



Zukunftskolleg Newsletter

The second phase of the Excellence Initiative has started and will continue until the end of October 2017. This means that the Zukunftskolleg can offer numerous new fellowships for excellent young researchers from all around the world and continue with its fruitful work on presenting the interdisciplinary research conducted by its Fellows to the general public. This Newsletter will show how this is proceeding.

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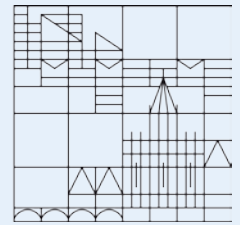
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Concerning the Zukunftskolleg

Central Office

The Central Office welcomed **Dr. Nani Clow** to the Zukunftskolleg on November 1, who will now take up her position as the Program Director for Internationalisation. Her areas of competence include:

- Strategic and conceptual development
- Coordination Marie Curie 'Zukunftskolleg Incoming Fellowships' Program
- Applications and Support Research Fellows
- Selection Procedure
- Funding Instruments
- Development of Workshops, Seminars, and Co-teaching measures



Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee held its first meeting on October 25, 2012 in the winter term 2012/2013. On the day before, namely October 24, the EC-members had gathered for a strategic meeting in the Wasserturm (Water Tower) in Konstanz to discuss general questions. One important topic was the budget for the Zukunftskolleg during and after the second phase of the Excellence Initiative. Due to budget cutbacks of 20,45 % imposed on the University of Konstanz by the DFG, the EC had to decide in which areas it is possible to save costs. This budgetary suggestion has been passed to the Rectorate, which is responsible for accepting the suggestions.

Furthermore, the EC discussed status questions relating to the Fellows after they have left the Zukunftskolleg or while completing a temporary/visiting professorship, and also discussed the necessity of having a representative of the Zukunftskolleg sitting on the Senate.

At the regular EC-meeting of October 25, the members approved several applications submitted by Fellows and Senior Fellows for Co-funding for research projects, research assistant positions and workshops. The EC also accepted several nominations: Patrick Tresset from Goldsmiths College in London as a new artist in residence from February to October 2013, Roland Weierstall from the Department of Psychology in Konstanz as an Associated Fellow, as well as the re-nomination of Giora Hon from the University of Haifa as a Senior Fellow from July 2013 to March 2014.

Funding Instruments

New Fellowships

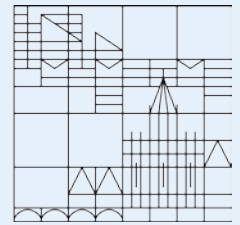
In its most recent call for proposals, the Zukunftskolleg received more than 350 applications for the 2-year Postdoctoral and 5-year Research Fellowships. The closing date for applications was August 26, 2012. The award of Fellowships is a competitive procedure involving a Recruitment Committee made up of international and interdisciplinary experts.

The pool of applicants was narrowed down to 153 in two pre-selection meetings held on September 19 and November 5. Between these dates, the applications were reviewed by external experts. In its 5th November meeting, the Recruitment Committee selected the final 15 candidates for the 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships. The top 18 candidates for the 5-year Fellowships were also selected at this time and were invited to take part in the “Workshop on Future Research Directions” at the University of Konstanz, to be held in January 10-11, 2013. The 13 best candidates will be selected during this final two-day round.

The Zukunftskolleg offers the following Fellowships:

➤ **Three 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships** (for any discipline represented at the University of Konstanz, Salary Scale 13 TV-L) for early-career researchers to enable them to develop and implement individual and independent research projects. This call for proposals is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the University of Konstanz. These Fellowships will begin on

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March 1, 2013 and end on February 28, 2015.

➤ **Five 5-year Research Fellowships** (for any discipline represented at the University of Konstanz, Salary Scale 14 TV-L) to develop and implement individual research projects. This call for proposals is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the University of Konstanz. These Fellowships will begin on March 1, 2013 and end on February 28, 2018.

➤ **Up to fifteen ZIF Marie Curie 2-year Postdoctoral Fellowships** (for any discipline represented at the University of Konstanz, Salary Scale 13 TV-L) for researchers in the early stage of their career to enable them to develop and implement individual and independent research projects. This call for proposals is part of the Zukunftskolleg Incoming Fellowship Program (ZIF) and is financed by the Seventh Framework Program (FP7) Marie Curie Actions – People (co-funding by regional, national and international programs), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the University of Konstanz. The rules and ethical principles for FP7 and the DFG guidelines apply. These Fellowships will begin on March 1, 2013, and end on February 28, 2015.

➤ **Up to eight ZIF Marie Curie 5-year Research Fellowships** (for any discipline represented at the University of Konstanz, Salary Scale 14 TV-L) to develop and implement individual research projects. This call for proposals is part of the Zukunftskolleg Incoming Fellowship Program (ZIF) and is financed by the Seventh Framework Program (FP7) Marie Curie Actions – People (co-funding for regional, national and international

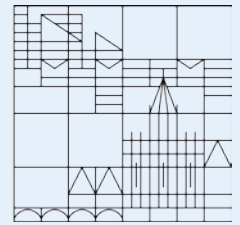
programs), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the University of Konstanz. The rules and ethical principles for FP7 and DFG guidelines apply. The Fellowships will begin on March 1, 2013, and end on February 28, 2018.

Manfred Ulmer Grant



On behalf of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft at the University of Konstanz, the Zukunftskolleg annually awards the Manfred Ulmer Doctoral Student Grant. The program is open to doctoral students of all disciplines and awards 1,000 EUR per month for a period of six months. It enables the scholars to bridge the financial gap between their studies and their doctoral phase. This year, eleven students applied for the favoured scholarship: four from the field of history, two from literary studies, one from philosophy / economics, one from psychology, one from linguistics, one from biology and one from physics. After intensive discussion, the EC voted for **Lena Dreher**, the candidate from philosophy / economics, for her project on

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"Neuroeconomics – eine wissenschaftstheoretische Analyse". The award ceremony for the Manfred Ulmer Grant is held, as usual, during the annual Foundation's "Regional Science Forum", on November 16 this year.

Scientific Retreat

The Scientific Retreat organised by **Malte Drescher**'s research group was held from September 9-11, 2012 for an off-site meeting at the Marbach Castle Conference and Training Centre. The castle's Boathouse offered a fantastic change of scenery for the eleven group members during their scientific sessions.

At the current stage, the group has to master the step from junior to established research group. While the first generation of PhD researchers is going to leave the group soon, there are also group members who are at the very beginning or in the middle of their PhD research. The retreat in Marbach helped to master the challenge of knowledge transfer and enhanced the research group homogeneity. The latter is of particular importance since the group consists of variously trained people, such as physicists and chemical scientists for, example.



A major session at the retreat was devoted to identifying and exploring new research directions. In the intense discussions, long term visions were developed. An entire time slot had been reserved for team exercises. These challenges will enable the group to learn to respond flexibly, find solutions, communicate clearly, and work for the team as a whole. The picture shows the group during the task of "crossing the Amazon".

Co-funding

The Executive Committee and the Director of the Zukunftskolleg approved 54 applications for start-up funding, student assistants, travel allowances and consumables between August and November 2012 for a total amount of 468.032,41 Euros.

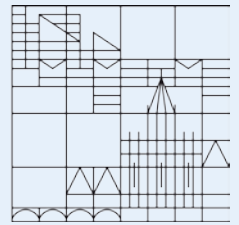
Events

Jour Fixe

Is it logic? – *Jour Fixe talk by Senior Fellow Irene Heim*

What is logic? – Surely a question with many answers, how would a mathematician define it, or a philosopher or a psychologist? According to Wikipedia, logic is "the study of modes of reasoning (some of which are valid and others that are fallacious)". And reasoning – as studied by logic – means reasoning by humans, and specifically verbal reasoning. According to this, **Irene Heim**, professor of linguistics and one of the most renowned scholars working on the semantics of natural languages,

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argues that logic is more specifically an element of linguistics, namely the study of the human language faculty. This view contrasts with a *normative* conception of logic (common among both lay people and philosophers), according to which logic is less about people's *actual* reasoning rather than about how they *should* reason.

In her Jour Fixe lecture on November 15, Irene Heim presented several examples to illustrate the contrast between normative logic and logic as cognitive science. For example, a normative logician might say that "John has a dog or a cat" does not mean that "John doesn't have both a dog and a cat", not caring to explain why ordinary people typically do draw this inference. Logicians as psychologists, by contrast, take such observations seriously. They elaborate their formal models accordingly and unravel the deeper logic behind the supposedly "illogical" behaviour.

Irene Heim explained: "The validity of inferences depends on their form, not on the particular subject matter of the premises and conclusion." She illustrated various inference schemata and the logical forms of their premises and conclusions: "If A, then B", or "All B are A", or "A is B-er than C". Crucial, according to the Senior Fellow, is that logical forms have a hierarchical structure. The words and symbols in logical forms are not just chained together on a string; they are grouped together into ever larger units. But although people think in logical forms when reasoning, it is important to consider that they mostly communicate in acoustic signals. To ensure that this communication is successful, an acoustic signal has to determine – or at least give sufficient

clues about – the intended logical form. Of course, and that's what some auditors objected to as well, you have to consider the context in which a sentence is said. Many sentences have more than one logical form or ambiguous meanings. For example: The premiss is "Mary met Ann in her tent". The conclusion is "Ann had a tent". But Mary could also "have a tent".

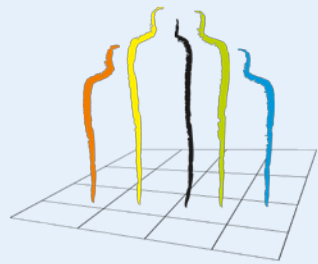
Finally Irene Heim elucidated displacement as the most dramatic respect in which logical forms can differ from the spoken sentences that convey them. Again an example: Premiss 1: "Mary hates every professor". Premiss 2: "Socrates is a professor". Conclusion: "Mary hates Socrates". This illustrates a major shortcoming of traditional conceptions of logical form, which prevailed from the age of Aristotle, and into the 20th century. It shows that the relationship between spoken or written texts and their logical forms can be opaque. Nevertheless that's what makes languages and communication interesting and linguistics an exciting science.

At the end of her talk, Irene Heim gave a glimpse of her current research on logical form, in which she cooperates with **Doris Penka**.

The secret of the little boy running.... – Jour Fixe talk by Ariel Gutman

How do children learn their language? – It was with this question that **Ariel Gutman** started his Jour Fixe talk on November 22. And he gave a brief answer: "We don't know". Of course, he didn't want to leave it at that, but tried to answer the question by discussing "Prosody as a means of acquiring the syntactic skeleton

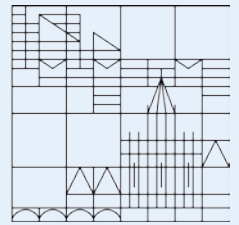
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and word categorisation". He explained the difficulties in testing the learning mechanism systematically, but that instead he could test certain aspects of language acquisition by means of computer simulation. Fortunately, Ariel Gutman not only studied, linguistics, but also computer science as well, so it is easier for him to understand the algorithms that he is using for his experiments. His tests are based on the syntactic skeleton model (developed by Christophe et al, 2008), which uses prosodic phrases as approximative syntactic units. He illustrated this on the basis of an example sentence: "The little boy is running fast" which consists of the nominal phrase "The little boy" and the verbal phrase "is running fast", both being prosodic phrases as well. Whereas "the" and "is" are function words, "boy" and "running" are content words. The linguist's assumptions are 1. children use the function word of the phrase in order to classify it, 2. children already know some of the most frequent content words and can identify them as objects (=nouns) or actions (=verbs) and 3. based on this knowledge they can identify the class of the current prosodic phrase.

For his computer simulations, Ariel Gutman used transcriptions of speech meant for 1- to 3-year old children. The computer algorithm groups various prosodic phrases into various clusters and then compares them to the correct syntactic categories. In order to simulate the learning process, he uses the well-known Expectation-Maximisation algorithm which consists of several phases: Initialisation (initially assign the prosodic phrases to a possibly wrong "syntactic" cluster), Maximisation (estimates the parameters of the model),

and Expectation (re-assigns the prosodic phrases to new "syntactic" clusters). The last two steps are repeated until you achieve convergence. The initialisation phase relies either on function words or on the content words appearing in the prosodic phrase. He admitted that the experiment is clearly not cognitively plausible, but it can serve as an approximation of true incremental learning. Finally, "we can evaluate the 'quality' of each resulting cluster by examining the largest syntactic category that it has captured".

And the experiments seem to confirm his assumptions: The language learner can rely on prosodic boundaries, function words and content words in order to construct a syntactic skeleton. Ariel Gutman described learning as an iterative process, since the semantic knowledge allows the discovery of the importance of function words in syntactic classification, and the knowledge of function words in turn may help in the classification of novel words.

But – and this was a really good question from the audience, raised after Ariel Gutman's presentation – what's the practical information that he would give parents in order to teach their children a language? – As in the beginning, the linguist already had a short answer at hand: I think the parents are doing fine!

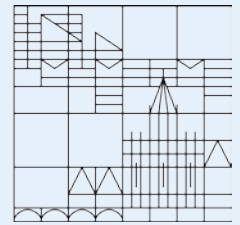
Information Technology and Political Mobilisation –

Jour Fixe talk by Nils Weidmann

Although he is not a member of the Zukunftskolleg – just a "refugee" due to a lack of space in the Department of

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Politics and Public Administration – his research interests fit perfectly into the interdisciplinary spirit of the Zukunftskolleg. **Nils Weidmann** received a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Freiburg in 2003, a Master's degree in Comparative and International Studies from the ETH Zurich in 2008, as well as a PhD in Political Science from the ETH Zurich in 2009. Later, he held research fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, at the Jackson Institute at Yale University and finally at the Centre for the Study of Civil War at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo. In August 2012 he received a Sofja Kovalevskaja Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Based on this funding he started working as the head of the newly founded "Communication, Networks and Contention" Research Group at the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Konstanz in October 2012. His PhD students, **Sabine Otto** and **Espen Geelmuyden Rod**, also introduced themselves and their research interests into the Jour Fixe held on November 29.

In his research project, Nils Weidmann analyses the impact of communication and information technology on mass mobilisation and protest. It has been argued that modern information communication technology (ICT) is a key driver of mass protest and popular revolutions, because it allows for the publication and dissemination of information at low cost. As a framework for the project, he proposes three mechanisms: First of all, by using new ICT, people know what is going on abroad, which increases their motivation to protest. Secondly, ICT makes it easier

for people to organise (opportunity). Thirdly, by increasingly monitoring governments through ICT, they become more moderate in their actions and thus decrease citizens' motivation for protest (accountability). As there is little systematic research on this topic, Nils Weidmann's aim is to find ways to test the impact of ICT empirically. Some of his research relies on a trans-national study on internet coverage and political protest, testing whether places with high connectivity indeed see higher levels of mobilisation. This analysis will be complemented with field research in Bosnia. In order to test the motivation-level ("Does exposure to Internet-communicated information affect political satisfaction?"), for example, Nils Weidmann will carry out a survey on matched pairs of villages in Bosnia (with and without Internet coverage) and analyse the relationship between Internet exposure and political satisfaction.

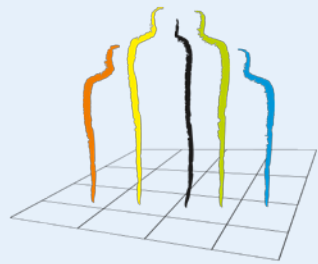
Thanks to his training in computer and political science, the up-and-coming scientist can focus on a multifaceted research design: Besides interdisciplinary collaborations with computer scientists, he can rely on micro and macro level approaches to strengthen his conclusions.

Lectures, workshops and symposia

Activities by Fellows and Senior Fellows in chronological order

Sarang Dalal co-organized two events at the 18th International Conference on

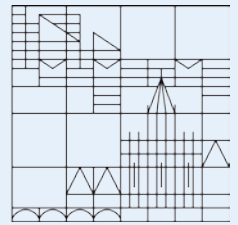
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Biomagnetism being held in Paris from August 25 to 30. One is a workshop called "Studying the brain as a network using MEG: Practical considerations", and the other, a symposium called "Magnetoencephalography and the cerebellum: Old questions and recent evidence".

Martin Bruder and **Attila Tanyi** participated in the 8th International Conference of the Society for Analytic Philosophy (GAP). It was held in Konstanz from September 17 to 20 under the heading of "What may we believe? What ought we to do?", and was co-hosted by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Konstanz. Martin and Attila presented their interdisciplinary project "**Overdemanding Consequentialism? An Experimental Approach**" in the section on "Normative Ethics, Metaethics, Theory of Action and Theory of Decision-making" as well as in the subsequent workshop on "The Scope and Limits of Experimental Ethics".

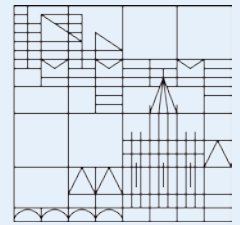
From October 13 to 17, **Simon Hanslmayr** and **Sarang Dalal**, together with their research group, participated in the "Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience 2012" (SfN) in New Orleans. They were involved in five poster sessions and three talks. With more than 35.000 attendees, the SfN claims to be the largest conference in this field and usually also attracts a lot of public interest.

Contributing to an International University Debate

The Austrian Science Board invited **Martin Bruder** to present the Zukunftskolleg at the Technology Forum Alpbach on August 25. He attended the Workshop "Via ferrata into the scientific career" and drew a positive conclusion: „The workshop lived off the quality of the contributions which were very good indeed. I managed to significantly mention the Zukunftskolleg several times - in fact, it was the only international "best practise" example and its relevance to several of the issues that we discussed was quite clear."

On November 26-27, **Giovanni Galizia** was invited to present the Zukunftskolleg at the Symposium "Das deutsche Wissenschaftssystem und seine Postdocs: Perspektiven zur Gestaltung der Qualifizierungsphase nach der Promotion". The event was held on the occasion of the opening of "Zur Rosen – Haus für den wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchs" at the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena. Giovanni Galizia took part in a panel discussion entitled „Postdoc phase as a qualification phase: Loss or Gain in the career prospects?" and discussed the prospects and perspectives of the Zukunftskolleg Fellows.

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Latest Collaborations

Workshop II “Forgetting” in cooperation with the Martin Buber Society of Fellows

Unforgettable days in Jerusalem

Ten members of the Zukunftskolleg visited the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem from October 27 to 30, where they continued their interdisciplinary workshop “Forgetting”. The first part of the workshop took place in Konstanz in June (see last Newsletter). Including presentations, text, film and panel discussions, the notion of “Forgetting” was analysed from various points of view and backgrounds of expertise.



A report by Sigrid Elmer

*I have forgotten the word I wanted to say.
The blind swallow returns to the hall of
shadows on clipped wings, in order to play
with those who are transparent.
In forgetting, night sings its song.*

*No bird-cry.
No blossoms on the flower named
"Deathless."
Transparent are the manes of the horses of
the night.
In a dry river a boat is sailing.
The word forgets itself among the
grasshoppers.*

*Mortals have been given the power to love
and to recognise.
A voice flows through their fingers.
But I forget what I want to say,
and a disembodied thought returns
to the hall of shadows.*

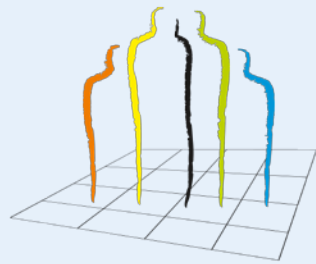
*(poem by Osip Mandelstam; quoted by David
Shulman, director of the MBSF, at the
beginning of the workshop “Forgetting”)*

“Forgetting” is not only getting attention through poetry. Regardless of who it is, whether biologists, archaeologists, psychologists and historians through to philosophers, linguists and artists – the task of scientifically understanding “forgetting” is a challenging one indeed. Therefore the phenomenon was the focus of a two-part interdisciplinary workshop organised jointly by the Zukunftskolleg and the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences (MBSF) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

In June 2012, 10 Martin Buber Fellows travelled to Konstanz for the first workshop (q.v. report <http://www.zukunftskolleg.uni-konstanz.de/news-events/events/review-on-events/>), where the young scientists



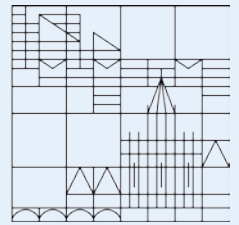
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presented their research on forgetting and engaged in fruitful dialogue. Four months later, in October, 10 Fellows from the Zukunftskolleg travelled to Jerusalem for part two. Nira Alperson-Afil, Fellow of the MBSF, introduced the second part by reading a story:

"Today, 12th of Heshvan according to the Hebrew calendar, the state of Israel marks the 17th memorial day of Yitzhak Rabin. As prime minister, Rabin attempted to achieve a "new Middle East", however opponents of his actions arranged demonstrations, protests and provocations which were taken by extremists to be a license to kill. 17 years ago, on November 4, 1995, shortly after attending a supporting peace rally, he headed to his car, where an assassin shot him three times in the back. In memory of his legacy I would like to read a short piece of his speech, which he presented upon signing the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles in 1993. The reading of his words today, demonstrates the painful ease of forgetting:

"We have come from an anguished and grieving land. We have come from a people, a home, a family that has not known a single year, not a single month in which mothers have not wept for their sons. We have come to try and put an end to the hostilities, so that our children, our children's children, will no longer experience the painful cost of war, violence and terror .

We have come to secure their lives and to ease the sorrow and painful memories of the past, to hope and pray for peace.

Let me say to you, the Palestinians: We are destined to live together on the same soil, in the same land. We, the soldiers,

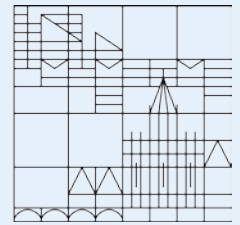
who have returned from battle, stained with blood, we who have seen our relatives and friends killed before our eyes, we who have attended their funerals and cannot look into the eyes of their parents, we who have come from a land where parents bury their children, we who have fought against you, the Palestinians - We say to you today in a loud and a clear voice: Enough blood and tears. Enough.

We have no desire for revenge. We harbour no hatred towards you. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, to live side by side with you in dignity, in empathy, as human beings, as free men. We are today giving peace a chance, and saying again to you: Enough."

Just like in Konstanz, the second part of the workshop in Jerusalem also revealed several interesting research approaches on the topic, all very different. Some scientists, for example, gave a talk on the brain processes that occur when people – as well as bees and fruit flies – forget information. One of them was **Simon Hanslmayr**, Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg, who analyses the neurological processes of forgetting: "The workshop was a great experience and I learned a great deal about how other disciplines conceptualise and research forgetting. Such interdisciplinary workshops force you to view your own research through the eyes of other disciplines, which (in my case) helped me to identify new, exciting research questions."

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Two Martin Buber Fellows in the field of psychology spoke about the insights they gained by investigating forgetting and remembering among small children. They discovered that small children “forget” negative feedback or failure in order to preserve their positive view of the world. This rosy world view starts to fade at around seven or eight years of age. **Hiltrud Otto**, Fellow of the MBSF and one of the psychologists studying forgetting/remembering in childhood: “I got a lot of feedback, including very critical feedback, e.g. about the classification of various cultural contexts in accordance with our theoretical model. Some of the questions will definitely influence my thinking as some of the criticism was very reasonable.”

The workshop also touched upon the extinction of languages through forgetting. **Ariel Gutman**, PhD candidate in the Zukunftskolleg, gave a lecture on “Forgetting Language: Language change and Language death as cases of forgetting”, and sums up: “While my presentation was not directly linked to my main research interests, the stimulating discussion that followed was very enlightening and enabled me to consider expanding my research to include the topic of ‘Linguistic Forgetting’. It gave me

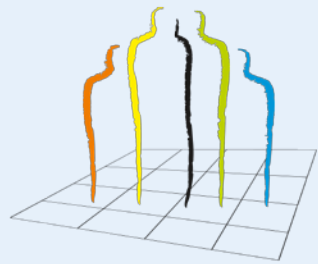
some insights about the qualitative difference between ‘Language Change’ and ‘Language Death’.”

These topics and others – including the significance of remembering and forgetting in religious practice, philosophy, the history of science and National Socialism – sparked insightful dialogue and inspiring debate in the course of the workshop. **Kim Wünschmann**, Fellow of the MBSF: “As an historian working on memorial cultures, our interdisciplinary workshop on forgetting provided me with many new insights and inspirations. The fascinating contributions by psychologists, especially on mechanisms of collective forgetting and remembering, broadened my understanding of this multifaceted process in which our minds, bodies and cultures deal with the past in order to shape the present and the future. I learned that remembrance can be understood as a form of social knowledge and that the essence of a group, society or nation is determined not only by shared common experience, but also by those aspects of the past, which they have collectively ‘forgotten’. I enjoyed the lively exchange and discussions and will surely keep the forgetting workshop in good mind.” The workshop also brought about valuable results from the perspective of an artist. **Alexander Schellow**, artist in residence at the Zukunftskolleg: “Since forgetting is a strong component in my practice, the much more differentiated image produced within the two workshops will be a challenging trigger within future projects – which seem clear to me.”

Jettisoning ballast – making room for the new

It became clear during the workshop that forgetting is not necessarily a negative or disadvantageous act. As shown, the

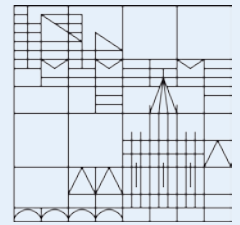
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human brain deliberately deletes unnecessary information in order to make room for new input. Along similar lines, the development of a language hinges on its ability to overcome old or obsolete formulations.



The interdisciplinary reflections on forgetting were further explored in panel discussions. The workshop program also included a screening of **Ari Folman's** film "Waltz with Bashir" in the Mishkenot Sha'ananim Conference Center in Jerusalem. The animated film, based on real-life interviews and events narrated from the filmmaker's point of view, provides a dramatic treatment of "forgetting". Folman, who was stationed in Lebanon as an Israeli soldier during the first Lebanon War in 1982, appears to have forgotten – or repressed – his memories of the war. The slow process of remembering is triggered through his conversations with others, who had also experienced the war. During the panel discussion which followed, it became clear that two of the workshop participants had also been involved in the war. They began to speak very personally and candidly about their wartime memories and of the experiences they had long repressed or forgotten.

Zsuzsanna Török, Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg: "The broad topic of the workshop made it possible for the

participants to slip into animated discussions without having to take notice of disciplinary, cultural and geographical boundaries. It was interesting to see these boundaries re-emerging to a certain extent as soon as the discussions touched upon sore issues in contemporary and post-war politics on the occasion of the film viewing." **Margarita Stolarova**, Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg, enjoyed the discussions as well: "For me, personally", the most valuable input was provided by our hosts in between and after the sessions and presentations, when the discussions turned to Israel's current political situation, its recent history, as well as to the individually different perception of religion's impact on relationships between people and nations."

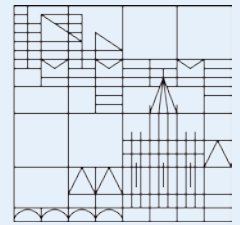


From the Isle of Reichenau to Qumran

Excursions in and around Konstanz and Jerusalem gave the Fellows a chance to get to know each other beyond the purely academic side. After a tour of the city of Konstanz in June, Zukunftskolleg Fellow and art historian **David Ganz** guided the group through the church of St. Georg on the Isle of Reichenau. A completely

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different kind of excursion was placed on the program for October, with scientists taking a desert walk to the famous cliff-side caves near Qumran, where ancient Judaic scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956. The second workshop ended with a final discussion in the Ein Gedi oasis on the coast of the Dead Sea. It was here that the workshop participants agreed to publish a book featuring their work on “forgetting”, edited by Zukunftskolleg Director **Giovanni Galizia** and MBSF Director **David Shulman**. But not only this, according to **Zsuzsanna Török**: "I wish to continue the exchange between the Fellows of the two institutes, in order to reflect on our mutual and reciprocal identifications, political stances and tastes. Last but not least: Travelling with the colleagues from Konstanz turned out to be an unexpectedly great adventure, which makes me nostalgic about the tour."



Post-Doctoral Fellowships of the Martin Buber Society

The Martin Buber Society – a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem – also launched a new call for applications. It offers generous fellowships in all fields of the humanities and social sciences for German and Israeli scholars who have completed their PhD degree in the last five years. Fellowships are initially awarded for two years and may be renewed thereafter. The Society aims to provide young scholars with ideal conditions to pursue their research and create a vibrant intellectual environment with a strong inter-disciplinary character. Fellows are given offices at the Hebrew University and participate in regular colloquia, seminars, workshops, and field trips.

The first group of Fellows has been in residence since September 2010. The second group arrived in October 2011 and the third in October 2012. The call for applications for 2013-2014 has just gone out and can be seen on the website:

<http://buberfellows.huji.ac.il/page.php?p=89>

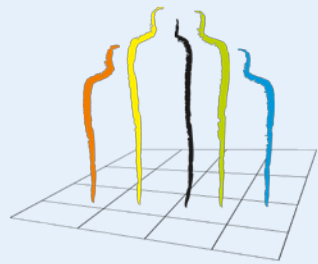
There are also slots available for a few doctoral candidates in advanced stages of their research. The deadline for applications is January 3, 2013.

People

Senior Fellows

The Zukunftskolleg warmly welcomed Senior Fellow **Irene Heim** (Cambridge, USA). She stayed at the Zukunftskolleg from November 5 to 24. She was nominated by **Doris Penka**.

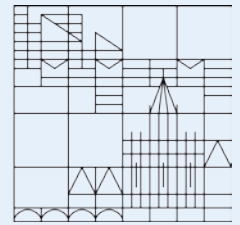
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Emotions in literature – Irene Albers' stay as a guest at the Zukunftscolleg

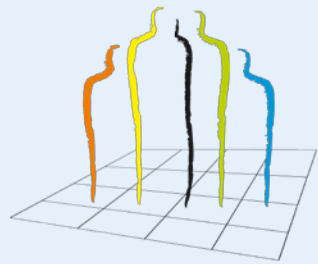
From September 2012 to January 2013, Senior Fellow **Irene Albers** spends another stay at the Zukunftscolleg. During her stay, she continues to work on a forthcoming book under the heading of "The passions of the body and the language of the novella". The interaction between emotional physiology and poetry in Romance novellas from Boccaccio to Madame de Lafayette". Her book aims to address the meaning of certain involuntary physical responses associated with emotions in the novellas of the Early Modern period: tears, blushes and turning pale, laughing, fainting, sighing, perspiring, fever, etc. In her readings she follows leading questions: Are these emotion-related corporeal symptoms attributed to physiological or cultural processes? Are they understood as products of simulation or hypocrisy (false tears and simulated swoons) or as authentic symptoms of hidden passions beyond the control of the subject? How do the novellas stage the often conflictual diversity of early modern discourse on the physical dimensions of emotion and discourse, which include medicine, theology, philosophy, art theory, rhetoric, and texts on appropriate behaviour at court? Thus, she concentrates on a historical period of pre-modern conceptions of emotions as "physical passions", a conception which does not, as Descartes claims, separate between the passions of the soul and the passions of the body, between psychology and medicine, cognitive and physiological aspects. While the latest cultural studies tend to focus almost exclusively on the conditioning power of the cultural codings of emotions, she wants to show how it is

precisely the exchange between symbolic and biological registers, between the body and the language of emotions, disputed in early modern novellas. At the same time the novellas constitute historical examples of what is still a subject of current research, for example the reflections (in frame narratives) on the emotional and physical effects of storytelling and storylistening.

During her last stay at the Zukunftscolleg, from March to June 2010, Irene Albers wrote two chapters for this book, one on the significance of the numerous blushes by the Princesse de Clèves in the famous novel by Madame de Lafayette (partly published in Ingrid Kasten, ed., "Machtvolle Gefühle", Berlin 2010, pp. 263-296), and another on the theatre of tears in the "Novelas a Marcia Leonarda" of Lope de Vega. After a series of quite different projects and publications, including an exhibition, a conference and a book on "animism" (about the exhibition at the House of World Cultures: http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/2012/animismus/animismus_68723.php, the book: <http://www.diaphanes.net/buch/detail/1430> and an afterword to the German edition of the "Collège de Sociologie 1937-1939", Suhrkamp 2012: http://www.suhrkamp.de/buecher/das_collège_de_sociologie-29549.html) her present stay as a guest of the Zukunftscolleg during her regular sabbatical finally allows her to come back to the physiology of passions. She plans to write a larger chapter on the Spanish woman, María de Zayas, who published two volumes, "Novelas ejemplares y amorosas" (1637) and "Desengaños amorosos" (1647). In her analysis of these intriguingly violent novellas, she will concentrate on an emotions-related topic: the meaning of the fever which hits the

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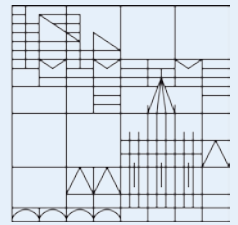
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female protagonist of the frame narrative Lisis and the striking association between passions and illness, mirrored in contemporary theories of emotions, such as Oliva Sabuco, as well as in the tradition of theories of “lovesickness”.

Several (Senior) Fellowships ended with the summer term:

August 15 Senior Fellowships **Dimitri Ginev** and **David Leep**, August 31 Fellowship **Jeff Kochan**, September 30 Senior Fellowship **Giora Hon**, October 15 Senior Fellowship **Yoram Carmeli**.

Publications

Three new publications by **Doris Penka** were published:

- Doris Penka (2012): “Negative Features on Negative Indefinites: Evidence from Split Scope”, in: “Journal of Semantics” Volume 29 / Issue 3: 373-402.
- Agnes Jäger & Doris Penka (2012): “Development of sentential negation in the history of German”, in: “Comparative Germanic Syntax. The state of the art” by Peter Ackema, Rhona Alcorn, Caroline Heycock, Dany Jaspers, Jeroen Van Craenenbroeck and Guido Vanden Wyngaerd (eds.) [LA 191], John Benjamins Publishing Company: 199-222.
- Doris Penka (2012): “Split scope of negative indefinites”, in: “Language and Linguistics Compass” Volume 6 / Issue 8 (2012): 517–532.

Thomas Voigtmann, in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre Berlin for Materials and Energy (HZB), published an article in “Physical Review Letters”. Together with his research group at the Zukunftskolleg, Thomas Voigtmann developed a theoretical model that makes it possible to qualitatively describe the various phases from creeping to ultimate material failure. Preventing material damage is a major concern in engineering applications, from the design of airplanes to that of bridges. The long-time exposure to even small external forces can cause extremely slow steady deformation, leading to structural damage over years or even decades. This “creep” deformation is particularly difficult to deal with, and it is still not completely understood theoretically, since it involves highly non-linear processes. The newly developed model and its analysis of experimental data has been published in “Physical Review Letters”. Original Paper: M. Siebenbürger, M. Ballauff, and Th. Voigtmann: “Creep in colloidal glasses”, Physical Review Letters 108, 255701 (2012):

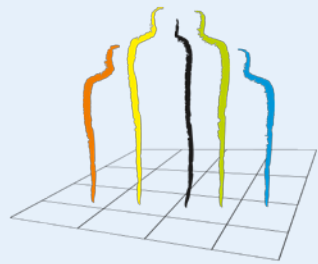
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.108.255701>

Simon Hanslmayr, collaborating with **Karl-Keinz Bäuml** from the University of Regensburg and **Maria Wimber** from the MRC Cambridge, provided evidence that our brain deliberately forgets irrelevant information. Although forgetting normally is described as a failure of memory, it can help us to delete unwanted information in order to discharge brain capacity and so keep our memory flexible.

To explain the formation of new memories, it is important to consider the neural synchronisation between distant cell assemblies. On the basis of two

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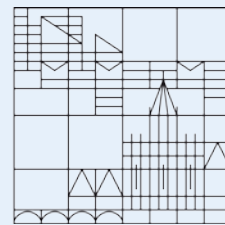
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experiments, the researchers were able to show that a reduction in neural synchronisation goes hand-in-hand with an increase of activity in the left dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC), which is responsible for cognitive control processes. By stimulating the dlPFC the behavioural forgetting effect was increased and the neural synchrony reduced. With these results, the researchers claim that prefrontally driven down regulation of long-range neural synchronisation mediates goal-directed forgetting of long-term memories.

Read more about these important results in the following paper published in the Journal of Neuroscience:

https://cms.uni-konstanz.de/fileadmin/zentral/forschung/zukunftskolleg/Hanslmayretal_2012_JoN.pdf

Alexander Titz was awarded the prize for the best poster in medical chemistry at the Fall Meeting of the Swiss Chemical Society.

Thomas Voigtmann received the 2012 Teaching Prize of the University of Konstanz (LUKS) awarded by students. It distinguishes lecturers at the University of Konstanz for their outstanding teaching. The award ceremony was held in October 2012.

Margaret Thomas can stay at the Zukunftskolleg for 3 more years. The DFG is providing funding for her project "Parameterization and Algebraic Points in O-Minimal Structures". We congratulate Margaret and wish her all the best.

Careers

New Appointments

James O'Shea, former member of **Karim Becher's** research group and associated Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg, accepted a temporary one-year position as a lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, starting in September 2012.

Jure Demsar accepted a call to a professorship in the department of experimental physics II at the Ilmenau University of Technology, starting on October 1, 2012.

Karim Becher accepted a position as Senior Lecturer at the Department of

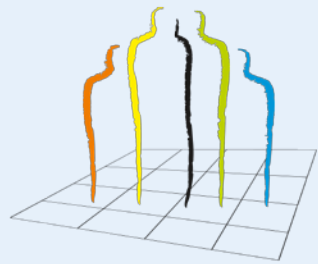
Grants, Approvals, Prizes

In the fall, **Sarang Dalal** received a 3-year DFG research grant for his project "Robust Characterisation of Hippocampus Dynamics from Magnetoencephalography" as well as a 3-year grant called "SEMAINE: Simultaneous MEG or fMRI and Intracranial EEG" funded by Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Malte Drescher received a DFG grant, with funding from September 2012 until May 2016, for his project "Distance measurements in the nanometer range by In-Cell Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Spectroscopy".

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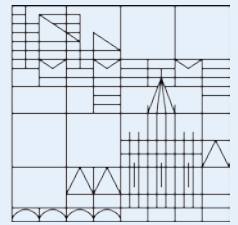
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Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Antwerp, starting on November 1, 2012.

Attila Tanyi accepted a temporary professorship (W3) for the winter semester 2012/2013 in the “Philosophy and Economics program” at the University of Bayreuth.

Ulrich Sieberer accepted a visiting professorship in the Department of Government, University of Vienna. In the winter term 2012/13 he will teach a seminar called “Institutional Design in Western Democracies” for Master and PhD students in political science. In cooperation with his mentor, Prof. Wolfgang C. Müller, head of the Department of Government and Professor for Democratic Governance, Ulrich Sieberer is currently working on publications on institutional changes in European parliaments and individualised campaign strategies in European democracies.

Andreas Karrenbauer accepted a temporary position as a senior researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics in Saarbrücken, starting on January 1, 2013.

Franz Huber accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the St. George (downtown) campus of the University of Toronto, Canada, starting January 1, 2013.

Martin Bruder accepted a position as Head of Evaluation and Statistics at the DAAD in Bonn, starting January 1, 2013.

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