalyst and Peacebuilding Tool? Social Media and the #EndSARS Movement

Roundtable by Medinat Malefakis

FEBRUARY, 17

Films of Primates in the Lab –More Than 100 Years of Scientific Films (2/4)

Screening & talks by Mario Schulze and Sarine Waltenspül

FEBRUARY, 25–26

Annual Meeting PhD Program “Epistemologies of Aesthetic Practices”

Colloquium in cooperation with the ZHdK

MARCH, 21

Translocation and Restitution

Symposium by Bénédicte Savoy and Andreas Kilcher

MARCH, 21

Active Fluids: Entropy and the Symmetry of Time

Panel discussion by

Michael Murrell

MARCH, 21

Films of Fluids–More Than 100 Years of Scientific Films (3/4)

Screening & talks by Sarine Waltenspül and Mario Schulze

MARCH, 24

Everyday-Everywhere Chemicals and the Human Exposome

Workshop by Ryan Sullivan

MARCH, 24

Kafkas Zeichnungen

Panel discussion by Bénédicte Savoy

APRIL, 11–12

The City and the Wild

Workshop by Tea Lobo

APRIL, 28

Fragrances Today: Science, Art, and Society

Symposium by Freideriki Michailidiou

APRIL, 29

Listening to Changing Shapes

Workshop by Rahel Zimmermann

MAY, 2

Aesthetics, Design and Function in Nature and Engineered Products

Workshop by Pankaj Pankaj

MAY, 5–6

Sex and Gender in Immunity

Conference by Sebastian Bonhoeffer, Roger Kouyos, and Chloé Pasin

MAY, 10

Industrialized Home-Building: How to Sustain the Revolution?

Symposium by Hisham Said

MARCH, 21

Films of Experiments in the Arts–More Than 100 Years of Scientific Films (4/4)

Screening & talks by Mario Schulze and Sarine Waltenspül

MAY, 17

Doppelbegabung—Doppio Talento

Colloquium by Michele Cometa

MAY, 19–20

Arts and Culture in Eighteenth-Century Europe: Challenging Enlightenment Values

Workshop by Thierry Favier

MAY, 20

The Collegium at Twenty-Five

Anniversary celebration

MAY, 21

The Collegium at Twenty-Five

Alumni reunion

MAY, 24

The Problem with Pseudoscience

Fleck Lecture by Michael D. Gordin

JUNE, 7

Digital Technologies, Conflict, and Social Change

Symposium by Medinat Malefakis

JUNE, 13–14

Situating Knowledge: Natural History Collections in the Digital Age

Conference by Sujeet George

JUNE, 17–18

Literature and Philosophy

Colloquium by Michael Hampe

JUNE, 22–23

Poetics, Ethics, and Politics of the Forest in Latin American Cultures

Conference by Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães

JUNE, 24

Olfactory Storytelling

Workshop by Freideriki Michailidou, Mayara Ribeiro Guimarães, and Claus Noppeney

JUNE, 27

Scholars at Risk: Ukraine

Welcome meeting in cooperation with ETH Zurich, UZH, and ZHdK

JUNE, 4–6

Voice Identity: Perception, Production, and Computational Approaches

Conference by Homa Asadi

Thanks to cooperations with institutes of the three supporting universities and with Zurich cultural institutions, the Collegium organized and hosted a diverse range of events.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the following: Aux arts etc., Zurich, Department of Architecture, ETH Zurich • Department of Health Sciences and Technology, ETH Zurich • Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich • Cattedra de Sanctis, Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture, ETH Zurich • Center for Advanced Studies in Architecture, ETH Zurich • Chair of History and Philosophy of Mathematical Sciences, ETH Zurich • Chair for Information and Communications Law, UZH • Chair of Innovative and Industrial Construction, ETH Zurich • Chair of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich • gta Exhibition, ETH Zurich • Epistemologies of Aesthetic Practices, ZHdK • Graphische Sammlung ETH Zurich • Institute of Computational Linguistics, UZH • Institute for Integrative Biology, ETH Zurich • Institute of Medical Virology, UZH • Italian Cultural Institute Zurich • Musicology Institute, UZH • Open House Zurich • Turing Centre, ETH Zurich • Division of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, USZ • Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture, ETH Zurich • Zoological Museum, UZH

Events organized by the fellows

Highlights

Some 100 events took place at the Collegium Helveticum in 2021/22, with a rich variety of formats represented. While important discussions took place in other formats, this chapter highlights those events that reached out to, and engaged with, a broader audience.

2663 Event visitors

113 Total of events

40 Public events

73 Focused/non-public events

13 Multi-day events

In the Last Place: Acht Wolfsleben (Eight Wolves' Lives)



EXHIBITION
Collegium Helveticum
October 9–November 13, 2021

In this exhibition at the Collegium Helveticum, artist Luzia Hürzeler interrogated the knowledge that human beings produce about wolves. Through the medium of artistic research, she accompanied eight wolves on their journeys through life and death, creating spaces for the imagination.

“A wolf's life. How do we imagine the life of a wolf?”

“What records provide us with information on the topic?”

“Who produces these records—and what intentions are behind them?”

“Can we imagine the final moments in the life of an animal?”

“What is their relationship to these animals?”

The exhibition offered various readings: the double-sided light boxes with photographs of the taxidermized animals and their places of death leave room for the imagination, speculating about what a wolf's life might look like. The video interviews with experts and a book gathering together the documents on the eight wolves allowed for a deeper insight into the way humans form an image of the wolves.

Luzia Hürzeler is a visual artist. She completed her PhD in visual arts and social anthropology at the Bern University of the Arts and the University of Bern, and is currently is a postdoctoral researcher in the SNSF project Afrika hinter Glas (Africa Behind Glass).

MEDIA COVERAGE SRF Kultur (November 2, 2021):

Diese Künstlerin rückt dem Wolf auf den Pelz (radio)

Kunst-Bulletin (11/2021): *Luzia Hürzeler – In the Last*

Place (print)

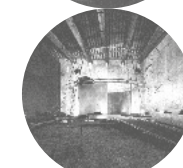
Watch the video teaser for the exhibition

EXHIBITION PANEL DISCUSSION

Tierwissen—was Kunst und Wissenschaft über ein Tierleben erfahren (Animal Knowledge—What Art and Science Can Discover About the Life of an Animal)

Bernhard Tschofen (Co-Director ISEK—Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies) and Lukas Keller (Director Zoological Museum UZH) discussed with the artist Luzia Hürzeler how knowledge is narrated and made productive as an aesthetic experience—through images, texts, or zoological specimens.

Radio-Activities



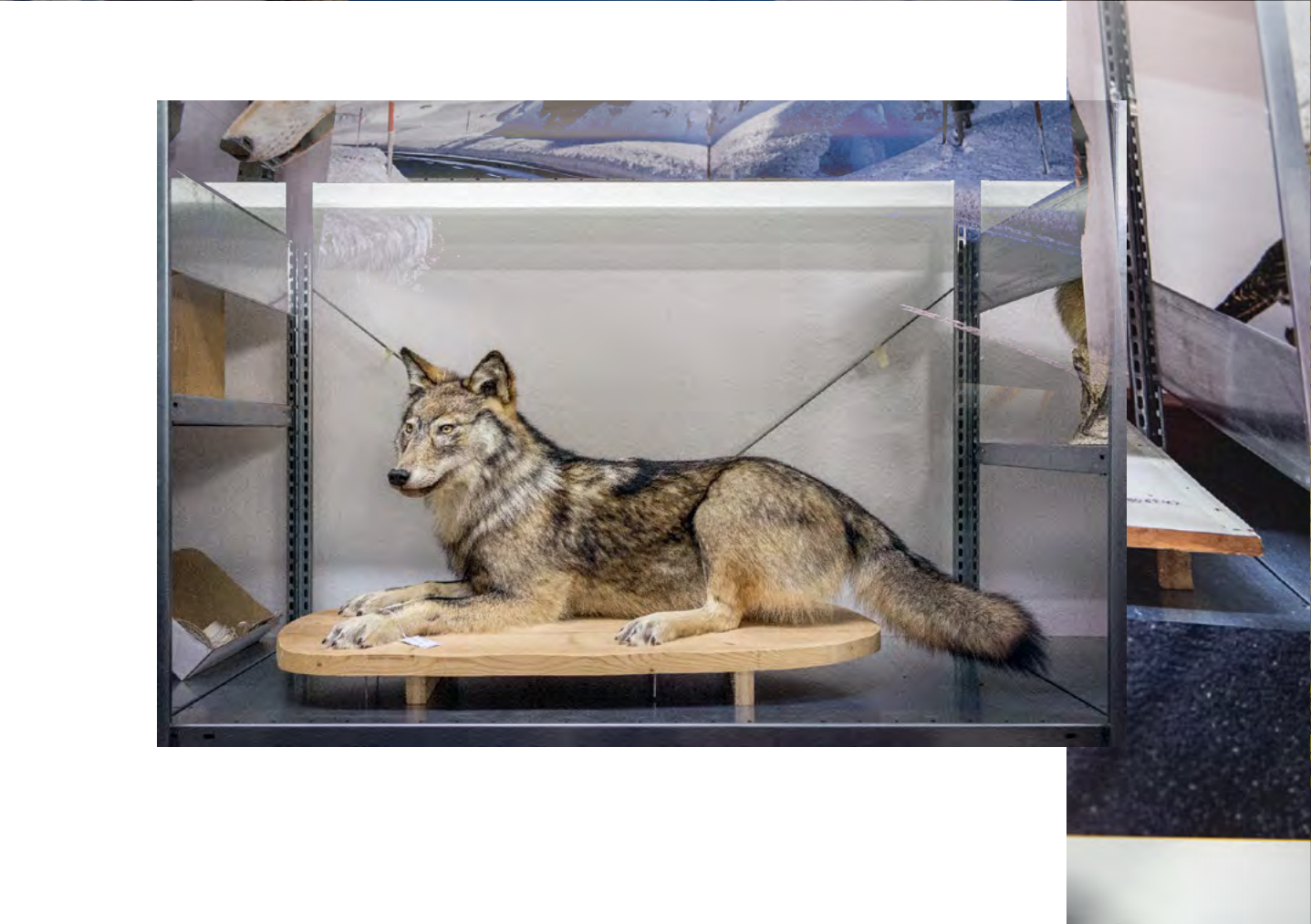
EXHIBITION
gta Exhibitions
November 10–December 17, 2021

A collaboration between gta Exhibitions and the Collegium Helveticum.

Radio-Activities was part of Alfredo Thiermann's Collegium fellowship project on Berlin's radio broadcasting infrastructure, from its beginnings in the Weimar Republic to the Cold War era. The exhibition proposed a material understanding of seemingly invisible information infrastructures, revealing overlooked continuities between politics, electro-technical media, and architecture. Based on extensive archival research, the exhibition questioned the stability granted to buildings and walls by rethinking them against the backdrop of times when the historic solidity of architecture was radically challenged by the entangled development of technology, politics, and mass media. In doing so, the exhibition also interrogated the relevance and agency of buildings with regards to our increasingly hyperconnected, ubiquitous, and apparently invisible modes of existence today.

MEDIA COVERAGE e-flux Architecture
(November 10, 2021): *Radio-Activities* (online)





Translocation and Restitution



SYMPOSIUM
March 21, 2022

A collaboration between the Chair for Literature and Cultural Studies, the Visiting professorship for French Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich, Aux arts etc., and the Collegium.

Bénédicte Savoy is a French art historian and Professor of Modern Art History at the Technical University of Berlin and from 2016 to 2021, was Professor of the Cultural History of European Artistic Heritage at the Collège de France. Bénédicte is a world-renowned expert on the theft and transfer of cultural objects from former colonies to European museums. In 2018, Bénédicte and the Senegalese scholar Felwine Sarr were commissioned by French President Emmanuel Macron to investigate the possibility of restituting cultural objects from French museums to African countries. The resulting report laid the foundations for a restitution process and for a new framework of relational ethics in working with African states.

During Bénédicte's fellowship at the Collegium, the handling of sensitive collections was the subject of intense debate. Bénédicte co-organized a symposium at ETH Zurich on the handling of sensitive art collections with reference to two fields as case studies: the handling of objects from colonial contexts—namely from Africa—in European museums; and of objects from the context of National Socialism, as in the case of the collection of the arms manufacturer Emil Bührle at Kunsthau Zürich.

Specially for this symposium, ETH Zurich has produced a documentary film entitled *Restitute Objects—Ancestors Return*, in which Bénédicte and Felwine Sarr talk about the necessity of the restitution process for a younger generation.

MEDIA COVERAGE Tachles (12/2022):

Die Kunst, Haltung zu zeigen (print)



The Problem with Pseudoscience



FLECK LECTURE
Professor Michael D. Gordin,
guest speaker
from Princeton University
May 24, 2022

How do we draw the line between science and pseudoscience? This long-standing question has assumed new relevance since the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing onrush of anti-vaccination movements, heterodox treatments, and conspiracy theories. These forms of knowledge merely resemble science, but do not in fact represent reliable knowledge of the natural world. After surveying the philosophical approaches to the question of pseudoscience, Gordin's lecture offered a historical analysis, arguing that fringe doctrines proliferate as an intrinsic by-product of how our scientific process is organized.

Michael D. Gordin is a historian of science and of Russian history and culture. Since 2003, he teaches at Princeton University, where he is now Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History. His recent publications on the topic include: *The Pseudoscience Wars: Immanuel Velikovsky and the Birth of the Modern Fringe* (2012) and *On the Fringe: Where Science Meets Pseudoscience* (2021).

Ludwik Fleck at the Collegium

With this annual lecture by a distinguished scholar, the Collegium Helveticum honors the life and work of microbiologist and philosopher of science Ludwik Fleck. A microbiologist and philosopher of science, Fleck was persecuted by the Nazis and survived two concentration camps. In 2005, the Collegium Helveticum received what remained of his research materials together with other papers related to his life and work. Today, these holdings are available through the Archives of Contemporary History at ETH Zurich. Supporting scholars at risk and providing an academic home for them at the Semper Observatory is yet another way of continuing Fleck's legacy. The

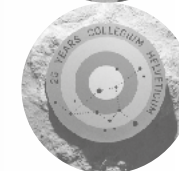
renowned philosopher of science Annemarie Mol accepted the invitation to deliver the Fleck Lecture in May 2023.

MEDIA COVERAGE NZZ am Sonntag

(July 24, 2022): *Die Pseudowissenschaftler, das sind immer die anderen* (print)



The Collegium at Twenty-Five



ANNIVERSARY
Collegium Helveticum
May 21–22, 2022

In May, the Collegium celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary together with its fellows, representatives of the supporting universities, the Collegium's former directors, alumni, and guests. During the anniversary celebrations, the fellowship program and junior fellows' projects were presented in exhibitions and audiovisual installations. Seeing former and current fellows and staff come together underscored the fact that the spirit of the different periods remains tangible in the present understanding of the Collegium. In his lecture, Sir Charles Godfray, Director of the Oxford Martin School and member of the Collegium's advisory board, emphasized how science can only respond to contemporary societal challenges by joining forces across disciplines. He stressed that institutes like the Collegium provide the necessary time and space to facilitate exchange between disciplines. The official ceremony also provided an opportunity to look back, reflect, and rethink future directions. A panel of the former and current directors discussed the role of institutes for advanced studies in cross-disciplinary research and in acting as a conduit between academia and the public.

In their opening addresses, members of the Collegium's governing board, Marijke

Hoogenboom (Zurich University of the Arts), Detlef Günther (ETH Zurich), and Elisabeth Stark (University of Zurich), emphasized that the alliance between the three supporting universities is not only unique for an institute for advanced studies but also fundamental for the conversation between disciplines and institutions. Elisabeth Stark took the audience on a journey through the Collegium's past, before closing with an appeal: "together with the management of the Collegium Helveticum, let us weave a discursive web from the universities into society, because today more than ever, we need many different threads that connect, and colorfully patterned fabrics that carry." In the following section, we reprint Elisabeth Stark's words in full, with her kind permission.

Ellisabeth Stark Vice President Research, University of Zurich



"I am very pleased to address you on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Collegium Helveticum as a representative of the University of Zurich, one of the three partner institutions of this joint institute for advanced studies. Coming from Berlin with its renowned *Wissenschaftskolleg*, it was both surprising and exciting for me to learn that the University of Zurich does not have its own IAS but instead manages the Collegium Helveticum together with its sister institution, ETH Zurich. Even better: there's a third member of the alliance, the Zurich University of the Arts—interdisciplinarity on the basis of inter-institutionality, theory and practice interwoven in manifold ways.

The beginning of this joint initiative under the direction of Adolf Muschg was based on hospitality—ETH Zurich founded the Collegium Helveticum as an interdisciplinary graduate college, which piqued the interest of some doctoral students at the University of Zurich, who, after inquiring, were indeed allowed to participate as early as 1998. On the part of the University of Zurich, this participation was at first financed rather creatively from different pots and sources. Since the turn of the new millennium, however, the University of Zurich has secured the funding for several graduate fellowships. Fortunately for us, the great Helga Nowotny, director of the Collegium at that time, valued the participation of graduate students for the University of Zurich, and we are still very grateful for this continued collaboration.

In 2003/2004, the Collegium Helveticum reorganized itself under the theme of "sciences meet," and it has been managed as a joint initiative of ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich ever since.

Professor Gerd Folkers (taking over from Peter Rieder) was in charge of the Collegium from October 2004 to December 2015, and he specifically positioned it as an arena where unconventional ideas and thinking differently were not only given space but were encouraged—and still are today. Adopting transdisciplinary approaches led to new and innovative paths in research and established a scientific space which also promoted and supported the growing partnership with the Zurich University of the Arts.

This marks the beginning of the Collegium Helveticum as a genuine institute for advanced studies and as an actual inter- and transdisciplinary research platform. This second stage in the history of the Collegium, which lasted until 2016, has produced a whole series of scientific highlights connected to the topics of *emotions* and *reproducibility*. Books such as *Modell Mensch* or publications—already back then!—on *One World: One Medicine* are worth mentioning, especially in the context of our university's research priority programs or the soon-to-be-founded Institute for One Health.

But also other publications could not be more topical: *Archaeology of the Future* (a book with a built-in computer) or, for example, the *Colloquium of Things*, an exhibition, video, and book publication by Hans Danhuser, to mention just two.

Under the lead of Thomas Hengartner, who unfortunately died much too early, the Collegium Helveticum moved into a new, a third phase in 2016, when the Zurich University of the Arts was taken on board as the third supporting institution, and the arts officially became part of the Collegium. A particular focus was placed on "digitalization," which led to numerous activities by the fellows and the impressive publication *Data Centers: Edges of a Wired Nation* (edited by Monika Dommann, Hannes Rickli, and Max Stadler, 2020). After being named one of the most beautiful Swiss books by the Federal Office of Culture (BAK), this book was then also chosen by the Stiftung Buchkunst as one of the most beautiful German books in 2021.

Emotions, reproducibility, one world: one medicine, and digitalization, on which the Collegium started to focus almost at the same time as our Digital Society Initiative was founded. With such a broad thematic approach, one might assume that the Collegium Helveticum was omnipresent and on every Zurich-based researcher's mind at all times; however, ladies and gentlemen, that was not the case back then, and is only slowly changing now. When I was appointed to the University of Zurich coming from FU Berlin back in 2008, I had no idea what exactly the Collegium Helveticum did, and considered it—erroneously—basically irrelevant to me. Thus, the existence of a research network that was elegant and viable but almost completely hidden or ignored by too many people has led to the fourth phase, a new change in the overall concept under the direction of the wonderful Sebastian Bonhoeffer in 2021. Since becoming Vice President of Research at the University of Zurich that same year, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Collegium's board. It seems—to me at least—that the idea of bringing together the different types of fellows with their respective scientific and artistic backgrounds in the activities of the Collegium is already taking off. The selection of the fellows follows the interdisciplinary mission of the Collegium from the very beginning: the academic and artistic reputation or potential of the fellows is great, and the respective hosts at the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts, the so-called associate fellows, ensure that the Collegium is becoming more prominent in the minds of Zurich's researchers. By implementing this concept, Sebastian Bonhoeffer is continuing to weave a multi-dimensional matrix.

Complementing the research activities of its fellows, the Collegium Helveticum also organizes events to foster and promote the interaction of the arts and sciences with economics, culture, society, and the environment. In this regard, however, the Collegium experiences the same effect I mentioned before: its activities do not receive the attention they deserve, our nets have yet to be cast wider.

Ladies and gentlemen, we can all contribute to this—we are what I would like to call "multipliers." We know about the wonderful events, and we enjoy an interdisciplinary challenge, otherwise we probably would not be here tonight. Together with the management of the Collegium Helveticum, let us weave a discursive web from the universities into society, because today more than ever, we need many different threads that connect, and colorfully patterned fabrics that carry.

Thank you very much!"



Inviting Dialog Across Disciplines

One might say that Mario Wimmer spent his career as a historian thinking about how intellectual work is facilitated. Now, as the Collegium Helveticum’s managing director, he puts his scholarship to the test in practice. His academic career took him to three continents and unfolded between disciplines. In conversation with Mick Lehmann, Mario talks about how he is committed to creating a thriving atmosphere, and to initiating dialog between disciplines.

You have worked in different places and in a variety of environments. What would you describe as some of the formative experiences for your new role?

mw : I didn’t grow up in an academic milieu. As an undergraduate, I took classes in a variety of disciplines and eventually majored in history, with minors in sociology, postcolonial studies, psychology, and science studies. I also took classes in environmental history, museology, film, and audited classes at an art school. This broad experience helped me to focus on my object of study rather than disciplinary constraints. In my graduate work, I was interested in the role that archives play in modern society, how these institutions think. I’ve always been interested in the question of what facilitates intellectual work.

Over the years, I moved around a lot. Living and teaching on three continents was a formative experience for me. I think this shared experience with our international fellows helps me to connect with them.

You are a historian of science and scholarship. What role does that play in your work as the Collegium’s managing director?

mw : Together with the team, I feel responsible for creating both a welcoming and intellectually challenging atmosphere for our fellows and guests. My background complements that of our director Sebastian Bonhoeffer, and this is really useful when it comes to helping him run

the Collegium. We both enjoy inviting exchange across disciplines. However, in the few months I’ve spent at the Collegium, I have learned a lot of things that would never have occurred to me in my previous career as a historian of intellectual work.

Can you give an example of something that surprised you?

mw : Artists, scholars, and scientists do have very different attitudes towards time, intellectual exchange, and so on. Ten minutes for a scientist may feel like plenty of time to convey an idea, while somebody from the humanities may insist that this is not even enough time to begin a conversation. This is a challenge, and there is no straightforward solution to these kinds of differences. It requires attention, attunement, curiosity, and patience on behalf of all involved. So I am grateful that we were lucky to find fellows who are interested in, and open to, this kind of exchange. Honestly, it is a pleasure to observe how they interact and to see them thrive.

How do you interpret your role as managing director?

mw : This job title certainly covers important aspects of my responsibilities, but by no means all of them. Neither interdisciplinary exchange nor a community of fellows can be managed in the strict sense of the word. I understand my role as an interlocutor who facilitates research and exchange across disciplines. It is equally important to me that the Collegium supports its junior fellows in their quest to gain recognition as independent academics. This is a key aspect for fellows who in their usual institutional settings are part of a research group where the agenda is set by supervisors. For junior fellows, the opportunity to convene a conference, symposium, or exhibition allows them to redirect the trajectory of their research and to expand their professional networks.

How actively do you shape the academic program at the Collegium?

mw : We put our fellows first. Many aspects of the academic program are developed based on the individual projects and interests within the community of fellows. Once the fellows begin to arrive—and this is long before they first enter the Semper Observatory—I read some of their

work, reach out to them and listen to what they are interested in, what they expect, what they want to achieve. This year, for example, it turned out that they share interests in some areas, such as artificial intelligence, public health, climate change, the commons, or futures. In addition, we have one project that engages with multilingualism in Crimea, and we expect at least two scholars at risk to join the Collegium. Ultimately, we do our best to support the fellows’ individual research, which also involves creating modes of exchange that allow them to get the most out of their time at the Collegium.

How would you describe the role of the Collegium on the intellectual landscape in Zurich?

mw : Zurich is a vibrant intellectual place and ETH, UZH, and ZHdK attract great artists, scholars, and scientists from around the world. We see it as our task to create a temporary community for some of them and help them connect to local colleagues. We very much hope that this allows for a transfer of ideas, knowledge, and tools and establishes lasting connections.

What’s more, the Collegium also reaches out to the local community and collaborates with cultural institutions in Zurich. Talking to colleagues from other disciplines requires a kind translation in order to find a shared language; and I feel that a similar approach helps when communicating with the public.

In what direction could the Collegium develop in the future?

mw : It’s not my place to say. All I do is listen actively and make observations, in order to come up with ideas and make suggestions. The director’s office where Sebastian and I meet regularly has become a sort of incubator, and we both enjoy critically discussing ideas for how we can further improve our program. By now, we have quite a long list of new formats and topics. We need to be careful not to change too many things all at once, but we also want to do some “experiments.” For example, we started working together with an artist to develop new formats for the Collegium. Her perspective adds important aspects, and it will help us to communicate between disciplines and with the public. However, for the moment, we are listening to

the advice of the advisory board to focus on consolidating the new fellowship program and only make small improvements. This is also important because there is consensus that the impact of an institute for advanced study should be assessed according to medium- to long-term outcomes, both on an individual and institutional level. Talking to fellows from previous years, I realize that their involvement with the interdisciplinary community at the Collegium changed the trajectory of their research in productive ways.

Mario Wimmer Managing director, Collegium Helveticum



Mick Lehmann Head of communications, Collegium Helveticum



Fellow Year 2022/23



Outlook

We are pleased to have been able to welcome the new cohort of fellows in September, and are convinced that the intellectual energy of the first year of the new program will continue. This energy will help us to achieve our aim of involving additional fellows and guests in the cross-disciplinary dialogs taking place at the former Semper Observatory. While we have heeded the recommendation of the advisory board to allow the program to consolidate, we are pleased to report that the Collegium community will grow through the following developments. First, the Collegium was able to extend invitations to five internationally renowned and distinguished scientists, scholars, and artists to spend up to six months at the Collegium as full-time senior fellows. Second, the Collegium will be able to host up to three scholars at risk for up to six months with a fellowship supported by the OPO Foundation and the Foundation for Basic Research in Human Sciences. Third, the Collegium joined the NetIAS CAT program, which will bring an interdisciplinary group of highly promising early-career researchers to Zurich for a week.

Current Fellows

With the beginning of the 2022/23 fellowship year, we were able to welcome eight junior and ten senior fellows at the Collegium—with more to come throughout the year. While the fellows will all be pursuing their individual projects, they intersect in areas of shared interest such as climate change, artificial intelligence, public health, the commons, and futures.

On our website, you can find an overview of all the current fellowship projects at the Collegium, as well as a list of the associate fellows supporting the junior and senior fellows with their projects. The associate fellows also help the international fellows to connect with the academic and cultural community in Zurich.

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Time to Socialize: Does the Timing of Brain Development Predict Prosocial and Play Behavior?

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **JUDITH BURKART**, Professor at the Department of Anthropology, UZH.



Liat Grayver
Born 1986 in Kfar Yehezkel, IL
Meisterschülerin (doctoral):
Academy of Fine Arts,
Leipzig, DE (2018)

INCOMING INSTITUTION

University of Konstanz, DE
Media art

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Getting Intimate with the Surface: Transdisciplinary Research into Painting and Robotics

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **LLOYD SALTER**, Professor for Immersive Arts, ZHdK.



Tatjana Hofmann
Born 1983 in Sevastopol,
Former USSR
PhD: University of Zurich,
CH (2015)

INCOMING INSTITUTION

University of Zurich, CH
Slavic literature

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Crimea's Polylingualism

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **SYLVIA SASSE**, Professor of Slavic Literature at the Department of Slavic Studies, UZH.



Hannes Bajohr
Born 1984 in Berlin, DE
PhD: Columbia University,
New York, US (2017)

INCOMING INSTITUTION

University of Basel, CH
Literary media studies/poetry

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Post-Artificial Writing: Authorship in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **MICHAEL HAGNER**, Professor of Science Studies at the Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences, ETH Zurich.



Paola Cerrito
Born 1990 in Rome, IT
PhD: New York University,
US (2022)

INCOMING INSTITUTION

New York University, US
Primateology



Raffaela Kunz
Born 1986 in Dielsdorf, CH
PhD: University of Basel, CH
(2017)

INCOMING INSTITUTION
Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative
Public Law and International Law,
Heidelberg, DE

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Constitutional Responses to Challenges to
the Autonomy of Science in the Digital Age

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **CHRISTINE KAUFMANN**, Professor of Pub-
lic Law, Public International Law and European Law at the Institute
for International Law and Comparative Constitutional Law, UZH.



Jacqueline Maurer
Born 1984 in Aarau, CH
PhD: University of Zurich, CH
(2022)

INCOMING INSTITUTION
University of Zurich, CH
Film studies

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Creating Swiss Landscapes in Film

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **MONIKA DOMMANN**, Professor of Modern
History at the Department of History, UZH.



Chloé Pasin
Born 1991 in Toulouse, FR
PhD: University of Bordeaux, FR
(2018)

INCOMING INSTITUTION
University of Zurich, CH
Immunology

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
The Gendered Immune System: The Missing
Component in Mental Health Research

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **ROGER KOUYOS**, Associate Professor at
the Institute of Medical Virology, UZH, and at the Division of Infec-
tious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology, USZ.



Veronica Pecile
Born 1989 in Udine, IT
PhD: École des Hautes Études
en Sciences Sociales, Paris,
FR (2019)

INCOMING INSTITUTION
Harvard University, US
Socio-legal studies

FELLOWSHIP PROJECT
Representing the Nonhuman: The Law
Beyond Linear Time and the Individual Subject

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **OLIVER DIGGELMANN**, Professor of Pub-
lic International Law, European Law, Public Law, and Political Phi-
losophy at the Institute for International Law and Comparative
Constitutional Law, UZH.

Senior Fellows

Giulia Bonasio
Assistant Professor in Ancient
Philosophy at the Department
of Classics and Ancient History,
Durham University, UK
Ancient philosophy

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **CHRISTOPH RIEDWEG**, Professor of Classi-
cal Philology at the Department of Greek and Latin Philology, UZH.

Susan Charles
Professor of Psychological
Science and Nursing Science
at the Department of
Psychological Science,
University of California at
Irvine, US
Psychology

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **MIKE MARTIN**, Professor for Gerontopsy-
chology and Gerontology at the Department of Psychology, UZH.

Cari Dutcher
Associate Professor in
Mechanical Engineering at the
Department of Mechanical
Engineering and Material Scien-
ces, University of Minnesota, US
Chemical engineering

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **JAN VERMANT**, Professor of Soft Materi-
als at the Department of Materials, ETH Zurich.

Christos Gortsos
Professor of Public Economic
Law at the School of Law,
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens, GR
Public economic law

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **ROLF SETHE**, Professor of Private, Com-
mercial, and Business Law at the Faculty of Law, UZH.

Heather Kulik
Associate Professor in
Chemical Engineering at
the Department of Chemical
Engineering,
Massachusetts Institute
of Technology, US
Chemical engineering

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **MARKUS REIHER**, Professor of Theoreti-
cal Chemistry, Department of Chemistry and Applied Bioscien-
ces, ETH Zurich.

Sidharthan Maunaguru
Associate Professor in South
Asian studies and sociology
at the Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences, National University
of Singapore, SG
Cultural anthropology

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **BENEDIKT KORF**, Professor for Political
Geography at the Department of Geography, UZH.

Emma Sayer
Professor in Ecosystem
Ecology at the Lancaster
Environment Center,
Lancaster University, UK
Ecology

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **OWEN PETCHEY**, Professor of Predictive
Ecology at the Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environ-
mental Studies, UZH.

Wolfram Schlenker
Professor of International and
Public Affairs and co-director
of Center for Environmental
Economics and Policy,
Columbia University, US
Economics

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **ARMIN SCHMUTZLER**, Professor of Eco-
nomics at the Department of Banking and Finance, UZH.

Jay Siegel
Professor Emeritus of Medical
Chemistry, Schools of
Pharmaceutical and Life
Sciences, Tianjin University, CN
Education policy and medical chemistry

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **ERICK CARREIRA**, Professor of Organic
Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Applied Bioscien-
ces, ETH Zurich.

Christoph von der Malsburg
Senior fellow at the
Frankfurt Institute for Advanced
Studies, DE
Neuroscience

ASSOCIATE FELLOW **BENJAMIN GREWE**, Professor of Neural
Learning and Intelligent Systems at the Institute of Neuroinfor-
matics, UZH and ETH Zurich.

Scholars at Risk

The Collegium Helveticum is committed to intellectual freedom, and the freedom to question and to exchange ideas. The privilege of unconditional academic freedom enjoyed by the fellows at the Collegium Helveticum creates a responsibility beyond the local institutional framework. Therefore, the Collegium decided to join both the international and the Swiss Scholars at Risk networks and reach out to scholars and scientists facing the threat of political persecution. With the financial support of the OPO Foundation and the SHG Foundation, starting in 2023, the Collegium will be able to host three fully funded scholars at risk as fellows at the Semper Observatory.

This past June, the Collegium Helveticum extended an invitation to all scholars at risk currently based at the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts to come together at the Semper Observatory. Most of them had recently escaped the war in Ukraine and found refuge in Zurich. The scholars at risk coordinators of the Collegium’s supporting universities—Sara Elmer (UZH), Patricia Heuberger (ETH), and Dominik Sackmann (ZHdK)—provided them with information and answered their questions. During an informal reception, the scholars at risk coordinators, Sebastian Bonhoeffer and Mario Wimmer, spoke with the scholars present in an effort to better understand their needs.

Based on this feedback, the Collegium was able to open its fellowship program to scholars at risk and secured additional funds to support them financially. Furthermore, the Collegium organized a second meeting in November to provide information about funding opportunities in Switzerland. This meeting brought together scholars at risk with SNSF scholars at risk coordinator, Matt Kimmich, staff from the research grants offices at some of the local universities, Beatrice Scherrer (UZH) and Martine Vernooij (ETH), as well as the scholars at risk coordinators from the Collegium’s three supporting universities.

This commitment to supporting scholars and scientists at risk continues a long tradition within institutes for advanced study. In 1930, when the first Institute for Advanced Study was established in Princeton, many scholars in Europe

were facing persecution and being forced into exile. For some prominent scientists and scholars who were forced to migrate, such as Albert Einstein, Erwin Panofsky, and Hermann Weyl, to name just a few, the Institute in Princeton became their new intellectual home. Supporting scholars at risk and advocating for academic freedom worldwide has become one of the core activities of institutes for advanced study around the globe. The Collegium’s commitment to supporting scholars at risk and providing an academic home for some of these people at the Semper Observatory is also a way of continuing the legacy of Ludwik Fleck, an important reference point at the Collegium. After all, the microbiologist and philosopher of science was persecuted by the Nazis and survived two concentration camps. While the historical circumstances are certainly different today, the defense of academic freedom remains a vital task for scholars and scientists alike.

Fellowships at the Collegium

The Collegium Helveticum fellowship program is aimed at promising early-career researchers and artists as well as exceptional academics and artists who are already established in their careers. Based on the fellows’ shared interests, the program invites exchange and dialog across disciplines. We value diversity and nurture a fair and respectful work environment. The Collegium Helveticum welcomes applications from all disciplines represented at the three supporting institutions, from the humanities and social sciences, the natural sciences, engineering, and technology, to life sciences, medicine or the arts, architecture, and design. All fellows are encouraged to contribute to the Collegium’s program by applying with an idea for an event they can realize during their fellowship.

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIPS are aimed at researchers at the postdoctoral level (within five years of completing a PhD), or art school graduates at an equivalent stage in their career (within five years of completing an MFA or equivalent). Periods of care work and part-time employment can be

subtracted from the five-year threshold, with documentation to be provided with the application. The fellowship takes the form of full-time employment at a postdoctoral salary at ETH Zurich. Since the Collegium cannot provide laboratory infrastructure or studio space, junior fellows can arrange to use up to 40% of their time to do work outside of the Collegium if this is essential for the proposed project or furthers their skills in important ways. Usually, such arrangements would be made in close collaboration with the associate fellow and require approval by the Collegium’s director. We also encourage small interdisciplinary teams of up to three people to apply with a joint project. The Collegium is a family friendly workplace. Therefore, applications proposing joint research and task-sharing will be considered.

The application deadline for the 2023/24 fellowship year is March 1, 2023.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS are aimed at established artists or academics who work at the Collegium during a visiting fellowship at ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and Zurich University of the Arts. The fellowship comes with a stipend of 1,000 CHF a month.

Applications can be submitted any time between twelve and three months before the start of the planned fellowship. The next round of applications will be reviewed on January 1 and June 1, 2023.

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS are established researchers or artists affiliated with ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, or Zurich University of the Arts, who apply together with junior and senior fellows. Usually, associate fellows are tenured or tenure-track faculty. If this is not the case, two associate fellows may jointly support a junior or senior fellow with a letter of recommendation co-signed by both individuals, one of whom must be a professor; at the Zurich University of the Arts, the letter may be also co-signed by a department chair. Associate fellows may agree to integrate fellows into their group part-time and provide infrastructure for their research.

SCHOLARS AT RISK FELLOWSHIPS With the financial support of the OPO Foundation and the Foundation for Basic Research in Human Sciences, the Collegium Helveticum is able to offer three fellowships for scholars at risk. SAR fellows

are free to pursue their interdisciplinary research as outlined in their application. Applicants are required to provide documentation of their status as a scholar at risk. Information on detailed selection criteria and application forms can be found on our website.

Communications and Community Management

With Mick Lehmann, the Collegium was able to recruit an expert in communications and community management with a background in neuroscience, film studies, and psychology. Over the past year, the communication channels of the Collegium Helveticum were expanded. As well as on Facebook, we share information about the fellows’ activities via Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Each channel targets a specific audience and the content is tailored to fit the format. While our audience continues to grow, the Collegium aims to integrate the community across communication channels.

Given the international character of our community of fellows, we switched our communications to English. At the same time, the local anchoring and institutional support remains an important strength of the Collegium. Therefore, our communications focus on expanding the local networks within the three supporting universities.

Organization

Team



Sebastian Bonhoeffer
Director



Mario Wimmer
(as of May 2022),
Managing director



Christian Ritter
(until May 2022),
Managing director



Mick Lehmann
(as of February 2022),
Head of communications
and community management



Andrea Keller
(until February 2022),
Head of communications
and community management



Andrea Truttmann
Head of finance and
administration and the
event office



Ella Oettiker
Intern, event office



Eva Meier
Intern, administration

Governing Board

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for Research, ETH Zurich

Elisabeth Stark, Vice President
Research, University of Zurich

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of Research Dossier, University
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the Arts

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Alfred-Wegener-Institute,
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University of Bremen, and
Leader of the HGF MPG Joint
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Ecology and Technology at the
Max-Planck Institute for Marine
Microbiology, Bremen

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Emerita at the Max Planck
Institute for the History of
Science, Berlin and permanent
Visiting professor of Social
Thought and History at the
University of Chicago

Jörg Widmann, Professor of
Composition at the Barenboim-
Said Akademie, Berlin

Martino Stierli, Chief Curator
of Architecture and Design
at the Museum of Modern Art,
New York

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