



13

FRIAS NEWS

ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG • FREIBURG INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

RETREAT AND DIALOGUE





Der Höhepunkt des Jahres für mich war die Tagung "Forschungskollegs und ihre Funktion im deutschen Wissenschaftssystem" am 2. Mai 2016 in Berlin. FRIAS und Stifterverband hatten, zum ersten Mal überhaupt, über 30 deutsche Forschungskollegs und Fellowshipprogramme zu Gespräch und Austausch zusammengebracht. Die Tagung sollte ein Zeichen setzen: In Deutschland gibt es inzwischen eine stattliche Anzahl von Institutionen, die durch die Vergabe von Fellowships hervorragende Forschungsmöglichkeiten bieten und eine internationale Ausstrahlung entwickeln. Zusammen leisten sie einen kleinen, aber sichtbaren Beitrag zur Attraktivität der deutschen Wissenschaftslandschaft. Diese Leistung wird anerkannt, das zeigt schon die Liste der Vortragenden: Dr. Wilhelm Krull, Generalsekretär der Volkswagenstiftung, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, Generalsekretär der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Prof. Peter Strohschneider, Präsident der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft. In ihren Vorträgen hoben sie die Besonderheiten der Forschungskollegs innerhalb des deutschen Wissenschaftssystems hervor und betonten deren große Expertise bei der Förderung von Interdisziplinarität und Internationalität.

Ausgehend von dieser Tagung haben die Institute gemeinsam eine Stellungnahme verabschiedet (s.S.23). Diese ist an Politik und Wissenschaftsorganisationen gerichtet, die aufgefordert werden, in ihren Planungen auch die Belange dieser Einrichtungen zu berücksichtigen. Eine Tagungsbroschüre ist im Druck und kann beim FRIAS bestellt werden. Mein Fazit aus der Tagung: Langfristig sollte es ein eigenes Förderformat genau für diese Einrichtungen geben, das können die Institute ausweislich ihrer immer wieder überprüften, hervorragenden Arbeit mit Recht einfordern.

Den größeren Kontext für alle Überlegungen, wie Wissenschaft in Deutschland optimal gefördert werden kann, beleuchtet in ebenso knapper wie präziser Weise ein Interview, das wir kürzlich mit dem Vorsitzenden unseres Steuerungsgremiums, Minister a.D. Prof. Peter Frankenberg, führen konnten (S.18). Ein bleibender Eindruck aus dem Gespräch: Wir müssen in Deutschland zum Glück nicht permanent begründen, warum Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften wichtig sind – die Erfahrungen von Kollegen/innen in anderen Ländern zeigen uns gleichzeitig, dass man dies nicht als selbstverständlich betrachten darf.

Ein Blick ins Ausland: Kürzlich konnte ich an der Feier zum zehnjährigen Bestehen unseres Partnerinstituts aus dem UBIAS-Netzwerk an der National Taiwan University in Taipei teilnehmen. In meinem Vortrag habe ich noch einmal die zwei unterschiedlichen Traditionslinien herausgearbeitet, die sich in Nordamerika/Europa einerseits, Asien andererseits für Institutes for Advanced Studies entwickelt haben. Für alle wichtig ist und bleibt der Bezug auf das erste, „originale“ Institut, das IAS Princeton. Gerade wegen dieser Mischung von Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschieden können die UBIAS-Institute viel voneinander lernen. Einen sehr spannenden Austausch gibt es zu der Frage, wie interdisziplinäre Kooperationen bestmöglich gefördert werden können; und was einzelne Institute über Kooperationen erreichen

| | |
|---|----------|
| Editorial | 3 |
| Bookmarks in the book of life | 5 |
| Imagining the future | 8 |
| Measuring Germany's pulse | 12 |
| Wanderin zwischen den Welten | 14 |
| Off to new shores | 17 |
| Freiräume zum Denken und Forschen – dann findet Universität statt! | 18 |
| Research colleges provide key impulses | 23 |
| Fellows | 26 |
| Alumni-Portrait: Maurus Reinkowski | 30 |
| NEWS | 31 |
| Events | 39 |

können, wie es das Projekt der Intercontinental Academias für Nachwuchswissenschaftler/innen erfolgreich vorgemacht hat (www.intercontinental-academia.ubias.net).

Für uns Freiburger war die große Konferenz des UBIAS-Netzwerkes, die im Juni 2016 in Birmingham stattfand, der Moment, nach sechs Jahren Aufbauarbeit die Koordinationsfunktion weiterzugeben (s.S. 35). Dass das Netzwerk eine gute Zukunft hat, zeigen weitere Neugründungen der vergangenen Monate an namhaften Universitäten weltweit.

Viele internationale Fellows sind dieses Jahr mit Kindern in Freiburg. Wir sind inzwischen versierte Ratgeber für die Freiburger Kindertagesstätten, Grundschulen und weiterführenden Schulen geworden – und sind jedes Mal gespannt, wie sich die Aufenthalte für die Kleinen entwickeln. Dieses Jahr haben wir Kinder aus den USA, Großbritannien, Ägypten, Argentinien und Italien bei uns. Die Wissenschaft hängt vom weltweiten Austausch ab. Welch ein Privileg das in der heutigen Welt ist, daran werden wir jeden Tag in den Nachrichten erinnert und sollten es nicht vergessen.

Viel Spaß bei der Lektüre der FRIAS News wünscht

*Dr. Carsten Dose
(Geschäftsführer)*

All of our cells contain our genetic make-up in the form of genetic material. But how do our cells know whether to act as a liver cell or a kidney cell? This can be explained by epigenetics. Still a relatively new field of research, epigenetics has a particularly strong presence in Freiburg. Epigenetics investigates the mechanisms which control whether certain gene sequences are read or not, whether the activity of some gene strands is reinforced, and how this information is passed on to the next generation of cells. Furthermore, epigenetic research was able to demonstrate that factors such as diet, physical activity, and also psychological experiences, such as fear, violence or stress, have an impact on which genes are activated or deactivated. These mechanisms can be handed down over generations. As a consequence, epigenetics is able to explain why some people tend towards obesity, or why traumatic experiences can be passed on to future generations.

The current FRIAS Research Focus "Chemical Epigenetics" 2016/17 investigates epigenetic mechanisms on a biochemical level. The group aims to develop medical agents which can later be used, for example, in curing cancer. The group is made up of the Freiburg-based researchers Bernhard Breit, Professor of Organic Chemistry, Oliver Einsle, Professor of Biochemistry, Stefan Günther, Professor of Pharmaceutical Bioinformatics, and Manfred Jung, Professor of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry. They are joined by two British researchers, Prof. A. Ganeshan, Professor of Chemical Biology at the University of East Anglia, and Prof. Udo Oppermann, Professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Oxford. The group is set to invite other guest

BOOKMARKS IN THE BOOK OF LIFE FRIAS "CHEMICAL EPIGENETICS" RESEARCH FOCUS 2016/17



Foto: Siegfried Gombert

academics to the Institute over the course of the 2016/17 academic year. The research focus is investigating whether certain epigenetic proteins play a role in the development and course of an illness, and which agents can influence epigenetic processes. For a long time, it was believed that animals and people were only able to adapt to their environment through genetic mutation. By the same token, it seemed very unlikely that environmental influences could be reflected in our genetic make-up. However, epigenetics has shown that by reinforcing or inhibiting certain gene sequences, external influences can alter the regulation of the genome.

For a better understanding of epigenetic mechanisms, it is necessary to turn to genetics: Human genetic material, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), is structured as a so-called double helix. DNA consists of the four building blocks C, G, A and T. These four letters stand for the bases *adenine*, *cytosine*, *thymine* and *guanine*, which form the thousands of combinations that build the 'text' of the human genome. In the form of the double helix, the DNA is distributed across 46 chromosomes which are located in the cell nuclei of humans, and also in the nuclei of animals, plants and fungi in different numbers. The double helix structure has one particular advantage: when



Bernhard Breit, Professor of Organic Chemistry; Oliver Einsle, Professor of Biochemistry; Stefan Günther, Professor of Pharmaceutical Bioinformatics and Manfred Jung, Professor of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry

cells divide, the double helix ‘unravels’ and opens down the middle like a zip. The missing strand is replaced, with the result that the daughter cell contains a complete copy of the genome.

Inside the chromosomes, the DNA strands are wrapped around so-called histones. Much like bobbins on a spinning wheel, they ensure that the DNA is well wrapped up, like a thread of wool. In addition to the 22 of the 46 chromosomes which occur twice, women have two X chromosomes, while men have one X and one Y chromosome. At inception, the father’s sperm cell fertilizes the mother’s egg cell. The cells then merge together, ensuring that the child receives a complete set of 46 chromosomes. The DNA strands inside the chromosomes are then ‘read’ and converted into proteins which determine the person’s appearance, as well as all their metabolic processes.

For this purpose, the given order of C, G, A and T is transcribed as so-called messenger RNA (ribonucleic acid). The messenger RNA then transports this information to the protein factory of the cell, the ribosome, where the sequences of letters transmitted are read like a code, and

the resulting proteins are created. DNA is therefore the genetic blueprint of a person.

The American researcher James Watson and the British researcher Francis Crick were awarded a Nobel Prize in 1953 for the discovery of the double helix. In the 1990s, the Human Genome Project was set up to determine how many genes a person has, with the aim of decoding the exact sequence of the bases that make up the human genome. When the project ended in 2003, it was clear: the human genome consisted of approximately 26,000 genes – far fewer than anticipated.

Epigenetic research was required to understand that the regulation of the genome is far more complex. “If DNA is the book of life, then epigenetic mechanisms are bookmarks in this book”, says Manfred Jung. The coordinator of the research focus has been working on epigenetic mechanisms at a molecular level for many years.

A distinction is drawn between the mechanisms of the microRNA, DNA methylation and histone modifications. MicroRNA is RNA

which does not function as a messenger for protein synthesis, but instead is active itself and can activate or deactivate specific, individual genes. MicroRNAs ensure that the correct gene is activated depending on the cell type and therefore that the correct enzyme is created. DNA methylation is another mechanism which activates or deactivates, reinforces or inhibits, a gene segment. In doing so, a methyl group is attached to a certain point on the DNA molecule and either completely disables or reduces its activity. However, the activity of a genetic sequence can also be increased – e.g. when acetyl groups dock into histone proteins. A quick reminder: Histones package the DNA inside the chromosome. The interactions between histones and DNA modify the transcription of individual genes or gene strands. These mechanisms of histone modification are precisely what the FRIAS Research Focus seeks to address with its research.

For the members of the FRIAS “Chemical Epigenetics” Research Focus, an understanding of epigenetic mechanisms is important for researching how these processes might be able, for example, to halt the

growth of cancer cells. Because when epigenetic regulation is disrupted, this may lead to illness – for instance, if cell division is erratic due to faulty gene regulation, it can cause cancer. “Epigenetics is not only fundamental research, it is already being used in medicine to an extent. Seven epigenetic drugs are already on the market and are used particularly in cancer treatment. And at least 30 other substances are in the clinical trial phase”, explains Manfred Jung. At the beginning of the year, the pharmacist and his team published research results showing how the growth of tumour cells could potentially be inhibited.

The researchers investigate proteins and agents in test tubes in the laboratory. Each member of the Research Focus has an individual subject-specific focus which complements those of the other members. Whilst Oliver Einsle is responsible for protein purification and sheds light on protein structures, Stefan Günther subsequently examines potential drug candidates. Based on the structural information on the protein, he searches for the right “key” to fit the existing “lock”; that is, the relevant protein structure. The agents bind themselves to a protein, thereby strengthening or weakening its effect. Manfred Jung then uses test procedures and so-called screens to investigate whether these keys work, and whether the drugs demonstrate the desired effect. Finally, Bernhard Breit is responsible for optimising the drug candidate.

The group’s investigations predominantly take place in test tubes. The cellular, medical application occurs at a later stage, for example, in the collaborative research centre “Medical Epigenetics” (SFB 992, Speaker R. Schüle) in Freiburg, which brings together expertise from the University of Freiburg, the University Medical Center and the Freiburg Max Planck Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics. Whilst Chemical Epigenetics is busy with the fundamental research, Medical Epigenetics focuses more on the concrete possibilities for its medical application. In the process, both fields are in close contact in Freiburg.

Nonetheless, the researcher believes that clearer patterns will soon be recognized – which raises the question of how society should handle these discoveries. It is still difficult to say exactly how many generations pass before epigenetic markings in human genetic make-up disappear – in part because experiments on people are very difficult to perform. However, initial studies show that susceptibility to obesity or illnesses such as diabetes, for instance, are sometimes passed down even to the third generation. Several studies into the implications of environmental influences on children in the womb also exist, which show that the mother’s nutrition, physical activity and also experiences of violence both before and during pregnancy have a direct impact on her children. For example, a study from the Helmholtz Centre in Munich and the Technical University of Munich, which was recently published in the journal *Nature Genetics*, demonstrated that diet-induced diabetes in mouse mothers is passed down via the gametes to their offspring. These discoveries offer new medical, social and ethical perspectives on inheritance, opening up interesting points of departure for an interdisciplinary dialogue between the social sciences and the life sciences. There is certainly ample material for the current academic year at FRIAS. (ks)

IMAGINING THE FUTURE



Bringing together researchers and their subjects from all over the world is one of FRIAS' central missions. And it never fails to create interesting encounters between fellows and research scholars at the University of Freiburg. For this edition of FRIAS NEWS, we brought together Sabine Hake, FRIAS Fellow 2015/16 and Professor of German Literature and Culture at the University of Texas in Austin, USA, and Ulrich Bröckling, Professor of Cultural Sociology at the University of Freiburg. Sabine Hake's FRIAS project focuses on imaginaries of the proletariat and the workers' movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. Ulrich Bröckling's research centres on topics such as social technologies and technologies of the self, heroisations, the sociology of war and many others. Below we've published an extract from their discussion, which took place in July 2016..

Professor Hake, perhaps you could begin by giving us an overview of the areas your research is focused on at the moment?

Sabine Hake: Of course. I'm currently working on imaginaries of the proletariat in the 19th and 20th centuries. That is, I'm studying how

the workers' movements of the time imagined the future and their own role in it. My academic work has increasingly shown me how crucial it is for social movements to imagine a different future for themselves – through symbolic practices, cultural self-representation or performative identities. You have to know what you want to be in order to find the motivation to fight for it. The problem of our age, as I see it, is that although there's an incredible build-up of resentment, fear, hatred and disappointment, there's no collective script to express all of this. At present all we have is the populist script, which is of course very dangerous, as we're seeing right now with Trump, the Brexit vote and all of the right-wing groups in Europe.

My research has made one thing clear to me. Emotions have an incredibly important role to play in developing these imaginary communities and articulating them politically. It became apparent that socialism and communism, which claimed to be based solely on rational insight, that is on class consciousness and theory, were shaped by emotions just as much as every other social movement of the 19th century.

Ulrich Bröckling: The proletarian imagination is unique in that it's particularly loaded with theory and with the philosophy of history. In Marxist discourse at least, the rhetoric of the proletariat didn't directly focus on the empirical living conditions of the workers, but rather described one side of a fundamental social class division. At the same time, the proletariat had the historical mission of doing away with this division once and for all through revolution. The newer concept of the precariat isn't loaded in the same way. It's a socio-structural description of precarious, i.e. uncertain, living conditions.

Did the workers' movement at that time have a clear image of itself and of its role in history?

Hake: Absolutely! Suddenly they could write themselves into a different narrative, one in which they were suddenly the hero and saviour – this was reflected in the songs of the workers' movement, allegorical drawings and so-called Weihe spiele¹, which were very popular in social democracy, for example.

"Hero" is a good cue – Professor Bröckling, your research also deals with the subject of heroes and heroisations.

Bröckling: That's right – we have a collaborative research centre in Freiburg, the SFB 948, which focuses on "Heroes, Heroisations, Heroisms". It's an interdisciplinary project combining various historiographical fields from archaeology to contemporary history. It also encompasses literature, art and aesthetics as well as sociology. Part of our work involves a sub-project focusing on worker heroes in the Soviet Union and in

China. One of the questions here is to what extent Russian archetypes were adopted in China after the Revolution, and how both countries developed a very particular model of the hero(ine), one whose heroism consisted in achieving especially high levels of productivity.

Hake: Aha, like the Stakhanov² principle in the USSR.

Bröckling: That's right – and in the GDR there was the worker hero Hennecke, and there were similar figures in China too. Interestingly, these model workers, who were often also Party members, frequently encountered hostile reactions from their co-workers in the factories, because their record performances meant that quotas were then raised. But of course there was also a heroisation of the workers' movement, before the so-called workers' states developed. I'm sure you know more about that than I do, Professor Hake. The visual portrayals in socialist and anarchist magazines are a perfect example: athletic male bodies, always with a tool in hand, drawn or photographed looking up from below – the so-called "hero shot". These bodily aesthetics also conveyed a particular image of masculinity, defined by physical strength and combat readiness. And of course there's also the image of the working class as a collective hero, in line with Karl Marx, who charged the proletariat with the historic task of bringing world history to its conclusion. A heroic task indeed – and one that lends itself very well to visual depictions, I think.

Hake: But women also had a place in these heroisations – you only need to look at the clichéd images propagated by socialist realism of men and

women sitting on a tractor in front of a vast field and the like.

Bröckling: That's right! Ultimately the proletarian imagination revolved around work.

Hake: On the other hand, look at the lyric poetry created by workers in the 19th century, for example – work is nowhere to be found! Instead it's all love, flowers, the sun, the sky, mountains, trees, children, animals, springtime.

Bröckling: So when workers sit down at night and write poems...

Hake: ...they describe the exact opposite of their everyday life, precisely. It was a way for them to escape being defined by work. Though it was often very kitsch, it also anticipated a self-determined life – and at the same time borrowed from bourgeois lyric poetry.

Professor Hake, you once said that during your research you happened to discover that issues of gender and religion both played an important role – more so than you expected. What did you mean by that?

Hake: The more I read into the subject, the more clearly I saw that socialism was actually a sort of secularised religion. Religious metaphors, rituals and religious language were common. I think perhaps this can only now be understood, with a broader understanding of religiosity. And something that at first I really didn't want to admit is how strongly socialism must be defined within a "homosocial" context. Even though female workers were everywhere! But women were completely left out of this fantasy of the workers' movement. It was an entirely male world;

their male choirs and watering holes were a desperately longed-for escape from the oppressive conditions they lived in with their wives and children.

Bröckling: Allow me to return to the subject of religion. From a sociological point of view, we would say that religious practices allow communities to reinforce their sense of self and of community or solidarity, and that is of course exactly what happened in the socialist movement too. And as for the issue of the workers' movement being male-oriented – as you said, that is certainly related to the fact that family life was a life of close confines and hardship.

I'd also like to bring up something else that I think is important when dealing with the proletariat as a fantasy. The workers' movement – both its social democratic incarnation and the later Bolshevik variant – was also a powerful system of instilling discipline. This was based on the conviction that it was necessary to build up power within the organisation, collect votes and at the same time wait for a crisis to emerge, in order to then be in the right place at the right time with mass action. Because they were only strong when they stood together, individuals had to subordinate themselves. This had disastrous consequences. Up until 1914, the discipline of the socialist workers had drawn them to the May Day demonstrations; in August of that year, it sent them marching off to war as soldiers. And when vast swathes of the workers' movement later joined the Nazis, this inclination towards discipline was in no small part responsible.

Hake: I agree with you there! In the course of my work, I've noticed this enormous discrepancy between the optimism people had about the future then and the present day. In contrast to the workers' movement, today we don't have any real conception of the future! Although we often think in terms of technological advances and the like...

Bröckling: ...I would say that we actually imagine the future as a catastrophe and our hopes have been reduced to holding it off for as long as possible!

Hake: Exactly, there are two narratives: on the one hand a certain faith in technology, and on the other the expectation of catastrophe. But there is really no narrative of the future in which we are subjects who create our future ourselves. That has really struck me during my work. Looking back, you can laugh at the optimism they had, this naivety and also the dogmatism of the workers' movement, but I also realised that I was sometimes a little envious of how hopeful people were back then!

Professor Bröckling, you have written a book which deals with the figure of the "entrepreneurial self". Has the class struggle between capitalists and workers now been replaced by the phenomenon of individuals exploiting themselves – and does this mark another triumph for capitalism?

Bröckling: Here I should elaborate a little. The diagnosis that the capitalist form of socialisation inherently leads to crises, as formulated by Marxism and other early critiques of capitalism, is, I think, something that we should keep hold of. But I

believe we should reject the idea that this inevitably leads to the collapse of the whole system – and that too is a religious motif, by the way. A crisis isn't just something that comes to a head in dramatic events in a short space of time. As Walter Benjamin says, what defines catastrophe is more that it just keeps on going. If we understand a crisis to be an ongoing state of emergency, something that persists, then the choice of barbarism over socialism was made at the latest with National Socialism. There has been a great deal of discussion about a work by two French sociologists, Luc Boltanski and Ève Chiapello, called "Le nouvel esprit du capitalisme", or "The New Spirit of Capitalism"³. Their thesis is that the development of capitalism was accompanied throughout by the critique of capitalism. They broadly differentiate two basic forms of critique, which they call "social critique" and "artistic critique". Social critique criticises the destitution, the impoverishment and the exploitation that come with capitalism. Boltanski and Chiapello link this to the old workers' movement and put forward the thesis that this form of critique has already been integrated. The unions have signed collective bargaining agreements, the social democratic parties are an established part of the political system, and the welfare state has gone a long way towards meeting the demands for improved living standards. On the other hand, artistic critique – which is found more within the anarchist movement, but also in artistic avant-gardes – criticises not so much the social injustice of capitalism as alienation, abstraction, rationalisation and bureaucratisation. This form of critique, according to the authors, received another enormous boost in

1968. Think of the slogan "Under the cobbles, the beach", and also the significance of radical groups of artists such as the Situationists in the build-up to the events of May 1968 in Paris – that was artistic critique. Boltanski and Chiapello assert that this specific form of critique was absorbed by what we call neoliberal revolution after 1968. Autonomy, creativity, spontaneity – these radical demands, they say, have been robbed of their subversive power and made reality in new management concepts, new forms of organising work and changes in what is demanded of the individual. In order to survive in these conditions of generalised competition, all workers need to be innovative, flexible risk-takers; in short, they need to become entrepreneurs of their own lives. I discuss how this appeal works and what its consequences are in my book "The Entrepreneurial Self".

Hake: That's really interesting, I see a parallel there. I'm sure you're familiar with the discussion between Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth, who make a distinction that I think is similar to what you've just described. They distinguish between "redistribution" and "recognition". Nancy Fraser talks of the significance of redistribution, for example through progressive tax policies or social spending, while Axel Honneth describes the need for recognition – a need that comes from the identity politics of certain social movements. For example, I have the feeling that what's happening with Donald Trump in America at the moment is also a sort of battle for recognition. There are a group of people who feel that whites have been neglected and that they too should as a group demand recognition as victims of racial discrimi-

nation. In contrast, Bernie Sanders was calling for greater redistribution of economic, social and symbolic resources.

Let's talk about the role played by rage. Professor Hake, in your book you mention John Heartfield's "productive rage", for example. Why does rage have such negative political connotations these days?

Hake: Well, it always depends on what kind of rage it is. I would say that the rage featured in the novels of the workers' movement is a pure, righteous rage – picture it as a blazing candle. It's not self-interested rage, it's in the service of something bigger. While in the case of enraged citizens today, who tend to be older, wealthier, and more conservative, it's really just a "not in my backyard" attitude; it's rage at everyone who might take something away from me. That is self-interested rage.

Bröckling: I agree. Especially when I look at the populist forces in Germany – there's constant talk about fear. Fear of being inundated by foreigners, fear of social decline, fear of everything possible. My belief is that they might say "fear", but it's really rage and hatred that are at work. If you talk in terms of fear, you've got a major advantage. It shields you from criticism; nobody can contradict you. If I say that I'm afraid, how can anyone tell me that I'm not? In this respect, I would differentiate between fear as a feeling, and fear as an argument in public discourse. Fear can be used to whip people up, and this can be politically exploited. Marc Jongen, who's a "court philosopher" of sorts for the right-wing protest party Alternative for Germany (AfD) as well as a philosophy lecturer

at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design, says quite openly that German society needs to increase its supply of "thymos". Thymos is an ancient Greek term referring to emotional forces and "gut feeling". Constantly invoking fears is a way of mobilising them in order to exploit them. The goal is to be afraid – and to make others afraid. And citing fear provides carte blanche for indulging in xenophobia and racism. In that respect it's disastrous when even representatives of democratic parties are saying that citizens' fears must be taken seriously. When they use this argument they're letting themselves be driven by the right-wing movements.

*Professor Hake, Professor Bröckling, many thanks for this interesting conversation.
(ks)*

¹ These were mass events with expressionist dancing, chanting and movement choirs intended to portray the battle between the workers' movement and capitalism. They were later continued by the Nazis, who layered them with sacred, mystical and nationalistic elements.

² Alexey Grigoryevich Stakhanov was seen as a model Soviet worker after he exceeded his coal production quota by a factor of 13 during a shift in 1935.

³ Luc Boltanski, Ève Chiapello (2005): "The New Spirit of Capitalism". Verso, London / New York.

MEASURING GERMANY'S PULSE

Andrew Port



"Er hört zu!" – "He listens!" said the wife of an interview partner about Andrew Port, who was able to get her husband talk more about his experiences in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) than ever before. Andrew Port's ability to listen and get people talking has gotten him far: the historian focuses on modern German history and has published a wide range of books and articles that have received a good deal of media attention. As an attentive observer of contemporary Germany, he is interested in the "breaking points" of recent German history, and especially in "the way Germans perceive themselves". For his work, he combines diligent archival research with extensive interviews with contemporary witnesses. By studying recent German history and measuring the pulse of German society, he is able to gain an understanding of the issues that still move the country. In order to get a more detailed picture of recent German history and what it means for current society, he has done extensive research on everyday life during the GDR, the foreign policies of divided Germany during the Cold War, and German reactions to genocide in other parts of the world.

Having spent many years both in larger German cities as well as some of the provinces, he speaks fluent German and is well connected in German academia.

He first came to Germany in 1987 during a so-called junior year abroad in Paris, where he got to know German students, visited Berlin, and became interested in the country and its history. As it happens, he returned to Berlin in 1989, three weeks before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Already on the night of November 9, he crossed the border to East Berlin and later visited other parts of East Germany. He spent the next two years studying at the Freie Universität, while at the same time working as a bartender, waiter, and substitute school teacher for the U.S. Army in Berlin.

"I fell in love with Germany because of the people I met back then", he says. "Those were young people like me, who grew up in the 1960s and 1970s, and even though they were born long after the Second World War, they really tried to deal with their country's past in a very sincere way. It was this seriousness in thinking about the world around them that really impressed me and it was something that I had not experienced in the same way in the United States before. I really think Germany has become a much better place as a result of this."

After attending graduate school at Harvard University, he came back to Germany in 1994 to carry out research for his doctoral dissertation. He was particularly interested in the daily lives of ordinary people in the GDR and the issue of how the East German regime was able to remain stable for such a long time. In order to learn more about everyday life in a typical East German town, his host, Prof. Lutz Niethammer, suggested

the city of Saalfeld as a suitable place for his research. Saalfeld, situated in the north of the Thuringian Highland close to Jena and Weimar, served as a "case study" for a typical industrial city, with its local steel mill, the Maxhütte, and its rather provincial setting. The city was nevertheless also good for a number of surprises. As it turned out, the city archive and the surviving documents were especially well preserved, and during his research there and in more than a dozen other archives, Andrew Port discovered that the town had already experienced a local uprising of uranium miners in 1951 – long before the well-known June 1953 upheaval. This discovery, which he published in the journal *Social History*, received considerable attention in Germany and further sparked his ambition to learn more about everyday life during the GDR.

The question that puzzled him most was why the GDR regime was able to last for such a long time despite such widespread popular discontent. While reading documents in the archives and doing interviews with contemporary witnesses, he not only discovered a large number of local conflicts but also quickly realized that many Saalfelders had not been afraid to voice their complaints to the authorities. In his book *Conflict and Stability* in the German Democratic Republic, Andrew Port describes how local officials reacted to such complaints and conflicts by pursuing negotiations and adopting compromises in order to achieve harmony within the town and surrounding district. At the same time, he shows how official policies created, wittingly or not, social cleavages that prevented – even more so than repression – the formation of a more united opposition against the regime.

His book, later published in German as *Die rätselhafte Stabilität der DDR*, provided substantial insights into everyday life in the GDR and received considerable critical acclaim. He was able to show that East Germans were not simply submissive subjects, but rather had their own ways of avoiding the pressure and demands placed on them by the regime. In his writings, Andrew Port also argues that the sole reliance on Stasi files by many leading historians, as well as an ignorance of regional differences, had led to an incomplete understanding of everyday life in the GDR, especially in German academia.

In his FRIAS-project, he deals with another major aspect of German history: the reactions of Germans to genocides that took place in other parts of the world after the Holocaust, with a focus on Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda. Analyzing reactions by politicians and diplomats, the media, human rights groups, and intellectuals, as well as conducting interviews with contemporary witnesses, he traces the evolution of German foreign policy, especially the country's greater willingness to get involved abroad, including militarily. Furthermore, he wants to show how Germany, in responding to crises elsewhere, has dealt with its own past. "When I read German newspaper articles and follow Bundestag debates from the time of the Cambodian genocide or the conflict in the Balkans, I get a sense of how many of the arguments reflect on the relationship of the journalists and politicians to Germany and the fraught history of their country", he explains. In the reactions to these genocides, he has found references to humanitarian reasons and political motivations (e.g., anti-communism), but also a sense of moral duty and

of the historical burden borne by the country most closely associated with genocide.

It was especially in the late 1970s that popular consciousness about the actual dimensions of World War II and the Holocaust developed, not least because of the broadcast of the American television series *Holocaust*. "Of course, in all these cases, the Holocaust is always there in a subconscious way, but it is not always dominant", says Andrew Port. "Yet, it always seems to come up in the context of whether Germany has some sort of special obligation to act."

That said, he shows in the case of Cambodia, for example, how the reactions of East and West Germany were predominantly driven by foreign policy concerns. West Germany decided to recognize the Khmer Rouge as Cambodia's official representative at the UN following the fall of the Cambodian communists in 1979, largely because of the Federal Republic's diplomatic considerations towards the US and China, whereas East Germany opposed the Khmer Rouge because of their close ties to China, which was considered an arch enemy of the Soviet Union at the time. Whereas the West German debate was also characterized by a struggle between the left and right about their previous positions during the war in Vietnam, East Germans seemed to be grappling with the question of how it was possible for communists to have committed such horrible crimes.

Andrew Port's research will culminate in a book tentatively titled "What Germans Talk about When They Talk about Genocide". This will provide, no doubt, an interesting historical and sociological analysis – and one that Germans would do well to consider carefully. (ks)

WANDERIN ZWISCHEN DEN WELTEN

Nicola Piper

Sie kann nachempfinden, wie sich das anfühlt: Die Sprache des Landes nicht sprechen, in das es einen verschlagen hat. Die Schrift nicht lesen können. Als einzige anders aussehen als alle anderen: Ein Gespür dafür hat Nicola Piper bei einem Studienaufenthalt in Tokio bekommen. Dabei ist der Japanologin und Soziologin durchaus bewusst, wie privilegiert sie als weiße Europäerin mit guter Ausbildung in ihrer Rolle als Migrantin ist. Nicht im Entferntesten zu vergleichen mit einem Afrikaner, der sich übers Mittelmeer nach Europa zu retten versucht. Dennoch hat sie es erlebt, als sie in Tokio ihr Visum verlängern wollte: die Befragungen, das Misstrauen. „Man hat nicht dieselben Rechte wie die anderen und muss sich immer legitimieren.“ Eine Erfahrung, die sie mit Migranten in aller Welt verbindet. 1966 in München geboren, hat die Kosmopolitin selbst mehr als die Hälfte ihres Lebens im Ausland verbracht: Großbritannien, Dänemark, Singapur und zahlreiche weitere Stationen. Seit fünf Jahren als Professorin für Migration und Menschenrechte an der Universität von Sydney in Australien, seit Anfang Juni als Fellow am

FRIAS. Das neunmonatige Marie-Curie-Stipendium muss sie in zwei Etappen splitten, weil sie für einen so langen Zeitraum nicht abkömmlich ist. Nach Freiburg hat die Migrationsforscherin nicht nur ihren englischen Lebensgefährten mitgebracht, sondern auch ihre von der angelsächsischen Kultur geprägte unprätentiöse Art: Mit der „sehr geehrten Frau Professorin“ als Anrede braucht man ihr gar nicht erst zu kommen.

„Ich lebe, was ich erforsche“, sagt sie. Globale Migrationsbewegungen: Das ist für sie kein abstrakter Begriff, sondern er hat zu tun mit Menschen, denen elementare Rechte vorenthalten werden. Davon lässt sie sich berühren. „Eine Gesellschaft braucht nicht nur die hochqualifizierten Zuwanderer“, ist sie überzeugt. „New York würde in einem Riesenchaos versinken, würden alle Ausländer ausgewiesen, die so genannte niedere Tätigkeiten verrichtet.“ An der Universität Sydney hat sie es sich angewöhnt, grundsätzlich auch die Putzfrauen zu grüßen. Sie will sie „aus ihrer Unsichtbarkeit holen“. Dafür nutzt sie aber auch ihre Forschung, mit der sie die euro-



zentristische Perspektive weit hinter sich lässt. Aus ihrem globalen Blickwinkel erscheint doch arg eng, was sich in Europa migrationspolitisch derzeit zusammen braut: wachsende Nationalismen, Brexit, Grenzkontrollen und die Angst vor Zuwanderern, die dem Staat vermeintlich nur auf der Tasche liegen. Dabei habe Europa mit seiner Freizügigkeit lange Modellcharakter gehabt. „Diese ungehinderte Mobilität gab es sonst nirgendwo.“ Dem Zusammenschluss der ASEAN-Staaten, die so etwas auch anstreben, könne Europa nun kaum noch als Vorbild dienen.

Migration erkennt Nicola Piper als ein globales Phänomen: „Es gibt kein Land, das nicht davon betroffen ist“ - ob als Entsenderland wie viele afrikanische Staaten, die Philippinen, Indonesien oder Sri Lanka, oder als Empfänger- oder Transitland. Ganz eindeutig verläuft die Grenze zwischen beiden aber häufig nicht, auch wenn Staaten sich gerne einseitig als das eine oder das andere definieren. Südafrika, zum Beispiel, nimmt Migranten auf und entsendet gleichzeitig Krankenschwestern nach Großbritannien. Wohl den ausgebildeten philippinischen Krankenschwestern, die im Rahmen eines bilateralen Abkommens in Deutschland arbeiten zu rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen auf EU-Niveau. Gewerkschaften und Migrantenselbstorganisationen waren an den Verhandlungen beteiligt. Die Regel ist das nicht. Was Nicola Piper mit Sorge beobachtet, ist die ungeschützte Migration: Menschen, die rechtlos auf Baustellen oder in Haushalten schuften, zu geringen oder gar keinen Löhnen

und für die Urlaub oder Privatsphäre unbekannte Konzepte sind.

Weil das Problem ein globales ist, setzt die Wissenschaftlerin auf global agierende Organisationen wie die UNO oder deren Sonderorganisation ILO (Internationale Arbeitsorganisation). Beide formulieren denn auch Konventionen, in denen sie internationale Arbeits- und Menschenrechtsstandards festschreiben. „Aber niemand in Europa oder Quatar will sie ratifizieren.“ Also treten sie dort auch nicht in Kraft.

Immerhin wären sie gar nicht zu stande gekommen, wenn Gewerkschaften, Nichtregierungs- und Migrantenorganisationen nicht auf die Problematik aufmerksam gemacht und Lobbyarbeit für die Entrichteten betrieben hätten, ist Nicola Piper überzeugt. Dass sie sich zu Netzwerken verbünden, gibt ihnen eine größere Schlagkraft. „Ohne die Kampagnen der Zivilgesellschaft gäbe es diese Konventionen nicht.“ Etwa die neue ILO-Konvention für Hausarbeiter, die ein Arbeitsverhältnis auf Augenhöhe zwischen Arbeitgeber und -nehmer herbeiführen will.

Während ihres FRIAS Fellowships bringt Nicola Piper ihre wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnisse auch einem größeren Publikum näher. So hielt sie, gemeinsam mit FRIAS Alumnus Stefan Rother (Universität Freiburg) am 24. Oktober 2016 einen Freiburger Horizonte-Vortrag zum Thema „Migration: Globale Herausforderung und Implikationen für Deutschland“. Zudem organisiert sie gemeinsam mit Prof. Jürgen Rüland (Universität Freiburg) am 27./28. April 2017 ei-

nen Autoren-Workshop zum Thema Migration, in dessen Rahmen Prof. Sandra Lavenex (Universität Genf) einen Vortrag zur europäischen Asylpolitik halten wird.

Nicola Piper arbeitet mit qualitativen Methoden: Interviews führen, Diskurse verfolgen, bei den Verhandlungsprozessen bei der ILO dabei sein, Berichte und politische Erklärungen lesen und auswerten. Schon die Sprache könnte verrätrisch sein. Mit „maids“ werden die in sklavenähnlicher Abhängigkeit gehaltenen Hausmädchen etwa in arabischen Ländern landläufig benannt. Die ILO-Konvention für Hausarbeiter spricht von „domestic workers“, für die feste Arbeitszeiten, eine angemessene Bezahlung und die Wahrung der Privatsphäre vereinbart werden sollen. „Es geht den internationalen Organisationen nicht darum, generell die Türen für alle zu öffnen“, stellt Piper klar. „Sondern welche Rechte gelten sollen für die, die reinkommen.“ (ar)

FREIRÄUME ZUM DENKEN UND FORSCHEN – DANN FINDET UNIVERSITÄT STATT!



Ein Gespräch mit dem Vorsitzenden des FRIAS Steuerungsgremiums und ehemaligen Wissenschaftsminister Baden-Württembergs, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Peter Frankenberg.

Dr. Carsten Dose, Geschäftsführer des FRIAS, und Katharina Seibel trafen Herrn Frankenberg in den Räumen der Heinrich-Vetter-Stiftung in Mannheim, deren Vorsitzender er ist.

FRIAS: Herr Frankenberg, als jemand, der sich auf vielfältige Weise für die Hochschulförderung einsetzt hat: hat sich die Exzellenzinitiative insgesamt bewährt?

Frankenberg: Nun war ich selber von Anfang an der Entwicklung der Exzellenzinitiative beteiligt und kann darum nicht ganz neutral urteilen, aber ich würde sagen, wir waren erfolgreicher als wir es zu Anfang gehofft hatten. Ich würde sagen, ja, sie hat sich bewährt, das zeigen auch die Evaluierungen durch den Wissenschaftsrat und die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

Die Hauptziele der Initiative waren ja die Stärkung bestimmter Forschungsbereiche an Universitäten, mehr Zusammenarbeit mit außeruniversitären Einrichtungen, eine höhere Sichtbarkeit deutscher Uni-

versitäten und eine größere Attraktivität für internationale Forscherinnen und Forscher. Diese Ziele wurden in dieser kurzen Zeit bereits überraschend gut erreicht – und das mit relativ geringen Mitteln, wenn man die Finanzierung mit den Budgets von internationalen Spitzenuniversitäten vergleicht. Im Ausland hat man es sehr begrüßt, dass durch die Exzellenzinitiative die besonders starken Universitäten stärker unterstützt und sichtbar gemacht wurden.

FRIAS: Die Exzellenzinitiative bedeutet andererseits auch eine Differenzierung zwischen erfolgreichen und weniger erfolgreichen Universitäten. Stehen die damit verbundenen Reputationsverluste dennoch im Verhältnis zu den angestrebten Zielen?

Frankenberg: Der Wettbewerb hatte aus meiner Sicht eine andere Konsequenz: er hat einen Prozess der Selbstbesinnung und Selbstverortung an den Universitäten angestoßen. Die Universitäten mussten sich entscheiden, wo sie ihre Schwerpunkte sehen, ob sie bei den Graduiertenschulen oder mit Exzellenzclustern erfolgreich sein können, wo ihre Stärken und Schwächen liegen. Andere Universitäten haben klar gesehen, dass sie in diesem Wettbewerb nicht reüssieren können, aber haben dafür stärker die regionale Verankerung gesucht. Insofern hat die Exzellenzinitiative zu einem Selbstidentifikationsprozess geführt, der sehr positiv ist. Die Tatsache, dass sich die Universitäten intensiv mit sich selber beschäftigt haben, ist an sich schon ein sehr großer Erfolg.

FRIAS: Sind Universitätsleitungen heute ausreichend in der Lage, solche strategischen Positionierungen ihrer Universitäten zu entwerfen, zu gestalten und auch durchzubalten?

Frankenberg: Da sprechen Sie einen Punkt an, der ja auch im Bericht und der Empfehlung zur Weiterführung des Wissenschaftsrates kritisiert wurde. Es gibt große Defizite im Hinblick auf die Autonomie und Steuerungsfähigkeit der Hochschulen. Es muss ein ausgewogenes Verhältnis geben zwischen akademischer Freiheit, etwa repräsentiert durch den Senat, und der Steuerungsfähigkeit durch das Rektorat und den Universitätsrat. Die Universitätsspitze muss in der Lage sein, strategische Entscheidungen umzusetzen. Dazu kommen weitere Punkte, wie zum Beispiel eine größere Flexibilität bei der Personalstruktur und die Bauherreneigenschaft für Universitäten. Ich hielte sogar die Kreditfähigkeit von Universitäten für sinnvoll, denn viele Hochschulen könnten ihre Infrastrukturprobleme momentan auf dem Kapitalmarkt lösen. Diese Autonomie haben Rektorate aber nicht, und können nicht zuletzt auch deswegen bei der internationalen Konkurrenz nicht mithalten.

FRIAS: Allerdings muss man sagen, dass die Idee einer stärkeren Steuerungsfähigkeit durch die Rektorate an den Universitäten wenige Freunde hat. In politisch links orientierten Kreisen argumentiert man für mehr Partizipation, die konservative Seite wirft zusätzlich die Wissenschaftsfreiheit in die Waagschale. Welche Möglichkeiten sehen Sie, in dieser Gemengelage eine stärkere Steuerungsfähigkeit zu erlangen?

Frankenberg: Ja, diese Spannung sehe ich durchaus auch. Ich kenne aber auch das Gegenteil, nämlich die Universität in Mannheim, bei der ich ja Rektor war. Wir haben damals eine Öffnungsklausel genutzt, um einen Universitätsrat zu etablieren – das war im Grunde genommen ein Vorgriff auf das dann erste neue Hochschulgesetz aus der Zeit des damaligen Wissenschaftsminister Klaus von Trotha. Damals hat der Senat seiner eigenen Verkleinerung und der Zuweisung seiner Kompetenzen an das Rektorat mit einer Zweidrittelmehrheit zugestimmt. Während meiner Zeit als Rektor haben wir im Senat sogar eine Fakultät aufgelöst, mit nur zwei Gegenstimmen. Das zeigt, dass eine größere Steuerungsfähigkeit der Universitäten funktioniert, wenn es gelingt, die Professorenschaft und die Studierenden mitzunehmen. Das ist an Volluniversitäten sicherlich schwieriger als an kleineren, spezialisierten Hochschulen. Aber es ist auch eine Frage des Vertrauens, dass das Rektorat das Gesamtwohl im Auge hat.

FRIAS: Nun gibt es ja in Ländern wie Großbritannien ein eher marktorientiertes, wettbewerbliches Modell der Hochschulen, inklusive hoher Studiengebühren, aber auch mehr Autonomie für die Hochschulen. Würden Sie diesen Weg empfehlen, um die deutschen Reformblockaden aufzubrechen?

Frankenberg: Diesen Grad an Autonomie für die Universitäten gibt es ja in den meisten angelsächsischen Systemen, also auch in Australien oder Südafrika. Das hat schon Vorbildcharakter. Was ich für weniger vorbildhaft halte, ist die Finanzierung. Ich bin selbst nach wie vor ein Befürworter der Studiengebühren, aber es gibt eine Grenze, ab der Studienbeiträge prohibitiv wirken, also weiten Teilen der Bevölkerung den Zugang zu Universitäten unmöglich machen. Großbritannien hat diese Schwelle schon lange überschritten – was auch zur Folge hat, dass in manchen Fällen nicht mehr rein nach der Qualität der Bewerbungen über eine Aufnahme entschieden wird.

Es gibt einen zweiten Punkt, den ich sehr kritisch sehe. In Großbritannien liegt mittlerweile die Priorität sehr stark auf dem „Impact“, also dem gesellschaftlichen oder auch wirtschaftlichen Nutzen von Forschung. Das geschieht zu Lasten der Grund-

lagenforschung, was sich langfristig natürlich auch auf die angewandte Forschung auswirkt. Wir können froh sein, dass die Exzellenzinitiative keinen Fokus auf bestimmte *a priori* nützliche Wissenschaftsbereiche gelegt hat – in diesem Punkt sollten wir dem britischen Beispiel nicht folgen.

FRIAS: Könnte man dann im Umkehrschluss sagen, dass in der deutschen Politik ein Konsens der Wissenschaftsfreundlichkeit besteht?

Frankenberg: Das stimmt, wobei das je nach Bundesland unterschiedlich aussieht. In Baden-Württemberg haben wir eine hohe Wissenschaftsfreundlichkeit von Politik und Gesellschaft, aus der Grundhaltung heraus, dass dieses Hightech-Ländle wie kein anderes von der „Ressource Kopf“ abhängt. Wir hatten eigentlich immer Ministerpräsidenten, denen Forschung, Entwicklung und Hochschulen ein Kernanliegen der Landespolitik war. Den zweiten Vorteil, den wir in Baden-Württemberg haben, ist die große Kontinuität der Hochschulpolitik. Die großen Brüche wurden weitestgehend vermieden. Die Universitäten konnten sich entwickeln, dank des Bekenntnisses zur Wissenschaft und einer Politik ohne große Verwerfungen. Aus meiner Sicht gibt es das sonst nur noch in Bayern. Darum ist es für mich auch nicht verwunderlich, dass bei allen Vergleichen – DFG-Statistiken, Exzellenzinitiative, Humboldt-Preise usw. – die beiden süddeutschen Länder weit vor den anderen liegen. Dazu gehören auch außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen wie die Max-Planck- und die Fraunhofer-Institute, die in großer Fülle in Süd-

deutschland vorhanden sind. Diese Wissenschaftsfreundlichkeit sehe ich nicht in allen Bundesländern.

FRIAS: Da schließt sich die Frage an, wie wissenschaftsförderlich der Föderalismus letztlich sein kann, denn einzelne Bundesländer könnten ja auch darauf spekulieren, dass schon die anderen die Wissenschaft finanzieren werden.

Frankenberg: Nun, Universitäten haben auch immer einen starken geografischen Bezug. Gerade in Baden-Württemberg gibt es viele lokale Unternehmen. Unsere Absolventen bleiben zum Großteil in der Nähe ihres Studienortes, wovon im Falle Baden-Württembergs natürlich beide Seiten profitieren. Wir haben allein in Baden-Württemberg 60 Hochschulstandorte, das fällt für mich auch unter Strukturpolitik für den ländlichen Raum. Das Hochschulsystem in Baden-Württemberg ist sehr differenziert, wir haben klassische Hochschulen, Duale und Fachhochschulen – dieses System hat das Bundesland sehr erfolgreich gemacht. Aber ihre Frage zielt natürlich auch auf die spezifischen Probleme des Föderalismus ab. Es bleibt immer wieder eine Herausforderung, wie die Bundesländer dazu angehalten werden können, über ihre Grenzen hinweg zu denken. Das wiederum führt zu der Frage, welche Rolle der Bund überhaupt spielt. Wenn Bundesländer anfangen zu fragen, warum sie Studierende ausbilden sollen, die letztlich für den Arbeitsmarkt in anderen Bundesländern ausgebildet werden, dann kann der Föderalismus nicht funktionieren. Diesen Fall gab es ja beispielsweise in Schleswig-Holstein, wo das Land den Fachbereich Medizin der Universität zu Lübeck schließen

wollte, was zum Glück verhindert werden konnte.

Interessant ist noch die Rolle des Bundes. Mit der Grundgesetzänderung von Artikel 91b Absatz 1 hat der Bund nun ja auch erweiterte Kooperationsmöglichkeiten, d. h. er kann nun nicht nur projektorientiert, sondern auch institutionell und zeitlich unbefristet fördern. Damit hat er zum Beispiel die Möglichkeit, die Förderung exzellenter Forschungseinrichtungen zu verstetigen oder Zusammenschlüsse aus Universitäten und außeruniversitären Forschungseinrichtungen zu erleichtern.

FRIAS: Um noch einmal auf das Verhältnis von Wissenschaft und Politik zu kommen: gibt es einen ausreichenden Dialog zwischen Wissenschaft und Politik? Reagiert Wissenschaft in ausreichendem Maß auf gesellschaftliche Fragestellungen?

Frankenberg: Ich glaube, das ist abhängig von den Fächern. Zunächst einmal ist in einer Zeit, zu der fast 50 Prozent eines Altersjahrgangs studieren, die gesellschaftliche Partizipation natürlich viel breiter als je zuvor. Und das kann man auf andere Weise eigentlich kaum erreichen. Bei der Frage, ob die Wissenschaft die Interessen von gesellschaftlichen Stakeholdern genügend einbezieht, wäre ich vorsichtiger. Die Frage ist, wie man die Hochschulen öffnen kann für die Welt außerhalb der Wissenschaft. Da spielen Hochschulräte eine wichtige Rolle, denn sie tragen eine Außensicht in die Universitäten hinein.

FRIAS: Wenn wir das noch einmal für die Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften konkretisieren: Für diese lässt sich ja sagen, dass sie gerade in Zeiten des gesteigerten Populismus besonders wichtig sind. Zugleich sehen sie sich weltweit mit starken Kürzungen konfrontiert. Sie müssen gewissermaßen ihre „Nützlichkeit“ beweisen.

Frankenberg: Das sehe ich skeptisch. Ich frage mich, warum sich die Geisteswissenschaften so leicht infrage stellen lassen. Natürlich geht es auch um die Frage, welchen Beitrag sie für den Diskurs zum Beispiel zwischen Technik und Gesellschaft und ähnliche Bereiche leisten können. Aber sich zu legitimieren, zum Beispiel indem man Studiengänge mit immer neuen Schwerpunkten schafft, halte ich für den falschen Weg. Die Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften sollten unabhängig von direkten Nützlichkeitserwägungen gefördert werden, denn sie sind Teil unserer Kultur. Es gibt so viele Bereiche, bei denen man noch gar nicht sagen kann, was einmal daraus resultieren könnte. Nehmen wir als Beispiel die Archäologie, die im Dialog mit der Biologie und der Anthropologie zu ganz neuen Erkenntnissen zum Beispiel über die Besiedlung Europas kommt.

FRIAS: Interdisziplinäre Zusammenarbeit ist ein gutes Stichwort. Es ist ja ein viel diskutiertes Thema, ob die Disziplinen mittlerweile überspezialisiert sind und der interdisziplinäre Dialog aktiv gefördert werden muss, oder ob umgekehrt letztlich doch die Disziplinen der Ort von Innovationen bleiben. Was ist ihre Perspektive darauf?

Frankenberg: Wenn man die heutigen Wissenschaften sieht, etwa die Durchdringung der meisten Fächer mit Informatik, mit Mathematik oder im Falle der Medizin mit den gesamten Fragen der Genetik, der Molekularbiologie, der Funktionsweisen der Zellen bis hin zu Geisteswissenschaften, die mit numerischen Modellen arbeiten, dann ist Interdisziplinarität absolut essentiell. Natürlich nimmt gleichzeitig die Spezialisierung in den Fächern stark zu, das heißt, schon in den Fakultäten bedarf es der verstärkten Kommunikation. Da greife ich wieder das Bild von „my chair is my castle“ auf: diese Haltung müssen wir aufbrechen und stattdessen gewissermaßen Reihenhausiedlungen schaffen, mit gemeinsamen Vorgärten. Wir müssen ein Klima an den Universitäten schaffen, in dem man sich dafür interessiert, was die Kolleginnen und Kollegen forschen, und auch dafür, was außerhalb der Universität geschieht. Dafür kann man gewisse Instrumente schaffen, aber letztlich kann man das nicht durchstrukturieren. Da wären wir schnell beim FRIAS, das Räume für Begegnungen schafft und Menschen zusammenführt, ohne strukturelle Überfrachtung.

FRIAS: Während Ihrer Zeit als Wissenschaftsminister haben Sie sich ja neben der Exzellenzinitiative auch für die Etablierung von Dualen Hochschulen in Baden-Württemberg stark gemacht. Ist das die universitäre Landschaft, wie sie Ihnen vorschwebt?

Frankenberg: In Zeiten, in denen fast die Hälfte eines Jahrgangs an Universitäten studiert, benötigen wir ein hochdifferenziertes Hochschulsystem. Das heißt, wir brauchen auf der einen Seite exzelle Foschungsuniversitäten, die attraktiv sind für herausragende Forscher aus aller Welt. Daneben brauchen wir aber auch Universitäten mit einem stärkeren Regionalbezug, die anwendungsnahe lehren und forschen. Eine Mehrzahl der Studierenden sucht eine akademische Berufsausbildung, um anschließend auf dem regionalen Arbeitsmarkt erfolgreich zu sein. Das können Fachhochschulen und Duale Hochschulen zum Teil viel besser leisten. Meiner Ansicht nach wäre es sinnvoll, wenn wir stärker zu einer solchen Aufteilung kommen. Daran schließt sich ein weiterer Punkt an: Die Exzellenzuniversitäten in Deutschland sind nicht exzellent, was die Lehre betrifft. Wenn sich Universitäten ihre Studierenden nicht stärker aussuchen können, wenn die Betreuungsrelationen weiterhin so schlecht bleiben, dann wird sich an den Lehrstrukturen nicht viel ändern.



FRIAS: Aber wie viel Ungleichheit ist einem staatlich finanzierten System gerechtfertigt, insbesondere wenn es um Studienmöglichkeiten geht?

Frankenberg: Also zunächst einmal darf man den anderen nichts wegnehmen. Wir dürfen nicht zu einem Modell wie in den Vereinigten Staaten kommen, bei dem es die Ivy League-Universitäten gibt, dann noch einige verhältnismäßig gute Universitäten und dann Einrichtungen, die man hier nicht mehr als Hochschule bezeichnen würde. Aber da letztlich die Wissenschaft und natürlich auch die Frage der Innovationskraft Deutschlands auch davon abhängt, welche Spitzenseleute wir ausbilden und ins Land holen, müssen wir auch im Wettbewerb mit Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard oder der ETH Zürich bestehen können.

FRIAS: Das heißt, Sie würden dann auch über die verfassungsrechtlichen Grundlagen des aktuellen Systems sprechen wollen.

Frankenberg: Ich muss sagen, der Wechsel fiel mir erstaunlicherweise recht leicht. Zum einen, weil ich über meine zwei Amtszeiten einen sehr großen Rückhalt in meiner Fraktion und auch sehr loyale Ausschussvorsitzende hatte. Man hat mich also sehr gut aufgenommen. Und zum anderen, weil ich in erster Linie sachorientiert gearbeitet habe und durch meine Zeit als Rektor bereits wissenschaftspolitisch erfahren war. Ich muss sagen, der Wissenschaftsausschuss funktionierte auch immer sehr kollegial, wir haben viele Gesetze zum Beispiel zur Dualen Hochschule, dem Karlsruher Institute of Technology (KIT) oder zu Teilen des Hochschulgesetzes einstimmig im Landtag verabschiedet. Außerdem hatte ich durch mein Amt als Rektor bereits Führungserfahrung, das hat mir sehr geholfen. Zudem habe ich unter drei Ministerpräsidenten gearbeitet, die Wissenschafts- und Hochschulpolitik als Priorität ansahen. Da war und ist auch heute eine große Kontinuität. Wir haben bis heute Finanzierungsverträge, die die Hochschulen von allen Mittelkürzungen über die nächsten dreißig Jahre ausgenommen haben, was für die Entwicklung der Hochschulen ungeheuer wichtig war. Das ist der einzige landespolitische Bereich, der in all den Jahren keinen nachträglichen Eingriffen der Haushaltspolitik unterlag.

FRIAS: Zu Ihnen als Person: Sie haben sich zunächst in der Wissenschaft beruflich etabliert, waren als Rektor der Universität Mannheim und in diversen Gremien hochschulpolitisch engagiert und sind dann zum Wissenschaftsminister berufen worden. Wie haben Sie den Wechsel in die Politik erlebt?

The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) and the Stifterverband (promotional organisation for research and higher education) organised a public conference on higher education policy, which took place on 2 May 2, 2016 and involved the first comprehensive discussion of the working methods and functions of research colleges in Germany. More than 150 representatives from nearly all of the research colleges and fellowship programmes in Germany, as well as representatives from scientific associations, ministries and foundations took part in the event. Prof. Dr Peter Strohschneider (President of the German Research Foundation), Dr Enno Aufderheide (Secretary General of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation), Dr Wilhelm Krull (Secretary General of the Volkswagen Foundation) as well as Prof. Dr Gert Folkers (President of the Swiss Science and Innovation Council) from Switzerland held talks which emphasised the relevance of research colleges for scholarship in Germany and Europe from a variety of perspectives. Important topics included how the concepts behind the research colleges have developed from the founding of the first Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 1930 to today, the special contributions that such institutions make towards internationalisation and interdisciplinary research as well as the specific potential and challenges of institutes that are connected to universities.

FRIAS will publish individual conference lectures as well as summaries of the discussion and responses by the participants in its "FRIAS Documents" series in December 2016.

INSTITUTES FOR ADVANCED STUDIES PROVIDE KEY IMPULSES THE BERLIN MEMORANDUM

As a result of the conference, the participating institutes agreed on the following five points:

1. Germany has a diverse range of research colleges and fellowship programmes, which make a substantial contribution to the international appeal and reputation of German scholarship. Fellowship stays are an excellent tool for encouraging intensive exchanges and networking among research scholars. The global connections which are forged in research colleges are long lasting and serve as the basis for further research activities. The support of the federal and a number of state governments as well as of the EU, the German Research Foundation, various other foundations and – to no small extent – many universities makes the work of these institutions possible. The value of the work has been appraised and confirmed by external experts through a variety of evaluations and within the scope of a diverse range of programmes.

2. Though the colleges pursue different concepts, they share many key similarities: They create space outside of project-related collaborative research for individual researchers to conduct their own research within an inspiring community of fellows; they promote encounters across disciplinary, cultural and political boundaries; they play an important role in supporting early-stage researchers; they are places where fellows can fundamentally develop their initial ideas into new impulses for scholarship in dialogue with one another.

3. Precisely because fellowships are a privilege, the work of research colleges must meet high standards of quality and transparency. There are also strict requirements for evaluating the colleges and measuring their success. Such evaluations must take into account the special characteristics of the colleges (i.e. minimal guidelines for fellows' research, limited funding periods). Evaluations should therefore focus on the quality of the selection process and the strength of the research produced by the funded researchers, while keeping the different local and disciplinary profiles of the institutions in mind.

4. Research colleges have a role to play within the entire research system, which is why it is both appropriate and reasonable that they receive support from national programmes. The signatories expect that both politicians and scientific associations will take research colleges into account in their planning processes in accordance with their contributions to German scholarship. The current funding landscape gives only very limited consideration to the specific needs of research colleges. In the medium term, an independent, competitive funding programme that provides targeted support to research colleges could be advisable. Such a funding programme should be open to institutes with a diverse range of profiles. It should focus on existing institutes and their experiences, but should not preclude the foundation of ambitious new institutions. This would ensure that research colleges could emphasize and further develop their own independent profile in the German research landscape.

5. The signatory institutions agree to continue this discussion amongst themselves in order to promote exchanges about work formats and encourage continuous quality improvement. Together the institutes seek to affirm the relevance of their work for the German research system as a whole and its international reputation, and to work together to advocate for reliable funding for German research colleges on the basis of their specific and indispensable contribution to the promotion of research.

FORSCHUNGSKOLLEGS ALS ENTSCHEIDENDE IMPULSGEBER

1. Deutschland verfügt über eine vielfältige Landschaft von Forschungskollegs und Fellowshipprogrammen, die wesentlich zu internationaler Attraktivität und Ansehen der deutschen Wissenschaft beiträgt. Fellowshipaufenthalte sind ein hervorragendes Instrument, um den intensiven Austausch und die Vernetzung von Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftlern zu fördern. Durch sie entstehen Verbindungen weltweit, die langfristig Bestand haben und zur Basis weiterer Forschungsaktivitäten werden. Der Bund und eine Reihe von Ländern, die EU, die DFG, verschiedene Stiftungen sowie maßgeblich auch viele Universitäten ermöglichen durch ihre Förderung die Arbeit dieser Einrichtungen. In vielfältigen Evaluationen und im Rahmen unterschiedlicher Programme ist der Wert ihrer Arbeit immer wieder von externen Gutachtern überprüft und bestätigt worden.

2. Die Kollegs verfolgen unterschiedliche Konzepte, sind dabei aber verbunden durch einen Kern wesentlicher Gemeinsamkeiten: Sie eröffnen Freiräume für die individuelle Forschung von EinzelschafftlerInnen jenseits projektbezogener Verbundforschung in einer inspirierenden Fellowgemeinschaft; sie fördern die Begegnung über disziplinäre, kulturelle, politische Grenzen hinweg; sie leisten einen wichtigen Beitrag zur Förderung

von Nachwuchswissenschaftlern/innen; sie sind Orte, an denen im Dialog der Fellows aus ersten Ideen grundlegend neue Impulse für die Wissenschaft entwickelt werden können.

3. Gerade weil Fellowships ein Privileg sind, muss die Arbeit der Kollegs hohe Ansprüche an Qualität und Transparenz erfüllen. Hohe Anforderungen werden umgekehrt auch an die Erfolgsbewertung und Evaluation von Forschungskollegs gestellt. Diese muss verschiedenen Besonderheiten der Kollegs Rechnung tragen (z.B. geringe Vorgaben an die Fellows, zeitlich begrenzte Förderdauer). Evaluationen sollten daher die Bewertung der Qualität der Auswahlprozesse und der Forschungsstärke der geförderten Wissenschaftler in den Vordergrund stellen und dabei auch die unterschiedlichen lokalen oder disziplinären Profile der Einrichtungen berücksichtigen.

4. Die Kollegs übernehmen eine Aufgabe für das gesamte Wissenschaftssystem, weshalb eine Unterstützung durch nationale Programme angemessen und sinnvoll ist. Die Unterzeichner erwarten von der Politik wie auch von den Wissenschaftsorganisationen, dass sie in ihren Planungen die Kollegs entsprechend ihrer Leistungen für die deutsche Wissenschaft berücksichtigen. Die jetzige Förderlandschaft ist nur sehr bedingt auf die besonderen Belange der Forschungskollegs eingestellt. Mittelfristig kann daher

ein eigenständiges, wettbewerbliches Förderprogramm sinnvoll sein, das deren Arbeit gezielt unterstützt. Ein solches Förderprogramm sollte offen für unterschiedliche Institutsprofile sein. Es sollte existierende Institute und deren Erfahrungen ins Zentrum stellen, gleichzeitig sollen ambitionierte Neugründungen möglich bleiben. Auf diese Weise wäre sichergestellt, dass Forschungskollegs ihr eigenständiges Profil in der deutschen Wissenschaftslandschaft herausstellen und weiterentwickeln können.

5. Die unterzeichnenden Institutionen verabreden, das Gespräch untereinander fortzusetzen. Dies soll dem Austausch über Arbeitsformate und einer kontinuierlichen Qualitätsentwicklung dienen. Gemeinsam wollen die Institute die Relevanz ihrer Arbeit für das deutsche Forschungssystem insgesamt und sein internationales Ansehen herausarbeiten und sich gemeinsam für eine verlässliche Förderung der deutschen Forschungskollegs einsetzen, denn auf ihren besonderen Beitrag zur Wissenschaftsförderung kann nicht verzichtet werden.

Das FRIAS veröffentlicht eine Tagungsbrochure. Bestellungen nehmen wir gerne unter info@frias.uni-freiburg.de oder telefonisch unter 0761-20397404 entgegen.

Eine digitale Version der Tagungsbrochure können Sie auch unter www.frias.uni-freiburg.de/publikationen/forschungskollegs abrufen.



SIGNING INSTITUTIONS:

Forschungskollegs Humanwissenschaften der Goethe-Universität in Kooperation mit der Werner Reimers Stiftung, Bad Homburg

Internationales Forschungskolleg „Verflechtungen von Theaterkulturen“, Freie Universität Berlin

Internationales geisteswissenschaftliches Kolleg „Arbeit und Lebenslauf in globalgeschichtlicher Perspektive“ (re:work), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Universität Bielefeld

Käte Hamburger Kolleg „Dynamiken der Religionsgeschichte zwischen Asien und Europa“ am Centrum für Religionswissenschaftliche Studien, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Käte Hamburger Kolleg „Recht als Kultur“, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg – Institute for Advanced Study, Delmenhorst

Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research, Universität Duisburg-Essen

Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, Universität Erfurt

Internationales Kolleg für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung "Schicksal, Freiheit und Prognose. Bewältigungsstrategien in Ostasien und Europa", Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg Greifswald
Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, Universität Hamburg

Orient-Institut Istanbul (Max Weber Stiftung – Deutsche Geisteswissenschaftliche Institute im Ausland)

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, Universität Hamburg

Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Universität zu Köln

Kulturwissenschaftliches Kolleg, Universität Konstanz

Kolleg-Forschergruppe "Multiple Secularities - Beyond the West, Beyond Modernities", Universität Leipzig

Zukunftskolleg, Universität Konstanz

DFG-Kollegforschergruppe Medienkulturen der Computersimulation (MECS), Leuphana Universität Lüneburg

Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Historisches Kolleg, München

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Historisches Kolleg, München

TUM Institute for Advanced Study, Technische Universität München

Forschungskolleg Siegen (FoKoS), Universität Siegen

Center for Advanced Studies: Words, Bones, Genes, Tools: Tracking Linguistic, Cultural and Biological Trajectories of the Human Past, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie (IKKM), Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel

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Maurus Reinkowski war von 2004 bis 2010 Professor für Islamwissenschaft und Geschichte der islamischen Völker an der Universität Freiburg und ist seit 2010 Professor am Seminar für Nahoststudien an der Universität Basel. In den Jahren 2008-2010 war er Senior Fellow am FRIAS, School of History. Im Juli 2015 kehrte er im Rahmen des Alumni-Programms für einen Monat an das FRIAS zurück.

Mein Forschungsthema ist ein hoher osmanischer Bürokrat, Gazi Ahmed Muhtar Pascha, der sich nahezu zur selben Zeit wie Lord Cromer in Ägypten (1885-1908) aufhielt und in dieser Zeit der höchste osmanische Repräsentant dort war. Das Osmanische Reich herrschte formal bis 1914 über Ägypten, das jedoch faktisch ab 1882 unter britischer Herrschaft stand.

Während Cromer als einem herausragenden Vertreter des britischen Hochimperialismus von der Geschichtsschreibung sehr viel Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt wurde, ist Ahmed Muhtar, auch in der heutigen Türkei, weitgehend vergessen. Das Ziel des Forschungsprojekts ist, aus Ahmed Muhtars umfangreichen Berichten, die er an die osmanische Regierungszentrale in Istanbul sandte, die Strategien der imperialen osmanischen Selbstdarstellung herauszuarbeiten. Wie konnte Ahmed Muhtar als Vertreter des nominellen Souveräns Osmanisches Reich, das selbst einem informellen Imperialismus der europäischen Großmächte unterworfen war, angesichts seiner faktisch völligen Machtlosigkeit in Ägypten den niemals aufgegebenen imperialen Anspruchs seines Staates begründen und nach außen verfechten? Untersucht wird dabei, in welcher Weise Konzepte wie imperiale Sendung und Modernität – auch in Abgrenzung gegenüber Ägypten als einem im 19. Jahrhundert über weite Strecken hinweg überlegenen Konkurrenten – im Diskurs der osmanischen Elite eingesetzt und verstanden wurden.

Mit diesem Thema habe ich mich während meines Fellowships an der damaligen FRIAS School of History von 2008 bis 2010 beschäftigt. Die Zusammenarbeit mit Historikerinnen und Historikern in diesen Jahren war für mich außerordentlich anregend, da ich zwar immer historisch orientiert gearbeitet hatte, aber nie mals in engerer Zusammenarbeit mit Vertreterinnen und Vertretern dieser Disziplin. Die Freiräume und Möglichkeiten in diesen eineinhalb Jahren waren unbegrenzt. Ich denke mit großer Dankbarkeit an diese Zeit.

FRIAS ALUMNUS MAURUS REINKOWSKI

Aus meinem Fellowship 2008-2010 resultierten mehrere Artikel zu meinem eigentlichen Forschungsthema, aber zugleich zwei Konferenzen und daraus folgende Publikationen: "Helpless Imperialists" (2012 gemeinsam herausgegeben mit Gregor Thum, jetzt University of Pittsburgh) und "Conspiracy Theories in the United States and the Middle East" (2014 gemeinsam herausgegeben mit Michael Butter, jetzt Universität Tübingen).

Mein Alumnus-Fellowship im Juli 2016 rief mir die anregende Atmosphäre am FRIAS wieder in Erinnerung und gab mir die Möglichkeit, mein Forschungsprojekt weiter fortzusetzen. Just zu dieser Zeit fand auch der gescheiterte Putschversuch in der Türkei statt, sodass die zweite Monatshälfte des Juli 2016 von zahlreichen Medienanfragen geprägt war. In Beiträgen unter anderem für die Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung habe ich versucht darzulegen, wie der türkische Präsident Erdogan mit seiner Politik an das Erbe des Kemalismus anschließt. Freiburg und dem FRIAS bleibe ich auch weiterhin eng verbunden, nicht zuletzt aufgrund der wertvollen persönlichen Kontakte zu Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus verschiedenen Disziplinen.

FELLOWS 2016/2017



The new university library of the University of Freiburg (pictures: Sandra Meyndt)

**FOCUS:
CHEMICAL EPIGENETICS
10/2016 – 07/2017**

◆ Prof. Bernhard Breit
04/2017 – 12/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Organic Chemistry
Focus PI

◆ Prof. Oliver Einsle
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Biochemistry
Focus PI

◆ Prof. A. Ganeshan
09/2016 – 12/2016
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of East Anglia
Organic and Medicinal Chemistry
Targeting Histone-Modifying Enzymes for Epigenetic Drug Discovery

◆ Prof. Stefan Günther
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Pharmaceutical Sciences / Pharmaceutical Bioinformatics
Focus PI

◆ Prof. Manfred Jung
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry
Focus PI

◆ Prof. Udo Oppermann
10/2016; 04/2017 – 08/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Oxford
Musculoskeletal Sciences
Understanding the role of histone demethylase LSD1 in mesenchymal stem cell biology and musculoskeletal ageing

HUMANITIES

◆ Prof. Francisco Arenas-Dolz
01/2017 – 12/2017
External Senior Fellow (Alexander von Humboldt-Fellow)
Universitat de València
Philosophy
Texts in Multiple Voices: Digital Genetic Edition of Nietzsche's Lectures on Rhetoric

◆ Prof. Ronald G. Asch
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Early Modern History
On the eve of war: Europe between the Edict of Nantes and the outbreak of the Thirty Years War

◆ Prof. Sabina Becker
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
German Literature
Laboratorium Weimar: Konstellationen in Gesellschaft, Kultur und Literatur 1918–1933

◆ Dr. Martin Beimann
10/2016 – 07/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
History of Economic Knowledge and Economic Statistics
When the World Economy Began to Matter: International Economic Statistics, Economic Debates in Britain and Germany and Globalisation Processes between the World Wars

◆ Dr. Dustin Breitenwischer
04/2017 – 01/2018
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
American Studies
The Creative Self in 19th-Century American Culture

◆ Dr. Marco Caracciolo
09/2015 – 08/2017
Junior Fellow (Alexander von Humboldt-Fellow)
University of Groningen
Comparative Literature
Embodiment and Cosmic Perspective-Taking in 20th Century Fiction

◆ Dr. Todd Carmody
10/2016 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
(VW Mellon-Fellow)
Harvard University
English Literature and American Studies
Racial Handicap: Uplift and Rehabilitation in Postbellum America

◆ Prof. Carolin Duttlinger
08/2016 – 12/2016
External Senior Fellow
University of Oxford
Modern German Literature and Culture
Dialectics of Attention: Immersion and Distraction in Modern German Culture

◆ JunProf. Adriana Hanulíková
10/2016 – 07/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
German Linguistics
How the linguistic brain navigates the social world

◆ Dr. David Espinet
04/2016 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Philosophy
Always Happier? Approaching the Easterlin-Paradox From a Kantian Point of View

◆ Prof. Winfried Fluck
03/2017 – 05/2017
External Senior Fellow
Freie Universität Berlin
North American Studies
Book Project: Reading for Recognition

◆ Dr. Erica Fretwell
01/2017 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
University at Albany (SUNY)
American Literature
Re-emergence of Middle Eastern Traders in China: Islam, Inter-Asian Connections and the New Silk Road Network

◆ Dr. Lorenzo Kamel
09/2016 – 08/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
London School of Economics
Law / Legal and Political Thought
State, Law, Constitution

◆ Prof. JunProf. Adriana Hanulíková
10/2016 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(EURIAS Programme)
University of Sydney
Political Sociology and Migration Studies
Reconceptualising Migrants' Rights in a Global and Trans-national Context

◆ Prof. Barbara Mennel
10/2016 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Florida
German Studies
Women and Work in Contemporary European Cinema

◆ Prof. Marie Seong-Hak Kim
10/2016 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(EURIAS Programme)
St. Cloud State University
Legal History
Judicial Process and Constitutional Transitions in South Korea

◆ Prof. Caprice Knapp
05/2017 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
The Pennsylvania State University
Health Policy and Administration
Investigating Maternal and Child Health in Urban Areas

◆ Prof. Johanna Pink
04/2017 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Islamic Studies
Contemporary Qur'anic exegesis in historical perspective

◆ Prof. Nicola Piper
06/2016 – 10/2016;
04/2017 – 06/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Sydney
Political Sociology and Migration Studies
Reconceptualising Migrants' Rights in a Global and Trans-national Context

◆ Prof. Olaf Rank
10/2016 – 07/2017
Internal Senior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Business Administration
Cooperative Network Structures in Hightech Clusters: A Multi-Level Analysis



Impressions of
the conference
"Forschungskollegs
in Deutschland",
Berlin,
May 2016

◆ Prof. Brian Richardson

05/2017 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Maryland
Modern Fiction and
Narrative Theory
*Narrative Beginnings, Middles,
Endings, and Beyond: Theorizing
Plot after Postmodernism*

◆ Prof. Andrea Riemen-
schnitter

02/2017 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Zurich
Chinese Studies
*Landscape Fever. Contemporary
Chinese Aesthetics and the
Environment*

◆ Prof. Christian Schneider

09/2016 – 12/2016
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
Washington University
in St. Louis
Germanic Languages and
Literatures/Medieval Studies
*Narrative Logic and Cognition:
Storytelling in Medieval German
Epic (1150–1230)*

◆ Dr. Sandro Sessarego

09/2016 – 08/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Texas at Austin
Hispanic Linguistics
*Chocó Spanish: Casting Light on
its Grammar and History*

◆ JunProf. Bernhard
Spielberg

01/2015 – 12/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Catholic Theology - Pastoral
Theology/ Practical Theology
*Global Transformations of
Catholicism: Strategies of Plurality
– Role Models – Questions of God*

◆ Prof. Immo Warntjes

01/2017 – 06/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
Trinity College Dublin
History
*Hermann of Reichenau and the
reckoning of time in the eleventh
century*

◆ Prof. Aude Wirth-Jaillard

10/2016 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
Université catholique de Louvain
Linguistics and Medieval History
Vox Populi.
*Medieval speech from below, from
spoken words to written records*

◆ JunProf. Evi Zemanek

04/2017 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
German Studies
*Caricatures of Man-Made
Nature: Reflections on Envi-
ronmental Change in German
Magazines from the Era of
Industrialization*

NATURAL SCIENCES

◆ Prof. Harry Holthöfer

08/2016 – 12/2016
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Helsinki
Biomedicine
*Urinary Exosomes for Novel
Diabetes Diagnostics*

◆ Dr. Yury Belyi

10/2016 – 11/2016
External Senior Fellow
Gamaleya Research Center for
Epidemiology and Microbiology
Microbiology
*Molecular mechanisms of alteration
in eukaryotic membrane trafficking
induced by Legionella pneumo-
phila, vacuolar pathogen of
phagocytic cells*

◆ Dr. Stefan Buhmann

11/2014 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Physics
*Macroscopic Quantum Electro-
dynamics and its Consequences*

◆ Dr. Luca Corlatti

05/2016 – 04/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences Vienna
Behavioural Ecology
*Mating systems and anthropogenic
influence: a life history perspective
on mountain ungulates*

◆ JunProf. Christian Leukel

04/2017 – 01/2018
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Sport Science/Human Neuro-
physiology
*Investigating the corticospinal
system in humans*

◆ Prof. Robert Murphy

01/2017 – 02/2017; 06/2017;
10/2017
External Senior Fellow
Carnegie Mellon University
Computational Biology
*Automated interpretation of
fluorescence microscope images*

◆ Dr. Ghada Ibrahim

11/2016 – 10/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
Electronics Research Institute,
Giza, Egypt
Electronics and Engineering
*Development of RFID circuit
building blocks using an organic
TFT transistor technology*

◆ Prof. Brian Laird

07/2016 – 01/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Kansas
Theoretical/Computational
Chemistry
*Simulation and Theory of
Chemically Heterogeneous Solid-
Liquid Interfaces*

◆ JunProf. Christian Leukel

04/2017 – 01/2018
Junior Fellow
University of Freiburg
Sport Science/Human Neuro-
physiology
*Investigating the corticospinal
system in humans*

◆ Prof. Alejandro Toro-Labbé

01/2017 – 07/2017
External Senior Fellow
Universidad Católica de Chile
Chemistry
*A New Theory of Chemical
Reactions*

◆ Prof. Diego Vázquez

09/2016 – 06/2017
External Senior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
Argentine Institute for Dryland
Research, CONICET;
and National University of Cuyo
Biology
*Monge-Ampere equations and
Kodaira dimension of algebraic
fiber spaces*

◆ Dr. Stefanie Rätz

10/2016 – 09/2017
Junior Fellow
(Marie S. Curie FCFP)
University of Freiburg
Astronomy / Astrophysics
*Variability and transiting
extrasolar planets in young open
clusters*

◆ Dr. Ian Riddlestone

09/2016 – 08/2017
Junior Fellow (Alexander von
Humboldt Fellow)
University of Bath
Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry
*Preparation of Stabilised and
Free Silylum and Silicocenium
Ions Featuring Known and Novel
Weakly Coordinating Anions; Re-
agents for the Coordination and
Activation of Small Molecules*

**JOINT RESEARCH GROUPS
FREIBURG/STRASBOURG**

"Development of Model Mechano-
Transduction Films Based on
Engineered Avidin Monomers:
An Example of Soft-Mechano-
Chemistry"

10/2015 – 09/2017

◆ Prof. Jean-Christophe
Cassel

University of Strasbourg
Laboratory of Cognitive and
Adaptive Neurosciences (LNCA)

◆ Prof. Ulrich G. Hofmann

University Hospital Freiburg
Neural Engineering, Translational
Neurosciences

"Soldiers out of Control: An
Entangled History of Accidents in
the French and German Military,
1920-1970"

10/2015 – 09/2017

◆ Dr. Peter Itzen

University of Freiburg
Social, Economic and
Environmental History

◆ Prof. Anne Rasmussen

University of Strasbourg
History of Science

OFF TO NEW SHORES

Helen Pert

Right from the beginning of FRIAS, Helen Pert has been fully committed the Institute. As an Anglo-Canadian who later worked at the Canadian Embassy in Washington and Consulate in Hamburg, she developed a passion for Germany. She came to Freiburg the first time in 1984, followed by stays in Frankfurt and Hamburg, before deciding to make Freiburg her home in 2007.

Hermann Grabert, who served as FRIAS Director from 2007-2015, recalls her care and helpfulness, which widely exceeded her official duties. *"This made FRIAS a home away from home for renowned scientists world-wide and helped to build FRIAS' reputation as an outstanding international research college. Last but not least it greatly facilitated guiding the institute as a director."*

"She combines amazing effectiveness with great warmth and friendliness. She is also a perfectionist who deeply cares about FRIAS and the fellows," says Spiros Skourtis, FRIAS Fellow in 2014/15. Hauke Busch and Melanie Börries, who both spent four

years at FRIAS from 2008-2012, call Helen *"the heart and soul of FRIAS. With her warm and lovely nature she always made us feel welcome and at home."* Robert Murphy, who has been visiting FRIAS 2-3 times per year for the last eight years is grateful for her dedicated support. *"She has been enthusiastic, energetic, efficient, and proactive, doing an outstanding job of supporting all of the fellows who have come and gone over the years."*

Being in charge of the fellow support she has not only taken care of all administrative tasks necessary in order to arrange the guest visits but also personally cared about the everyday needs of the fellows coming to FRIAS from all over the world. *"When I started at FRIAS as a Junior Fellow, right after a three year postdoc abroad, I had no clue of the German academic system. Helen took me by the hand and guided the way,"* remembers Jörn Dengjel, FRIAS Fellow from 2008-2013 and 2015-2016. And Sabine Hake, FRIAS Fellow 2015/16 is still grateful for her occasional missives about special events and attrac-



tions in and around Freiburg. *"An art exhibition with millions of rice kernels or the display of the Fastentuch in the Münster – without her, I would have missed all of that!"*

A person really interested in the people surrounding her, nobody ever knew as much about husband's and wife's or children's names, ages and circumstances, hobbies and other interest, which is why her door was always wide open and the fellows often used the opportunity to drop by for an informal chat. Osamu Tabata, FRIAS Fellow from 2010-2013, recalls many moments of shared happiness with her. *"Helen made my time at FRIAS unforgettable. I have such fond memories of enjoying white asparagus, Federweisser, Glühwein and Japanese sweets together, they really warm my heart. I wish her all the best!"* Henrike Lähnemann, who visits FRIAS every summer for two months, says: *"In my memory, conversations with Helen emerge in the form of leisurely garden strolls. 'Lustwandeln' among the flower beds of the Freiburg Charterhouse or the scrubs of the Hansmeyerhof unfolded into mental meandering from medieval mysticism to Flanders & Swan. Here's to many more shared adventures and encounters, codeswitching and kulturiübergreifend!"* Or, in the words of Pep Español, Senior Fellow at FRIAS in 2008/09 *"I recall Helen with a cozy feeling of camaraderie. Since the very beginnings of my stay at FRIAS, I felt very much welcome by her and her humor. My wife, my daughter and myself had many occasions in which she would make our life in Freiburg and at FRIAS much*

more pleasant." These are just a few of the many statements that represent what so many other FRIAS Fellows feel about Helen Pert who has been responsible for the fellow support ever since 2008.

Helen is also known for her good humour and her loud laughter across the FRIAS corridors. *"I enjoyed her humour and passion and have deep respect for her care, authority and her special commitment to the Institute"*, says Florian Mintert, FRIAS Fellow from 2010-2015. *"Her leaving will be a heavy loss for FRIAS but the character she gave it will remain."* And this is definitely true since Helen not only took care of the guests at FRIAS but her very special relationship with plants had a nice side-effect: no one brought more beautiful bouquets of flowers for birthdays. A few years ago she even planted beautiful crocuses in front of FRIAS which are still blossoming every spring.

After almost nine years now, Helen Pert will retire at the end of December, looking forward to a rich and fulfilled future of traveling, art, music and gardening. Although we know that she will not be bored at all, we are sure that FRIAS – colleagues and fellows – will miss her.

In the words of Luca Corlatti, FRIAS Fellow 2016/17: *"Oscar Wilde once said that the British have a magical gift to turn wine into water. I suspect he never happened to meet Helen!"*

All the heartfelt best for Helen from the whole FRIAS team!

NEWS

◆ HORIZON 2020: FRIAS FELLOWS SUCCESSFUL IN 30 MILLION EURO BID

Diabetic kidney disease (DKD) is the leading cause of end stage renal disease (ESRD), and its global incidence and prevalence have reached epidemic proportions in recent years. So far there are no effective means to prevent or cure DKD. Apart from Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS) blockade, which has limited effects, very few alternative therapies have emerged. Likely reasons for the stagnating development of new treatments are the lack of predictive and prognostic biomarkers for a more accurate patient stratification as well as limited access to both kidney tissue from patients at various stages of DKD and appropriate model systems in order to better understand the pathogenesis of the disease.

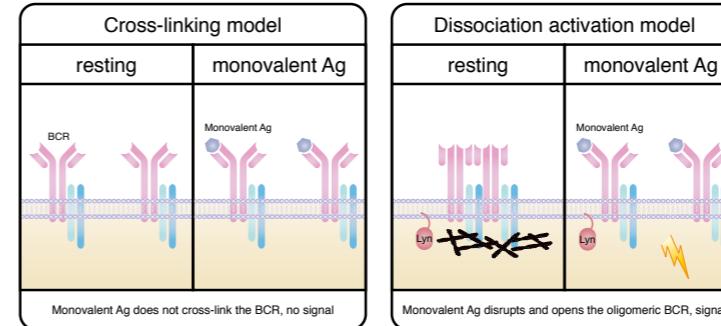
This year FRIAS Fellows Harry Holthöfer (University of Helsinki) and Tobias Huber (University of Freiburg) were successful as lead partners of a consortium of 20 academic institutions and eight global biopharma companies. The consortium is supported by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients, with a total budget of 30 million euros, out of which approximately two million euros will go to the University Medical Center Freiburg. IMI, a joint undertaking between the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry association EFPIA, supports collaborative research projects and builds networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in Europe.

The consortium, Biomarker Enterprise to Attack DKD (BEAt-DKD), combines outstanding basic and translational researchers in nephropathy, diabetes, kidney model systems, imaging techniques and systems biology. As a member of the consortium's executive board, Harry Holthöfer not only acts as a co-coordinator, he also aims to attract additional funding and expand the project to Singapore and China. Jointly, the partners have access to vast clinical cohorts and trials, state-of-the-art analytics and imaging techniques as well as novel model systems and covering networks to make this collaboration a success. The overall goals of BEAt-DKD are (1) to provide a holistic systems medicine view of the pathogenesis of DKD,

- (2) to identify targetable mechanisms and pathways that underlie the initiation and progression of DKD,
- (3) to identify and validate biomarkers of disease progression and treatment responses representing first steps towards precision medicine.

The BEAt-DKD project started on September 1, 2016 and will run until August 31, 2021. As part of the consortium, one important work package – including most of the experimental settings – will be located in Freiburg and bring around 1.7 million euros to the city. FRIAS is happy to report that Harry will remain affiliated with the Institute throughout the project period as a Senior Fellow.

◆ OPEN SESAME: HOW B CELLS SENSE MONOVALENT ANTIGENS



After an infection or vaccination, our body produces antibodies to reduce the length of the disease and to prevent re-infections. Antibodies are produced when the B cells, i.e. the bodily defence cells, are activated by antigen receptors on the B cells, which sense foreign molecules. However, up until now researchers were not sure how exactly this activation came about.

Dr. Jianying Yang, member of the FRIAS-USIAS Joint Research Group Freiburg/Strasbourg 2013-15 on "In Vivo Visualizing the Dynamics of Cytokine-Targeting Cells" and his colleagues have analysed this process and published their findings on B cell activation in the prestigious EMBO journal. In their research, they were able to prove that the B cell antigen receptor that activates the B cells forms a closed autoinhibited oligomer and that antigen binding then leads to the opening and activation of the B cell antigen receptor. Antigen receptors on B lymphocytes sense foreign molecules, such as pathogens or vaccines, and activate the B cells to produce antibodies that protect humans against many diseases. Large amounts of antibodies are produced after an acute infection or a successful vaccination. This limits the duration of an infectious disease and protects us from re-infection. The production of an-

20 nanometer distances, they found that exposure of these B cells to a monovalent antigen results in the dissociation, rather than an aggregation of the BCR. Interestingly, this sensing and opening process requires the presence and activity of the Src family kinase Lyn.

Previous experiments showed that the exposure of B cells to full-length anti-BCR antibodies could activate the BCR, whereas monovalent Fab fragments failed to do so. This result was taken as evidence that "cross-linking" by divalent antibodies or polyvalent antigens is required for BCR activation. The authors showed that, indeed, monovalent Fab fragments of anti-BCR antibodies bind to the light chain or heavy chain of the BCR but were not able to open the BCR. However, a monovalent anti-idiotypic Fab fragment that directly interacts with the antigen-binding site could open the BCR. These findings support the DAM hypothesis and falsify the cross-linking hypothesis. In further studies, the authors found that binding of monovalent antigens opens both the IgM- and IgD-BCR but that receptor opening induces signaling only from the IgM-BCR, but not from the IgD-BCR. These findings give a new and more detailed view of the B cell activation process lying at the foundation of any successful vaccination leading to humoral immunity.

Publication:
Volkmann, C., N. Brings, M. Becker, E. Hobeika, J. Yang, and M. Reth. 2016. Molecular requirements of the B-cell antigen receptor for sensing monovalent antigens. *EMBO J* <http://emboj.embopress.org/content/early/2016/09/15/embj.201694177>

◆ PRESTIGIOUS ERC STARTING GRANTS 2016 FOR FRIAS FELLOW MARCO CARACCIOLI AND FRIAS ALUMNA EVA VON CONTZEN



Eva von Contzen



Marco Caracciolo

Two FRIAS Fellows in the Humanities have been awarded an ERC Starting Grant, one of the most prestigious scientific awards in Europe. FRIAS Junior Fellow **Marco Caracciolo** received the grant for his project "Narrating the Mesh", which explores the connection between humans and nature in contemporary fiction and oral storytelling. **Eva von Contzen**, a member of the university's distinguished English department, is a former FRIAS Fellow (2013/14) who developed her ERC project out of her FRIAS project, focusing on the function of lists in literature. These are the first two ERC grants in the Humanities for FRIAS Fellows, out of a total of 9 ERC Grants since 2010.

The ERC Starting Grant is one of the most prestigious scientific awards in Europe, supporting young researchers who have finished their doctorate

and are starting their own careers. This year there were approximately 3000 applications, of which 350 projects are being funded.

"This is an outstanding achievement for which we congratulate them wholeheartedly", says FRIAS Director Bernd Kortmann. "Their success also shows the great potential of Junior Fellowships in allowing scholars to advance their research during the postdoctoral phase."

MARCO CARACCIOLI

What do humans feel when they encounter other animals? How do they characterize their relationship with nature? How do they capture this affectively charged relationship in narrative form? These are the questions Caracciolo addresses in his project "Narrating the Mesh". "Many con-

temporary thinkers have argued that the current ecological crisis challenges our attitudes towards nature", the researcher says. "While modernity tends to see humans as fundamentally different from and superior to their non-human environment, the first consequences of climate change show how interconnected these two worlds really are."

Based on the metaphor of the human/non-human "mesh" introduced by ecological theorist Timothy Morton, Caracciolo analyses oral and literary accounts of the enmeshment between humans and a vast gamut of non-human – i.e., environmental and geophysical – processes. In his project, he examines 20 works of the last two decades, such as Haruki Murakami's collection of short stories *After the Quake* and Ian McEwan's novel *Solar*. These books centre on catastrophic scenarios, climate change, and scientists' personal and professional dilemmas.

Caracciolo compares the conceptual metaphors and plot strategies used in these novels with those emerging in oral stories narrated by volunteers from different social and geographical contexts. The purpose of the comparison is to study whether and how fictional and oral narratives about the mesh differ from one another and what affective impact they can have on both storytellers and audiences.

"Storytelling helps us understand our experiences by establishing temporal and causal relations", explains

Caracciolo. Yet most stories tend to focus on the human-scale realities of social interaction. During his fellowship at FRIAS, Caracciolo taught a course for students of the University College Freiburg (UCF) on the representation of animal minds in 20th century literature. "It was really exciting how the students described different kinds of closeness to an animal – what narrative devices they employed, and how these devices conveyed specific ethical and emotional stances." The goal of his ERC-funded project is precisely to show how narratives can be used as a tool to heighten people's awareness of their interconnection with nature. Caracciolo's project will be funded with 1.1 million euros for a period of five years.

EVA VON CONTZEN

Shopping lists, lists of travel destinations, to-do-lists at the office: lists are omnipresent in our modern daily lives – and they are not a new invention at all. Ever since humans started writing, they have compiled lists, for example in order to gain an overview and better control of a certain area, or to remind the public of important kings or historical events. Lists also loom large in literary fiction. "Just think of the myriads of lists in the Bible or the catalogue of ships in the 'Ilias'", says Eva von Contzen. At the same time, when they appear in literary writings, it is almost a provocation: who has not skipped pages of lists instead of reading them? Is it even possible to read lists? It is exactly this tension between the seemingly

trivial cultural practice of writing lists and its literary manifestations that the Anglist wants to analyse. Together with her research group, she will investigate different forms and genres of lists from antiquity to postmodernism, with the purpose of answering two key questions: How are lists and enumerations used in literary texts and which functions do they have? How do these literary forms of lists relate to non-literary practices of writing lists at a certain period of time?

With her project, von Contzen aims to contribute to the currently expanding discipline of cognitive literature studies. "Lists represent principles of order and disorder. They are a valuable seismograph for how the world was perceived and classified at a certain time." Furthermore, part of the project will be the creation of a publicly available database of lists in literary texts. The project will be funded with 1.38 million euros over a period of five years. Von Contzen will work together with three doctoral students and one postdoc.

Eva von Contzen was a Junior Fellow at FRIAS from October 2013 to July 2014. During her fellowship, she began her research on the function, purposes and effects of lists in literature. Her work culminated in her successful application to the European Research Council. Thus, her FRIAS Fellowship was decisive for her success with the ERC. Since her fellowship, Eva von Contzen has remained closely connected to FRIAS. Amongst other things, she represented FRIAS at the Intercon-

◆ FRIAS BLACK FOREST RETREAT



Am 14. und 15. Oktober 2016 fand zum zweiten Mal der „FRIAS Black Forest Retreat“ auf der Saigerhöhl im Schwarzwald statt. Alle Fellows und Projektgruppen des aktuellen Jahrgangs hatten an den zwei Tagen die Gelegenheit, sich kennenzulernen und über ihre Forschung auszutauschen. In kurzen Vorträgen skizzierten sie ihre jeweiligen Forschungsprojekte und stellten diese zur Diskussion. Der Rückzug in den Schwarzwald ermöglichte auch in diesem Jahr wieder einen konzentrierten Austausch über die Disziplinen hinweg. Am zweiten Tag des Retreats tauschten sich die Fellows über mögliche Themen für

interdisziplinäre Kolloquien und die Themen der Lunch Lectures aus, die sich im Wintersemester 2016/17 mit dem Thema „Ignorance – what we don't know“, und im Sommersemester mit dem Thema „Fear/Angst“ beschäftigen. Ziel der Lunch Lectures ist es, Themen aufzugreifen, die aus verschiedenen disziplinären Sichtweisen interessant sind – wie beispielsweise im vergangenen Akademischen Jahr 2015/16 mit der Lunch Lecture Reihe zu „Paradigmenwechsel in der Wissenschaft“. Als Ergebnis der fruchtbaren Diskussionen während des Retreats entstanden konkrete Vorschläge für Vorträge zum Thema „Nichtwissen“

in verschiedenen Disziplinen. Des Weiteren wurde diskutiert, welche disziplinenübergreifenden Themen in den anstehenden interdisziplinären Kolloquien besprochen werden sollten. Die Vorschläge reichten von der Bedeutung von Wissenschaft im sogenannten „postfaktischen Zeitalter“ und kognitiven Ansätzen in der Forschung bis hin zu Herausforderungen von Visualisierungen und Modellen.

Das „FRIAS Black Forest Retreat“ weckte bei allen Fellows die Vorfreude auf das beginnende Akademische Jahr und den weiteren Austausch über die Disziplinen hinweg.

◆ COORDINATING ROLE FOR UBIAS HANDED OVER TO THE AARHUS IAS

Six years ago, the network of University Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS) was founded in Freiburg and FRIAS has coordinated the network ever since. UBIAS serves to bring forward exchange between the (by now, some 40) member institutes, for example through biennial conferences, an annual Topic of the Year, and the *Intercontinental Academia (ICA)*, which provides a unique opportunity for young researchers from all over the world to engage with topics of fundamental

relevance. At the recent UBIAS Directors' Conference in Birmingham in June 2016, the network unanimously decided to transfer this coordinating role to the Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies (AIAS) and elected its Director Morten Kyndrup as the new coordinator. FRIAS Director Bernd Kortmann and the Vice Director of the Instituto de Estudos Avancados São Paulo, Ary Plonski, were elected as his deputies.

On September 22, Morten Kyndrup visited FRIAS in order to discuss

the details of the hand over. Having served as coordinator for UBIAS over the last six years, FRIAS Managing Director Carsten Dose expressed pride in the achievements of the network. "Looking back, it is truly rewarding to see how UBIAS has established itself as a lively global network. Morten Kyndrup is just the right person to continue and further strengthen the exchange between the UBIAS member institutes worldwide and to enhance the visibility of the UBIAS network as a whole", he says.

◆ THREE NEW PROJECT GROUPS AT FRIAS

This academic year, FRIAS will support three different research groups: *“Conceptions of Medieval Thought”*, *“Tracing Narratives of Flight and Migration”* and *“Language Dynamics Across the Life Span”*. Although each group is unique, the Academic Year 2016/17 features a joint focus on language, thought and narrative that combines the fields of medieval studies, philosophy, theology, migration studies, social sciences and linguistics as well as medicine and psychology.

The format of the FRIAS Project Groups allows the group members to organize their own conferences and workshops and offers a great opportunity for researchers to explore and combine ideas from different fields and perspectives.

The first project group analyses medieval conceptions of language and method identified as conceptual devices. These devices were already employed by medieval thinkers themselves and are still used by modern historians to distinguish ‘medieval’ thought against its historical background. From early medieval Arabic philosophy and linguistics to modern historiography, the project group **“Conceptions of Medieval Thought” (COMETH)** aims to explore the strategies of self-representation and legitimization of intellectual traditions through the lens of these devices. As these traditions have had a tremendous impact on the formation of the modern notion of science and, thus, in a way, of modern society as a whole, COMETH contributes to the present debate on the role and function of the humanities from a historical-philosophical perspective. The research group includes scholars from the Universities of Freiburg, Basel, and Strasbourg who are active in

the fields of Arabic Philosophy (JunProf. Nadja Germann, University of Freiburg), Classic Philosophy (Prof. Catherine König-Pralong, University of Freiburg), Church History (Prof. Isabel Iribarren, Université de Strasbourg), Medieval Philosophy (Prof. Gianluca Briguglia, Université de Strasbourg), as well as History of Medieval Philosophy (Prof. Ueli Zahnd, University of Basel).

Freiburg, Medicine and Epidemiology (Dr. med. Berit Lange) and Psychology (Anne-Maria Müller) at University Hospital Freiburg, as well as Ethnology (Prof. Dr. Heike Drotbohm/associated member) from the University of Mainz.

The third project group, **“Language Dynamics Across the Life Span”**, addresses language and cognitive aging by bringing together researchers from different disciplines with a common interest in language processing: JunProf. Adriana Hanulikova (Psycholinguistics) and Dr. Alice Blumenthal-Dramé (Linguistics), Dr. Tonio Ball (Neuro-surgery), and Prof. Evelyn Ferstl (Cognitive Science). In recent years, cognitive aging has attracted a great deal of scholarly attention, partly due to the global demographic trend towards aging populations and the economic, medical and social challenges this poses. While cognitive aging research has mostly focused on age-related deficits, it has also been acknowledged that certain cognitive functions might be preserved or even improve as a function of age. A possible candidate for a cognitive ability that might remain largely intact across the life span is language comprehension. Using complementary brain-mapping and behavioral methods, the team members will compare age groups on the basis of a novel battery of tests, exchange information and ideas with guest researchers and make the topic accessible to a broader university public on the basis of a lecture series involving leading researchers in the field: www.frias.uni-freiburg.de/language-dynamics

◆ SYMPOSIUM OF THE FRIAS-NAGOYA IAR JOINT PROJECT GROUP ON "SOCIAL GOVERNANCE BY LAW"



Participants and organisers of the symposium, Prof. Bruns, Dr. Carsten Dose, Prof. Bernd Kortmann and Honorary Guest Morten Kyndrup

From September 20-22, 2016, the first international meeting of the FRIAS-Nagoya IAR project group "Social Governance by Law: Substantive Standards and Procedural Enforcement" took place at FRIAS. Scholars from Freiburg and Nagoya, among them several junior researchers, met for a joint symposium on the topic of "Preventive Instruments of Social Governance".

The group, headed by Prof. Dr. **Alexander Bruns** (University of Freiburg) and Prof. Dr. **Masabumi Suzuki** (Nagoya University), analyses and compares the Japanese and German legal culture with regard to the interplay between substantive standards and their procedural enforcement. In modern constitutional societies, legal frameworks influence and define social life. Depending on the respective political objectives, the behaviour of citizens is influenced by means of preventive and reactive legal instruments. Examples of preventive legal instruments include prohibitions and injunctions, while

in reactive legal systems, damages, restitution and punishment are the dominant instruments. Almost all modern legal systems combine both preventive and reactive legal instruments. Germany and Japan provide an interesting case for comparison. The German legal system is predominantly characterized by a preventive approach. A typical German phenomenon is the notary's office, which is tasked with ensuring that contracts are legally binding, thus preventing legal disputes in front of the court. Another example of preventive instruments in Germany are regulations within companies that aim to balance the interests of workers and employers, such as co-determination rights.

The Anglo-American legal system is characterized by a reactive approach, with a strong focus on high damages. Japan shows influences of both legal systems. The country has based its civil law on the model of the German *Zivilrecht*. However, after the Second World War and the American occu-

pation, it also took on characteristics of the Anglo-American legal system. At its first symposium, the group discussed preventive instruments in the legal systems of Germany and Japan. "The atmosphere within the group is great", says Alexander Bruns. "The cooperation has been very fruitful, and we are especially impressed by the junior researchers in the group." The next symposium will take place next year in Nagoya and will focus on reactive instruments of social governance. The group will publish two anthologies based on the symposia.

The two-year programme of the Joint Project Group between FRIAS and the Nagoya IAR started in January 2016 as an expression of the close partnership between the universities of Freiburg and Nagoya. Two groups were selected and receive financial and administrative support for their research stays in Nagoya and Freiburg as well as for workshops, joint conferences and training opportunities for young researchers.

◆ FRIAS FELLOW LORENZO KAMEL WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S PALESTINE BOOK AWARD

FRIAS Fellow Lorenzo Kamel has won this year's Academic Award of the Palestine Book Award with his work "Imperial Perceptions of Palestine". The Palestine Book Awards began in 2012 in an attempt to honour and recognise the best authored works in English on the subject of Palestine. Nominations start in January with submissions being made by national and international publishers. Seven books are then shortlisted by an expert panel of judges from three categories: academic, memoir and creative. With literature on Palestine on the rise, events such as the Palestine Book Awards help to introduce a more diverse readership and acknowledgement of necessary works.

Lorenzo Kamel's book "Imperial Perceptions of Palestine" focuses on the way Palestine has been viewed by imperial powers, especially European powers during the decline of the Ottoman Empire, offering insights into the process through which this region of different races, cultures and societies has historically been simplified. For example, he traces the concept of 'biblical orientalism', which spurred evangelical tourism to the region in the late 19th and early 20th century and described the region as an imaginary Palestine based on the bible, to show how these concepts have shaped perceptions of Palestine



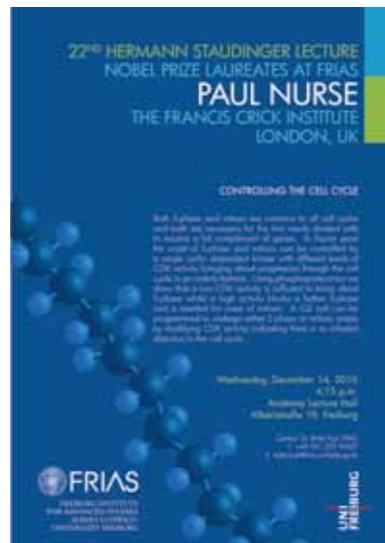
up until today. In this way, Lorenzo Kamel offers an alternative to the mainstream discourse on Palestine and Israel, helping to better understand the seemingly intractable conflict in the region.

Lorenzo Kamel is a Marie S. Curie Fellow at FRIAS since September 2016 and a Senior Fellow at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome, Italy. He is also a non-resident Research Fellow at Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), where he served as a postdoc fellow for two years, and the scientific coordinator of the research project "New-Med, The Future of Cooperation in the Mediterranean", funded by the Compagnia di San Paolo, OSCE, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the Italian

Foreign Ministry. He has published six books on Middle Eastern and Mediterranean affairs and over 150 articles in international academic journals and newspapers.

The fifth annual Palestine Book Awards celebrated this year's publications on Palestine in London on November 18, 2016. Leading figures from the political, academic and literary communities joined in the celebration and unveiling of the winners of the 2016 Palestine Book Awards.

EVENTS



Nobel Laureate Paul Nurse: „Controlling the Cell Cycle“

December 14, 2016

22nd Hermann Staudinger Lecture
4:15 pm
Lecture Hall Pathology/
Anatomy, Albertstr. 19

Paul Nurse received the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Leland Hartwell and Tim Hunt for their discoveries of protein molecules that control the division of cells in cell cycle. He is President of the Royal Society and, since 2011, Director of the Francis Crick Institute in London.

The cell cycle consists of several defined steps that lead to cell division and cell reproduction. Several regulators control all phases of the cell cycle in order to prevent the division and reproduction of defective cells. Paul Nurse was able to identify one of these regulators, called the cyclin-dependent kinase. In his lecture, Paul Nurse will specify the role of the activity of cyclin-dependent kinases in different phases of the cell cycle. Since a defective regulation of the cell cycle can lead to an uncontrolled cell

growth, researchers assume a causal relation between the cell cycle and cancer formation.

Abstract of the lecture

Both S-phase and mitosis are common to all cell cycles and both are necessary for the two newly divided cells to receive a full complement of genes. In fission yeast, the onset of S-phase and mitosis can be controlled by a single cyclin dependent kinase with different levels of CDK activity bringing about progression through the cell cycle in an orderly fashion. Using phosphoproteomics we show that a low CDK activity is sufficient to bring about S-phase whilst a high activity blocks a further S-phase and is needed for onset of mitosis. A G2 cell can be programmed to undergo either S-phase or mitosis simply by modifying CDK activity indicating there is no inherent direction in the cell cycle.

Vortrag von Prof. Bernhard Pörksen: „Die Skandalgesellschaft. Vom Ende der Kontrolle im digitalen Zeitalter“

12. Januar 2017

Vortrag im Rahmen
der Reihe „Freiburger Horizonte“
19:00 Uhr
Aula der Universität Freiburg (KG I)

Medien durchdringen das politische, wirtschaftliche und private Leben bis in den letzten Winkel. Angesichts der immer dichten Verflechtung traditioneller und digitaler Kommunikationskanäle ist die Vorstellung medienfreier Räume zur Illusion geworden. Was bedeutet diese ebenso faszinierende wie beunruhigende Entwicklung? Bernhard Pörksen, Professor für Medienwissenschaft, geht von einer zentralen These aus: In der digitalen Moderne ist jeder Mensch zum Sender geworden ist. Blitzschnell sind Transparenz und Aufklärung möglich – und in rasender Geschwindigkeit verbreiten sich Gerüchte und Falschmeldungen, bilden sich Protest- und Wutgemeinschaften, die mit Schicksalen auf einer weltweit sichtbaren Bühne spielen. Ein Vortrag über die Skandalgesellschaft der Gegenwart, den Kontrollverlust im digitalen Zeitalter und die aktuellen Bildungsherausforderungen.

FRIAS Junior Researcher Conference: „Spanish as a pluricentric language? – Status, prestige and communicative value of regional (standard) varieties of Spanish“

February 23 – 24, 2017

Organised by Anja Schütz and Eva Staudinger (University of Freiburg)

FRIAS Junior Researcher Conference: „Apokryphe Schriften. Rezeption und Vergessen in der Wissenschaft vom Öffentlichen Recht“

30. März – 01. April 2017

Organisation: Dr. Nikolaus Marsch (Universität Freiburg), Dr. Laura Münker (LMU München) und Dr. Thomas Wischmeyer (Universität Freiburg)

Die Rechtswissenschaft kennt kanonische Texte und denkt wie kaum eine andere Wissenschaft in Entwicklungslinien und Begriffstraditionen. Wie diese Rezeptionsvorgänge funktionieren und aus welchen Gründen sich einige Ansätze durchsetzen, andere hingegen ins Abseits geraten, ist bislang jedoch nicht systematisch untersucht worden. Die Tagung „Apokryphe Schriften“ am FRIAS will diesen Mechanismen des Erinnerns und Vergessens in der bundesrepublikanischen Wissenschaft vom Öffentlichen Recht nachspüren. Erkenntnisleitend ist dabei kein rein archäologisches Interesse: Da sich Rechtsprechung und Rechtsetzung regelmäßig auf rechtswissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse beziehen, ist vielmehr im hohen Maße normativ relevant, welche Faktoren den (Miss-)Erfolg von Theorien steuern. Das spezifische Interesse der Tagung gilt bei alldem dem Schicksal jener Texte und Autor*innen, die trotz anerkannter Qualität niemals oder zumindest nicht mehr Teil des juristischen Kanons waren bzw. sind und die heute gewissermaßen die „apokryphen Schriften“ des Faches bilden.

FAVOURITE PLACES IN FREIBURG

Eguisheim

Freiburg is close to France, so I really enjoyed visiting the surrounding towns in Alsace.

Together with my co-fellows Benoit Dillet and Julia Elsky, we found a little town called Eguisheim, which is really beautiful. It has lots of vineyards, a beautiful old town center, great food and is just perfect for a day trip.

*Marco Caracciolo,
FRIAS Fellow 2015-17*



Günterstaler Stadtwald

We love to take a stroll in the Günterstal city forest and pay a visit to the tallest tree in Germany. My daughter wonders how long it would take to climb to the top of the tree, if she were a bird, she would get there in no time.

*Adriana Hanulikova,
FRIAS Fellow 2016/17*



Alter Friedhof

I really love the old cemetery in Freiburg Herdern. A magical place that seems to have fallen out of time. Here, one can wander about in complete silence between high grass and ancient trees. One can enjoy reading on a park bench undisturbed or decrypt the inscriptions on the old gravestones in order to learn who has lived in Freiburg a long time ago. Right in the middle of the cemetery lies a tree that has been struck by lightning. It was left there and has now been revived by the surrounding plants. My kids love to climb around in its crown.

Evi Zemanek, FRIAS Fellow 2016/17



Schauinsland

My recommendation: take the cablecar up to Schauinsland and look out at the unbelievable views that stretch out into Switzerland and beyond. In this way you will get a sense of the way in which Freiburg is not only a lovely, vibrant university city but its sitting on one of the most beautiful parts of Germany.

*Anne Harrington,
FRIAS Fellow 2016*



Seepark

Freiburg is a great city, so we have several favorite places! But I would say that the Seepark is at the top of the list. It's a great park, with many little corners to discover, including the lake "Flückigersee", the park's tower, the different green spaces, the playground, the lake lookout, the walking and bike trails. We live very close to the park and go there almost every day with the kids.

*Diego Vazquez
FRIAS Fellow 2016/17*

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