

Collegium Helveticum Annual Report 2023–2024

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Editorial

Sabbaticals: A Necessary Privilege?

Each year, the Collegium not only hosts early-career fellows, but also sabbatical visitors and visiting professors at its three supporting universities as senior fellows. This past fellowship year, for instance, a total of thirty senior fellows participated in the program, typically staying between three and ten months. Every one of these sabbatical visitors enriches the academic life at the Collegium and contributes to the appeal of Zurich as an academic workplace. For many of them, becoming part of the Collegium turns out to be a highlight of their stay. Against this backdrop, we want to share some thoughts about the role of sabbaticals in academia: Why and where were they invented? And what impact can institutes for advanced study have in today's sabbatical system?

The importance of sabbaticals

Breaks and change are important for the health and productivity of any system. They can be catalysts for renewal, innovation, and adaptation. Breaks are also beneficial for ecosystems. In agriculture, more specifically, crop rotation and fallowing help improve soil quality. During the fallow period, the land is left unplanted to allow the ecosystem to recover and improve its future fertility. These agricultural practices may well predate the cultural notions of *shmita* and *Shabbāth* in the Judeo-Christian tradition, to which the modern academic term sabbatical refers.¹ *Shabbāth*, as a day of rest, goes back to the Torah and the Old Testament

book of Genesis (2:2-3), while the concept of *shmita*, a sabbatical year of agricultural rest, first surfaces in Leviticus (25:3-5). Similar traditions of rest and reflection can also be found across other cultures, including the ancient Greek *anachōrēsis* or the Buddhist *Vassa*. While all different in character and context, these ancient cultural traditions share a period of withdrawal from everyday routine for reflection and reorientation.

Despite this varied and longstanding cultural history, when sabbaticals were formally established in the late 19th century, the justifications initially followed the Western self-understanding of academic institutions and referred to the medieval tradition of clergy and scholars taking time away for study and reflection. Before the sabbatical took on a more formalized form, faculty of modern research universities² would individually negotiate for research leave. For instance, in the first half of the 19th century, junior faculty at US research institutions were frequently granted leave to gain experience in then leading German research universities to induce knowledge transfer. In 1880, Harvard University pioneered what would soon be called the sabbatical as a systematic instrument for faculty development at an institutional level.³ Other institutions followed suit and before 1920 around fifty US institutions had adopted the sabbatical system. Among those, the University of California was the first to formalize the sabbatical in the public university sector in 1899.

Outside of the US, leading Australian and Canadian institutions started introducing similar forms of leave of absence still in the mid 19th century, though their

1 Walter C. Eells, "The Origin and Early History of Sabbatical Leave," *AAUP Bulletin* 48, no. 3 (1962): 253–56.

2 William Clark, *Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2006).

3 Eells, "Sabbatical Leave," 253.

“What makes a place like the Collegium so crucial is that you need this dedicated time and space to let the ideas flow.”



Tuncay Alan
Mechanical engineering
Senior Fellow 2023–2024

formalization as sabbatical schemes happened only in the early 20th century.⁴ In Britain, Cambridge University implemented a sabbatical system in 1926 in reference to the US model, while Oxford University only formalized its scheme in 1955.⁵ Due to a lack of research on the sabbatical's trajectory outside the anglosphere, we can only surmise that a more international adoption of similar systematic schemes for academic leave probably only took place in the second half of the 20th century.

Today, all top-ranking research universities offer sabbaticals for tenured faculty, although policies vary by institution and national systems. However, many universities do not have the resources to offer such schemes of protected time for research to their faculty, which disproportionately affects institutions in economically less privileged countries. This adds another layer to the already existing resource inequalities among international scholars next to disparities in access to information, publication opportunities, visa requirements, or higher cost of living when moving abroad.⁶

With the introduction of formal sabbatical schemes at an institutional level, their function also changed. With this change, the university managements acknowledged the institutional benefit of sabbaticals for its individual members and turned it into an instrument for faculty development and an incentive for recruiting.⁷ Today, it remains an effective tool for knowledge and skill transfer while generating experiences and networks to avoid insulation.

For a small country with highly visible academic institutions such as Switzerland, it is even more important to nurture and expand its global networks by participating in faculty exchange on the global sabbatical market. Many factors influence individual decisions about where to spend a sabbatical. In our experience, these include the reputation of the host institution or individual host, opportunities to advance one's research, the location and possibilities for professional networking, or the quality of life at the destination.⁸ Zurich checks all of these boxes. And ideally, the ratio of incoming and outgoing faculty would be balanced. Yet, there are two factors that make a sabbatical visit to Zurich challenging for many: the high cost of living and limited access to housing.⁹

We believe that a fellowship program like the one at the Collegium can take on a multiple role in the current global sabbatical system. It can both help attract and support sabbatical visitors, by creating an environment in which they can get the most out of their stay. The excellent Zurich institutions could leverage the sabbatical system even better by compensating the high living costs and access to housing for visiting faculty. This would significantly enhance Zurich's appeal for global talent to spend time in Zurich. Such a relatively modest investment would result in a large benefit. Such funds could also contribute to addressing inequalities in the global academic system by providing added support for outstanding scholars and artists from less privileged regions.

What is new at the Collegium?

After these thoughts on the sabbatical, we want to draw your attention to a few other aspects of the past fellowship year and express our gratitude. On pages 29–30, you can find out more about the career paths of some early-career fellows after their fellowship. Senior fellow Huib Ernste shares insights into his research of the Collegium's atmosphere (pages 65–66). In last year's editorial, we highlighted the importance of diverse perspectives for the Collegium's program. This year, we continued this discussion with fellows and included their feedback in a short [statement](#) published on the Collegium's website.

Recently, the Collegium launched a new website that better features fellows and their activities. A big thank you goes to the design studio Upset and to Mick and Eliot in-house for their work. Looking ahead, we will launch the Collegium's *Proceedings* with the support of the HOPE open access platform of the University of Zurich's library services, providing fellows with an outlet to share preprints and working papers swiftly and open access while also documenting all event program activities.

We want to thank both the OPO Foundation and the Foundation for Basic Research in the Human Sciences for their generous contribution to the Collegium's scholars-at-risk program. With their help, the Collegium could thus far support five scholars at risk. We also sincerely thank all members of the Collegium's advisory board for their service during the period 2021–2024. Some will continue in their role as advisors to the director, while new members will join in 2025.

Looking back, we are impressed by the rich program: 66 public events, 65 internal events and a total of 4538 guests and participants. We want to thank not only the fellows for their contributions to the program but also the entire staff of the Collegium for their professional support and excellent work.

Sebastian Bonhoeffer
Director

Mario Wimmer
Deputy Director

4 Michael Heffernan and Heike Jöns. "Research travel and disciplinary identities in the University of Cambridge, 1885–1955," *The British Journal for the History of Science* 46, no. 2 (2013): 257–8; Bruce Macfarlane, "The academic sabbatical as a symbol of change in higher education: From rest and recuperation to hyper-performativity," *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management* 45, no. 3 (2023): 340–1.

5 Heffernan and Jöns, "Research travel and disciplinary identities," 265–6.

6 Amber Dance, "Sabbaticals Are Back: How to Make the Most of Them," *Nature* 613, no. 7943 (2023): 399–401.

7 Eells, "Sabbatical Leave," 253; Vicki L. Baker and Linda M. Boland, "Harnessing the Power of the Sabbatical: Providing Strategic Guidance to Faculty Developers," *The Journal of Faculty Development* 37, no. 3 (2023): 48–53.

8 See also: Becky Ioppolo and Steven Wooding, "How Academic Sabbaticals Are Used and How They Contribute to Research – a Small-Scale Study of the University of Cambridge Using Interviews and Analysis of Administrative Data," *F1000Research* 11, (2023): 36.

9 See also: Holly Else, "Sabbaticals: no longer so open-ended or available?," *Times Higher Education*, April 16, 2015.



Fellowship year 2023–2024

Fellows First

As Swiss institute for advanced study, supported by ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Zurich University of the Arts, the Collegium Helveticum puts its fellows first. The Collegium's fellowship program offers academics and artists an inspiring and international environment in the historic Semper Observatory, where they can exchange ideas across disciplines and pursue their individual projects.

As members of the Collegium community, fellows are actively involved in academic life and have ample opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue around their projects. The Collegium offers three fellowship types: early-career fellows are postdoctoral researchers or art school graduates at an equivalent stage in their career; senior fellows are established artists or academics visiting one of the three supporting institutions; both early-career and senior fellows collaborate with an associate fellow. As faculty members at one of the supporting institutions, associate fellows support the fellowship application of early-career and senior fellows, help the international fellows establish contacts in Zurich, and often provide access to additional research-related infrastructure.

“When people start to share their practices and interests within a common space, then unexpected encounters and projects can happen.”



Tim Shaw
Sound and media art
Senior Fellow 2023–2024

Early-Career Fellows

Researchers and Artists From Diverse Backgrounds

Early-career fellows are researchers and artists working in academic or artistic disciplines at a postdoctoral or equivalent level for art school graduates (up to five years of “academic age” after completing their PhD or highest degree in the arts). In the 2023–24 fellowship year, the Collegium was able to support nine fellows from diverse backgrounds, coming from both international and Swiss universities. Early-career fellows are employed as postdocs at ETH Zurich during their ten-month fellowships. They are free to pursue their individual projects as proposed in their applications. In addition, they convene a meeting, organize an event, or make use of the Collegium’s exhibition space, thereby making an independent contribution to the academic and artistic program at the Collegium Helveticum, and help to reach out to and engage different audiences.





Yael Borofsky

Born 1987 in Philadelphia, US
PhD: ETH Zurich, CH (2022)
Development economics

Yael Borofsky's research focuses on access to basic infrastructure in informal settlements, especially electricity services. Using transdisciplinary data collection methods, from sensors to participatory mapping, she empowers residents of informal settlements to more directly shape research, view their neighborhoods from new perspectives, and leverage the resulting information to achieve community development goals. Before joining the Collegium, Yael was a postdoctoral researcher in the Development Economics Group at ETH Zurich (2022–2023). She is a co-founding editor of the ETH Zurich Energy Blog and a founding member of the LightUp Collective.

Currently, Yael is a postdoctoral researcher in the research group Spatial Development and Urban Policy (SPUR) at ETH Zurich (CH).

Associate fellow: Isabel Günther
Professor of Development Economics, ETH Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Academic publications

Borofsky, Y., Büttner, N., and Günther, I. "Streetlighting in African Cities: A Quarter of the Urban Population Lacks Light at Night." *Nature Communications* (out for review).

Borofsky, Y. and Caprotti, F. "Electric Informality: Non-state Actors and the Ethical Implications of Incremental Infrastructures in the Informal City." *Energy Research & Social Science* (submitted)

Media appearances

Borofsky, Y. "Revealing the Paths People Take in Informal Settlements." Interview by R. Silva. *Let's Talk About—Urban Planning*, cogitatio press. February 21, 2024.

Fellowship project

Energy in the Inclusive City Towards Equitable Energy Access in Cities with High Informality

More than ten percent of the global population—about one billion people—live in low-income, informal urban settlements. Many lack reliable electricity for household use, economic activity, or public lighting. Despite an international push for "inclusive" cities and energy for all, this vision cannot be realized without access in informal settlements. However, there is little comprehensive data about how many people or communities lack access. This makes it hard to know the scale of the problem or to find solutions. In her project, Yael thus drew on large language models and other language processing techniques to estimate the scale of the problem by building a comprehensive database of existing but disparate information.

Symposium, May 28–29, 2024

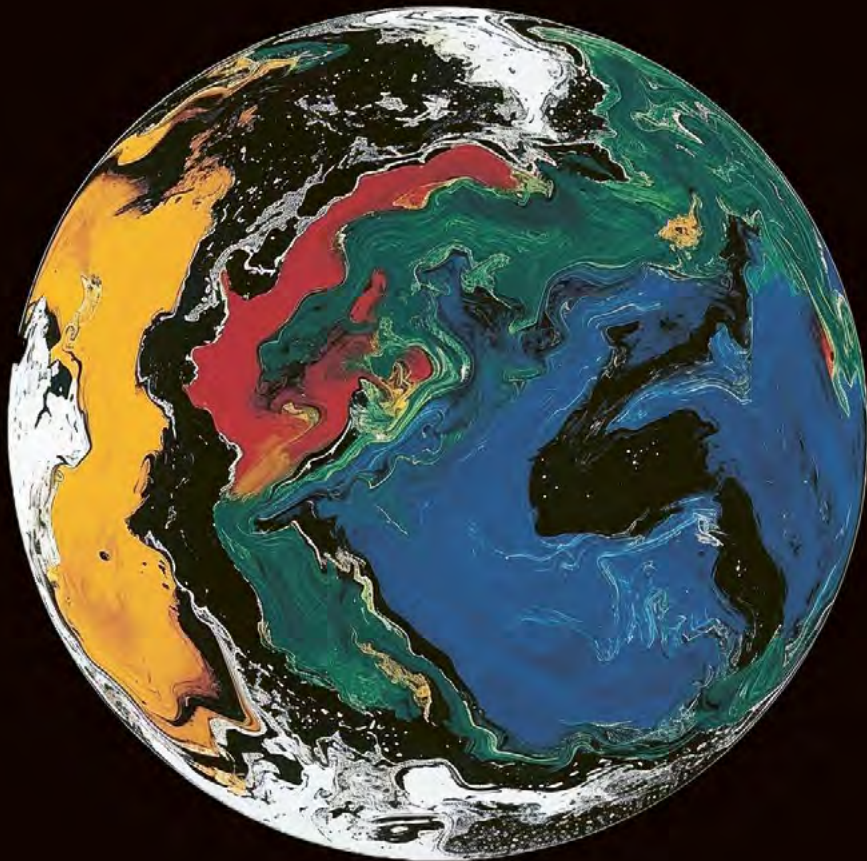
Inclusive Cities New Methods to Understand Informal Infrastructure Access

Over the course of two days, this symposium featured a transdisciplinary array of perspectives from academia and practice on the opportunities, challenges, and ethics of AI and remote sensing for studying infrastructure in informal settlements. Both experts and the inhabitants of informal settlements were involved in exchanges around topics such as using remote sensing to identify informal settlements, using AI to study infrastructure, and what the future of urban infrastructure governance will look like with AI.

Exhibition, May 28–29, 2024

Urban Lighting Realities 4D Virtual Settlements from Cape Town to Sarajevo

Co-curated with Michael Walczak, this exhibition explored different urban lighting realities for residents of four informal settlements in Cape Town, Kampala, and Sarajevo. Visitors could experience and engage with these different virtual environments in a 4D Digital Twin, connecting quantitative data with artistic visualization techniques in comparative circular projections.





Noé Brasier

Born 1983 in Bremerhaven, DE
MD: University of Basel, CH (2018)
Translational medicine

Noé Brasier is a medical doctor by training. His research focuses on translating wearable biofluid analysis into clinical application. In 2021, Noé was awarded a MedLab Fellowship by ETH Zurich, where he would continue his research at the Institute of Translational Medicine. He also teaches translational medicine at ETH Zurich and acted as a medical consultant for the BA medicine program there.

Since July 2024, Noé has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Translational Medicine and project lead in the SNSF Lead Agency project “An AGE clock for RESilience in SweaT-AGE RESIST” in collaboration with institutions such as the California Institute of Technology (US).

Associate fellow: Jörg Goldhahn
Professor of Translational Medicine, ETH Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Academic publications

Brasier, N., Wang, J., Dincer, C., Güder, F., Schauwecker, I., Schaffarczyk, D., Ghaffari, R., and Goldhahn, J. “Next-generation Digital Biomarkers: Continuous Molecular Health Monitoring Using Wearable Devices.” *Trends in Biotechnology*, no. 42 (2024): 255–257.

Brasier, N., Niederberger, C., and Salvatore, G. A. “The Sweat Rate as a Digital Biomarker in Clinical Medicine Beyond Sports Science.” *Soft Science*, no. 4 (2024).

Brasier, N., Sempionatto, J. R., Bourke, S., Havenith, G., Schaffarczyk, D., Goldhahn, J., Lüscher, C. and Gao, W. “Towards On-Skin Analysis of Sweat for Managing Disorders of Substance Abuse.” *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, no. 8 (2024): 925–929.

Brasier, N., Wang, J., Gao, W., Sempionatto, J. R., Dincer, C., Ates, H. C., Güder, F., Olenik, S., Schauwecker, I., Schaffarczyk, D., Vayena, E., Ritz, N., Weisser, M., Mtenga, S., Ghaffari, R., Rogers, J. A., and Goldhahn, J. “Applied Body-Fluid Analysis by Wearable Devices.” *Nature*, (accepted, awaiting publication).

Brasier, N., Domenghino, A., Meier, C. A., Jacob, C., Xu, S., and Rogers, J. A. “Implementing Clinical Needs Into the Development of Wearable Health Monitoring Technology.” *Nature Nanotechnology*, (invited contribution, under review).

Media coverage and appearances

Köchle, K. “In Pursuit of Sweat.” *Globe Magazine*, December 5, 2023.

Frey, N.-L. and Küpfer, A. “Schweiss ist weit mehr als unsere natürliche Klimaanlage.” *Ratgeber*, Swiss National Radio SRF, August 12, 2024.

Frey, N.-L. “Was Ihr Schweiss über Ihre Gesundheit verraten kann.” *Srf.ch*, August 12, 2024.

Bertschi, K. “ETH Zurich’s Future Maker: Noé Brasier.” *ETH Ambassadors*, September 12, 2024.

Fellowship project

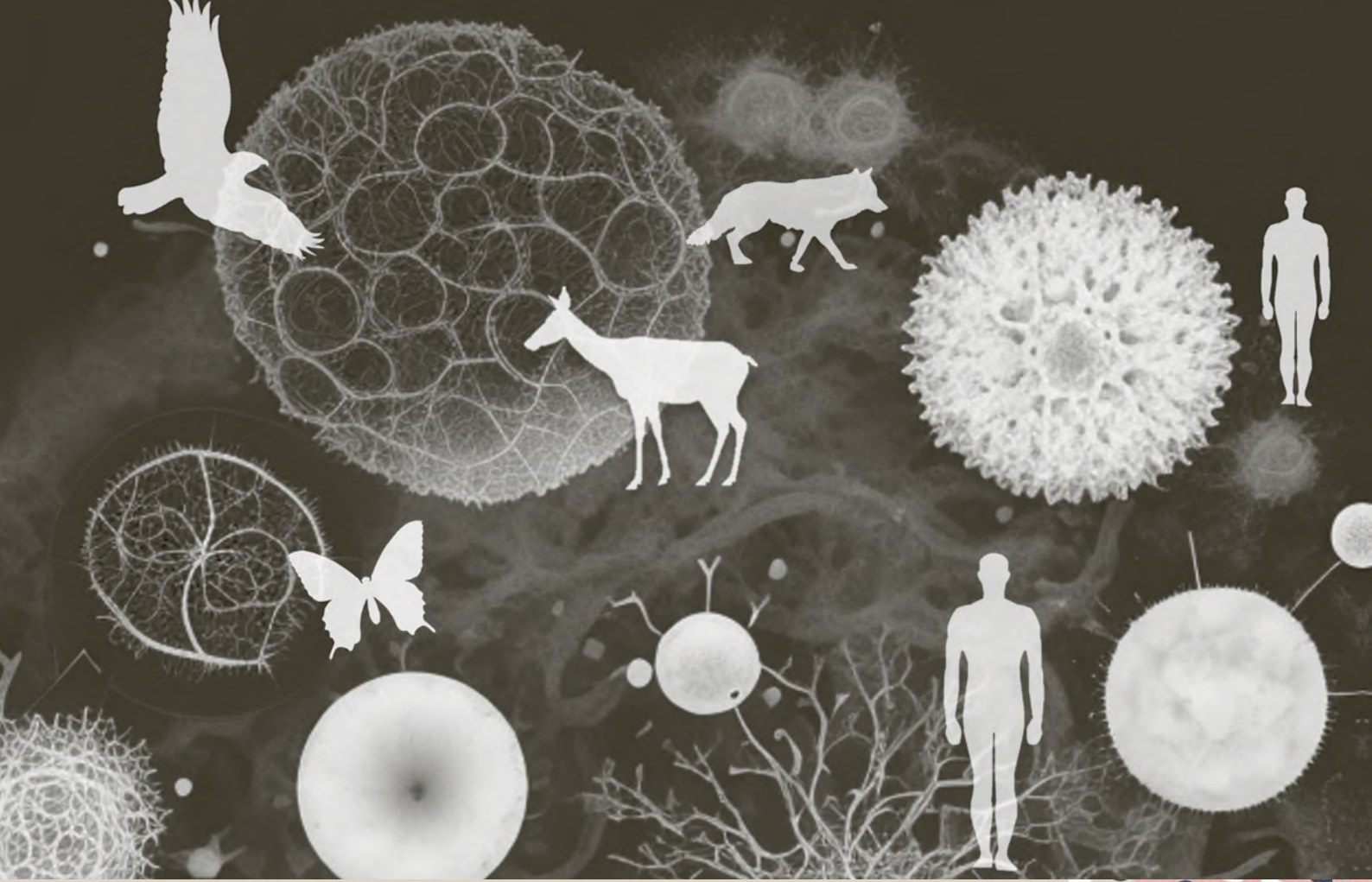
Therapeutic Drug Monitoring at the Site of Infections Wearable, Continuous, and Lab-Independent

Wearable biofluid analysis is a promising novel approach to revolutionize patient care by enabling continuous, mostly non-invasive, and lab-independent health and disease monitoring. Noé’s project contributed to the fight against the silent pandemic of antimicrobials, as modern medicine faces serious challenges in treating infectious diseases. The project’s cutting-edge concept to utilize wearables within a platform for the therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM) of antimicrobials is designed within five interdisciplinary areas: patient engagement, biomedical engineering, device cross-connectivity, clinics, and translational medicine. Each area was supported by distinguished international experts in their respective fields.

Symposium, June 5, 2024

Planetary Health It Takes More Than a Village to Find a Solution

Climate change may pose the most significant health threat of the 21st century. It has direct repercussions for individual health and well-being, while also indirectly influencing environmental and social health determinants. As such, fostering transdisciplinary collaboration is essential to create sustainable solutions for healthy life on our planet. At the symposium, experts from the industry and scholars specializing in planetary health, emerging diseases, pandemics, water science, medicine, and public engagement discussed challenges and strategies with the overarching goal of ensuring a resilient global future.





Georgia Drew

Born 1993 in Munich, DE, raised in the UK
PhD: University of Liverpool, UK (2019)
Evolutionary ecology

Georgia Drew's research focuses on the evolution of symbioses between microbes and animal hosts. She is interested in how host sociality—e.g., in the form of group structure or behavior—and community complexity shape the evolutionary trajectories of symbioses. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, Georgia experimentally evolved networks of hosts and microbes, asking fundamental questions about how symbiotic communities coevolve under varying ecological scenarios. Georgia is also frequently involved in public outreach: for example as part of the *Oxford Sparks* video project, appearing at a BBC radio event, or curating the exhibition *Unseen Workers: The Essential Role of Microbes*.

Since July 2024, Georgia has been a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Aquatic Ecology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).

Associate fellow: Christoph Vorburger
Professor of Aquatic Ecology, ETH Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Li, J. D., Guttman, N., Drew, G. C., Hector, T. E., Wolinska, J., and King, K. "Warming-Induced Excess Deaths of Infected Animals Depend on Pathogen Kingdom and Evolutionary History." *Plos Biology*, (in revision).

Stevens, E. J., Li, J. D., Hector, T. E., Drew, G. C., Hoang, K., Greenrod, S. T. E., Paterson, S., and King, K. C. "Within-Host Competition Sparks Pathogen Molecular Evolution and Perpetual Microbiota Dysbiosis." *bioRxiv*, (2024).

Jenkins, B. H., Kiliass, E. S., Savory, F. R., Sørensen, M. S., Poirier, C., Attah, V., Drew, G. C., Blagrove, J., Galindo, L. J., Leonard, G., Cameron, D. D., Brockhurst, M. A., Milner, D. S., and Richards, T. A. "Immune-like Glycan-Sensing and Horizontally-Acquired Glycan-Processing Orchestrate Host Control in a Microbial Endosymbiosis." *bioRxiv*, (2024).

Fellowship project

Outsourcing Defense Manipulating Symbiont- Encoded Protection against Parasites

How can humans protect themselves through microbial symbiosis? Humans, and many other host species, forge collaborations with microbial symbionts. These symbionts protect their hosts from parasites, deploying mechanisms from areas ranging from chemical warfare to resource hoarding. As rapidly-evolving parasites outpace current treatments, there is growing interest in utilizing symbionts for disease control.

In her project, Georgia explored the evolutionary and bioethical consequences of manipulating protective symbioses. She used comparative analysis to determine whether key symbiont variables are predictive of the mechanism of protection operating, and whether mechanisms are associated with different costs to hosts.

Workshop, September 18, 2024

Manipulating Microbiomes Microbiota-Based Interventions for Pathogen Control

Conventional strategies to control pathogens have been weakening. In clinical settings, fecal microbiota transplants are now being used to treat patients with resistant gut infections. For vector control, symbiotic microbes are utilized to block the transmission of pathogens such as the Dengue virus. But what are the implications—from the evolutionary to the ethical—of manipulating host microbiota?

The event brought together experts from different disciplines and systems to discuss the approaches and potential consequences of microbiota-based interventions for pathogen control.





Emma Mavodza

Born 1986 in Masvingo, ZW
PhD: University of the Witwatersrand, ZA (2023)
Development studies

Emma Mavodza's research spans broad, transdisciplinary topics, including the politics of financial inclusion and exclusion, gender and development, Indigenous knowledge systems, and innovation in digital financial services. Drawing on rich ethnographic data, Emma's research challenges some views of mobile money being a tool for financial inclusion. Instead, she demonstrates how it is integrated into the existing social relations, structures, practices, and meanings of the communities adopting it. Emma has received the Wits Postgraduate Merit Award and an Erasmus+ Global Mobility scholarship for an exchange program at the University of Agder (NO). Before joining the Collegium, Emma was a ZUKOnnect fellow at the Zukunftscolleg of the University of Konstanz (DE).

Currently, Emma is a junior fellow at the Walter Benjamin Kolleg at the University of Bern (CH), a lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of Luzerne (CH), and an adjunct researcher in the University Research Priority Program Human Reproduction Reloaded|H2R at the University of Zurich (CH).

Associate fellow: Katja Rost
Professor of Sociology, University of Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Mavodza, E. "Global Goals vs Local Practices: Tales of Digital Financial Inclusion among Women in the Informal Sector in Eswatini." *Journal of Economic Anthropology*, (submitted).

Mavodza, E. "In-Between Hope and Despair: The Role of Traditional Customs and Beliefs in the Fight Against COVID-19 Among Rural Women in Masvingo, Zimbabwe." *European Journal for Development Research*, (revised manuscript submitted).

Fellowship project

The Role of Social Norms in the Digital Financial Inclusion of Women in Eswatini

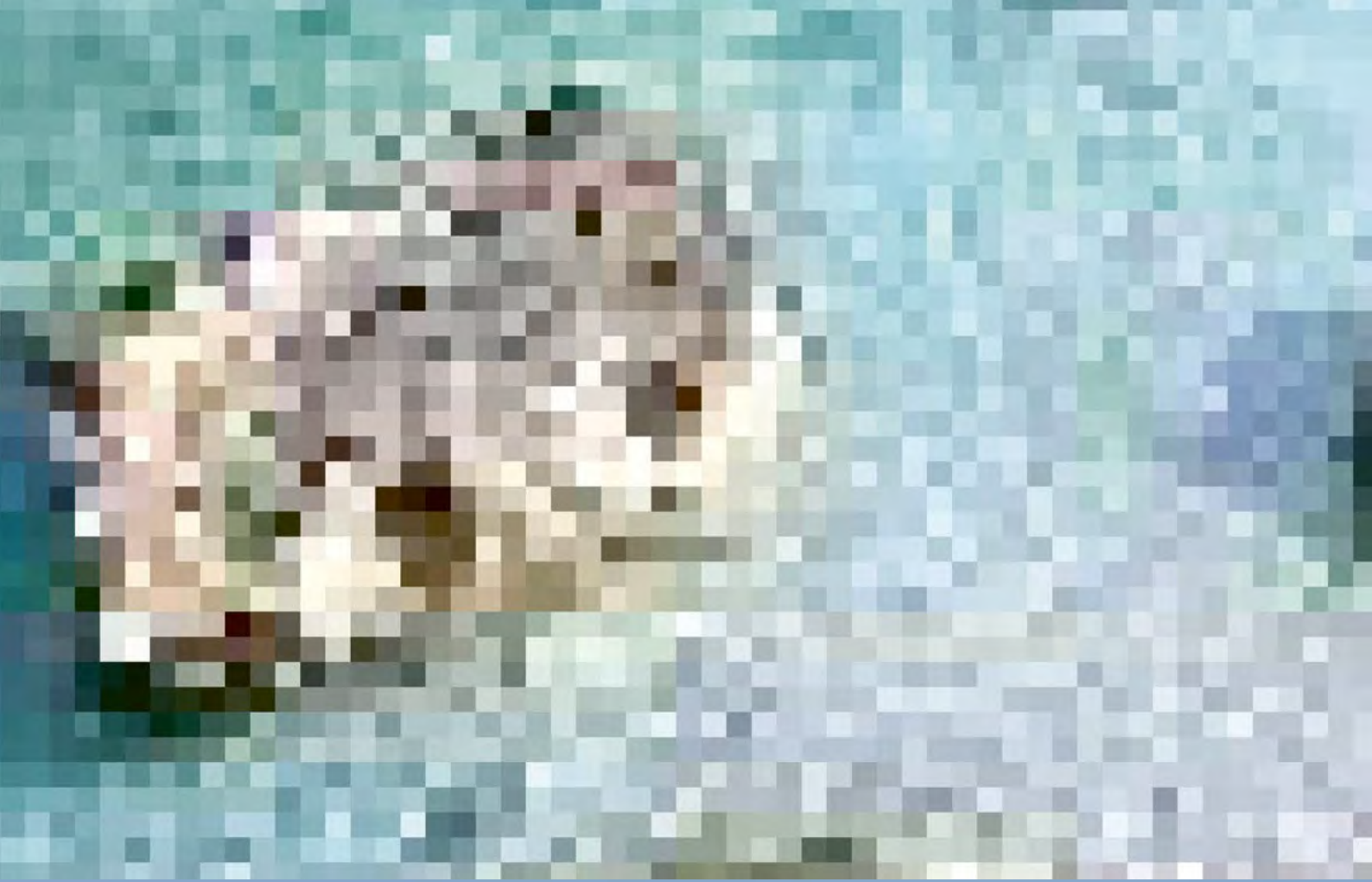
In her project, Emma argued that limited financial access and the provision of unsuitable services perpetuate socioeconomic marginalization. Aiming to demarginalize and politicize women's diverse experiences and voices, Emma showed how existing social norms shape mobile money access and usage experiences of women in the informal sector. By drawing on social norms of reciprocity, solidarity, and mutuality, Emma explored how various financial relationships and transactional practices develop as traditional payment infrastructures adapt and persist in the digital economy.

Workshop, March 26, 2024

Digital Money and Digital Futures for Value Exchange

Approximately one third of the world population has no direct access to the formal financial institutions that could link them to the global economy. However, the proliferation of mobile money services, which repurpose existing mobile technology and telecommunication networks, is proving to be an effective way to extend access to digital money to diverse populations worldwide.

This interdisciplinary conference served as a platform to explore various frameworks for envisioning digital futures in value exchange in the context of our daily lives, where digital payment technologies are pervasive. As these technologies continue to reshape the global financial system, it is important to consider their impact on marginalized populations in the Global South, who rely on cash and non-monetary forms of value.





Bruno Moreschi

Born 1982 in São Paulo, BR
PhD: State University of Campinas, BR (2018)
Visual arts

Bruno Moreschi is a visual artist, filmmaker, and scholar. His research focuses on the deconstruction of systems and the decoding of procedures and social practices in the fields of arts, museums, visual culture, and technology. In recent years, his work has expanded into artistic research in machine learning, especially AI and computer vision and their training data.

Before joining the Collegium, Bruno was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of São Paulo, a senior researcher at the Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research (Boston, US), and a member of the international research project “Decay without Mourning | Future Thinking Heritage Practices.” His projects have been exhibited and supported by various institutions, including the ZKM Karlsruhe (DE), Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (NE), the 33rd São Paulo Art Biennial (BR), the University of Cambridge (UK), and a Bauhaus Fellowship, Weimar (DE).

Since 2024, Bruno has been a fellow at the Leuphana Institute for Advanced Studies, Lüneburg (DE).

Associate fellow: Felix Stalder
Professor in the Department of Fine Arts,
Zurich University of the Arts

Publications during fellowship

Moreschi, B. “Five Experimentations in Computer Vision: Seeing (Through) Images from Large Scale Vision Datasets.” *BJHS Themes*, no. 8 (2023): 171–187.

Moreschi, B. “Distance, Transmission, and Journey in the Collective Construction of an Itaaká.” *HUB—Journal of Research in Art, Design and Society*, (forthcoming).

Moreschi, B. *Exh W/ Turkers – Dialogues with the Human Intelligence Behind Machines*. São Paulo: Menard Editions, 2023.

Movies

Moreschi, B. and Gallego, P., dirs. *Acapulco*. Zurich; São Paulo: Menard Editions Productions, 2024.

Fellowship project

Acapulco

Seeing (through) Images from Large-Scale Vision Datasets

The rise of computer vision has gained prominence in recent years. Scholars often focus on the social impact of these algorithms, especially as they exacerbate injustices. However, these problems can only be understood—and avoided—if we look not only at the outputs of computer vision but also at the inputs these machines were trained on. The emergence of computer vision coincides with the dissemination of so-called “Large-Scale Vision Datasets,” consisting of millions of amateur images, often taken without explicit consent from social media and assembled through precarious labor by thousands of micro-workers on remote platforms.

In his project, Bruno continued to create a long-term method aiming at a deeper understanding of these images in collaboration with people directly or indirectly connected to images, technology, and the arts. As one output, Bruno created the experimental film *Acapulco* that allows these training images and the hidden work to become visible.

Workshop, January 16, 2024

Working the Image

Exh W/ Turkers and Other Collective Experimentations

Together with artist Gabriel Pereira, in this workshop Bruno coordinated exercises that critically discussed the association between visual content, metadata, tagging processes, and collaborative ecosystems to expand the informational power of images from machine learning datasets.

Film screening, April 25, 2024

Acapulco

Working in Progress or First Cut

With *Acapulco*, Bruno created a feature film that offers an opportunity to closely examine and immerse ourselves in datasets containing millions of images, which are often difficult to comprehend at first glance. Viewing these images—which are used to train machines—in the context of cinema also transforms their meaning.





Celestin Mutuyimana

Born 1986 in Ruhango, RW
PhD: University of Zurich, CH (2023)
Clinical psychology

Celestin Mutuyimana is a clinical psychiatrist, psychotherapist, and filmmaker. He founded the Baho Smile Institute (BSI) in 2019, a psychotherapeutic and research center in Rwanda, whose main goal is to help people become aware of their mental disorders and receive professional help

For his research, Celestin is working with a multidisciplinary team of cultural-clinical psychologists from East Africa, Switzerland, China, and Georgia to explore culturally-specific symptoms of trauma. He also produces short movies with the aim of breaking the silence around mental disorders as well as searching for possible treatments.

Since August 2024, Celestin has been an Entrepreneur Fellow for Sustainable Society at the University of Zurich (CH).

Associate fellow: **Andreas Maercker**
Professor of Psychopathology and Clinical
Intervention, University of Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Academic publications

Mutuyimana, C., and Maercker, A.
“How Meaning in Life and Vitality
Are Associated with Posttrauma
Outcomes: A Systematic Review.”
Journal of Traumatic Stress, no. 37
(2024): 551–562.

Movies

Mutuyimana, C., dir. *Hear My Voice*.
Berlin: Studio Yumo Cheng, 2024.

Fellowship project

Cultural Scripts of Trauma among Eastern African Population

The Voices of Survivors, Clinicians, and Ethnographers

The voices of trauma survivors and the diversity of cultures need to be considered in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders. Despite efforts to treat trauma-related disorders, their prevalence in the African population is still very high. Various studies have been carried out that show the extent of trauma-related disorders in African countries and formulate recommendations for policy changes. However, most of the results of these studies remain the subject of academic and clinical discourse.

In his project, Celestin aimed to bridge the gap between clinical research and the real experts on trauma, i.e., survivors. He did so by integrating their culturally-shaped beliefs, perspectives, and experiences in relation to the treatment and healing of traumatic experiences.

Conference, April 23–24, 2024

The Role of Culture in the Exploration of Post-Trauma Suffering

Research and clinical evidence indicate that the impact of trauma is a universal human experience while also being shaped by cultural context. This conference provided a platform for exploring the intricate relationship between culture and the manifestation of trauma symptoms. It allowed for a comprehensive examination of the ways in which different societies interpret and respond to trauma.





Ari Ray

Born 1991 in Lund, SE
PhD: University of Zurich, CH (2020)
Political science

Political scientist Ari Ray examined how electoral institutions affect the social class composition of legislatures and whether the social classes of elected officials influence economic policymaking. Her research draws on insights from other social scientific disciplines, including applied economics, cognitive psychology, and micro-sociology.

Prior to her fellowship at the Collegium, Ari was a visiting researcher at Stanford University, a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, and a senior researcher at the University of Geneva. Ari's projects have been supported by several funding bodies, including the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Russell Sage Foundation, the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, and the Swiss Institute in Rome.

Since July 2024, Ari has been an SNSF Ambizione grantee at the University of Geneva (CH).

Associate fellow: David Kaufmann
Assistant Professor of Spatial Development
and Urban Policy, University of Zurich

Publications during fellowship

Ray, A. A. and Pontusson, J. G.
"Trade Unions and the Partisan
Preferences of their Members:
Sweden 1986–2021." *Socio-
Economic Review* mwae027 (2024).

Fellowship project

The Political Class Ceiling Inequality in Italian and French Local Politics

Why are legislators from the upper social classes more likely to get elected to office? And what implications does this upper-middle class skew in politics have for the economic policies that are adopted by elected government? In her project, Ari examined these questions by scrutinizing the role played by electoral institutions. Focusing on Italy and France, the project leveraged a series of experiments to evaluate the effects of electoral reforms, adopted asymmetricaly over time and space since the early 1990s, a form of data collection that centered on the coding of socioeconomic information of local elites. This data was merged with financial information on public spending as well as historical information on sub-national tax rates.

Workshop, April 10, 2024

Politics in Proximity On Inequality and Local Governance

In this workshop, the participants explored links between socioeconomic inequality and local politics in Brazil, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States. They probed how electoral institutions affect the socioeconomic composition of local government, and how the relative affluence of elected officials influences economic policymaking. Moreover, the participants evaluated the political drivers of spatial inequality, i.e., segregation, as well as the consequences thereof for voter behavior.





Paulo Wirz

Born 1990 in Pindamonhangaba, BR
MA: Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD), CH (2019)
Fine arts

Paulo Wirz is a Zurich-based artist, working with large-format sculptures and site-specific installations. In his research, Paulo investigates different forms of social and anthropological conceptions of mortality and attempts at immortality. He is intrigued by the roles played by, and relation between, preservation, possession, transmission, visibility, and invisibility in our culture and society.

In 2019, Paulo received the New Heads Prize and in 2021, a Swiss Art Award. Between 2019 and 2022, he took part in various residency programs such as with the Fondazione Antonio Ratti (Como, IT), zqm (Berlin, DE), Cité Internationale des Arts (Paris, FR), and Pro Helvetia (Cairo, EG). In 2024, Paulo was awarded the Migros Double grant to work with the curator Andrea Bellini from the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève (CH).

Since August 2024, Paulo has been taking part in a residency funded by the Landis & Gyr Foundation at the New Europe College, Bucharest (RO).

Associate fellow: **Martin Jäggi**
Lecturer for the Bachelor of Fine Arts,
Zurich University of the Arts

Publications during fellowship

Exhibitions

Hunter Longe & Paulo Wirz. Group show, September 15–November 11, 2023, Last Tango, Zurich.

Paths of Desire Pass Through Chaos. Group show, May 15–July 7, 2024, Villa Bernasconi, Grand-Lancy.

Kunsthalle Bern. June 6–15, 2024, Krone Couronne, Biel.

O Encontro das Partes Partidas/ The Encounter of Broken Parts. Solo show, June 19–July 14, 2024, Collegium Helveticum, Zurich.

Aura's Present Decay. Group show, July 6–August 25, 2024, Wehrmühle, Bisenthal.

Kunststipendien der Stadt Zürich/ Art grants from the City of Zurich. Group show, July 13–September 19, 2024, Helmhaus, Zurich.

Media coverage and appearances

Peacock, L. "Reading Rämistrasse #133: Leila Peacock on Hunter Longe and Paulo Wirz at Last Tango 15." *Reading Rämistrasse*.

Domínguez, A. "¿Desde dónde miras el sol?" *Artishock—revista de arte contemporáneo*, November 7, 2023.

Fellowship project

Pensamentos Paralelos The Parabola and Wor(l)d of Objects

In his project, Paulo aimed to investigate, reflect on, and expand our perception of the symbolic exchange between humans and objects in religious and ritualistic contexts. He analyzed human dependency on material things—whether sentimental, physical, or symbolic—and speculated about the relationship between faith and technology, exploring how both might coevolve. For his investigation, Paulo examined human behavior in both physical and virtual environments. He translated his research into a visual essay and a site-specific installation that aimed to contribute to our understanding both of the human condition and its need for preservation.

Exhibition, June 19–July 14, 2024

O Encontro das Partes Partidas The Encounter of Broken Parts

Paulo Wirz's research at the Collegium delved into the intricate themes of virtuality, preservation, and material attachment—encompassing sentimental, physical, and symbolic dimensions—with death as a central focus. This research culminated in an exhibition which speculated on the "dematerialization" of concepts such as "the matter," the "visible" and the "invisible," the "real" and the "non-real." Through this exploration, Wirz opened up questions and reflections on heterotopic spaces, challenging and expanding the boundaries of his research topics.

ASSETS ASSETS
TAX TAX
ASSETS ASSETS



NO
PLANET
B



Madeline Woker

Born 1987 in Udine, IT
PhD: Columbia University, US (2020)
History

Madeline Woker is a historian of colonialism, capitalism, and taxation. Her broader research interests include the history of tax havens and the debate around their colonial origins, the politics of tax resistance in colonial contexts, racial capitalism, and the history of global tax justice. She previously taught at Cambridge University, Brown University, and Columbia University. She obtained her PhD from Columbia University, where she was awarded the Clough Prize for the best dissertation in European history.

Since September 2024, Madeline has been a permanent lecturer at the University of Sheffield (UK).

Publications during fellowship

Academic publications

Woker, M. "French Imperial Statecraft, Capital, Corporate Taxation, and the Tax Haven that Wasn't, 1920s-1950s." *Past & Present* gtae018, (2024).

Woker, M., Hearson, M, and Afton, T. "Towards a New International Tax Order for Post-neoliberal Times: Empire's Shadow, Neoliberal Present, and Regionalist Futures." In "Global Governance and the Emergence of a Post-neoliberal Order?," ed. Kentikelenis, A., Slobodian, Q., and Thornton, K. Special Issue, *Socio-Economic Review*, (forthcoming).

Book reviews

Woker, M. "Other People's Economies." Review of *The Meddlers: Sovereignty, Empire, and the Birth of Global Economic Governance*, by Jamie Martin. *Tocqueville21.com* (blog), August 13, 2024.

Woker, M. Review of *L'impérialisme, passé et présent: Un essai*, by Samir Saul. *European Journal of Economic History*, (forthcoming).

Blog posts

Woker, M. "Charting a Path to Global Tax Justice in the Twenty-First Century." *The Oxford Martin Program on Changing Global Orders* (blog), July 25, 2024.

Media appearances

Blöchlinger, B. "Tax History." *UZH News*, February 22, 2024.

Associate fellow: Tobias Straumann
Professor of Modern and Economic History,
University of Zurich

Fellowship project

A Taxing Empire Power and Taxation in the French Colonial Empire, 1850s-1950s

Taxation was a fundamental tool of colonial rule. It funded colonial states, guaranteed their credit, projected colonial sovereignty, and was used to mobilize labor. The tax demands of colonial states shaped the experience of colonial populations and furthered the work of political and economic segregation inherent to the French colonial project. Colonial taxation also radically disturbed and remade livelihoods and ecologies, so much so that they remained a symbol of colonial oppression long after the end of the colonial period, and helped weaken the fiscal structures of newly-decolonized states.

In her project, Madeline showed that taxation was central to the making, operation, and unmaking of French colonialism and that a focus on taxation is uniquely revealing of the ways in which global relations of political and economic inequality were established and maintained in the modern age.

Panel discussion, February 16, 2024

The Global Tax Evasion Report 2024 Panel discussion with Gabriel Zucman

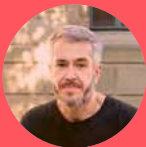
The renowned economist Gabriel Zucman from the Paris School of Economics and Berkeley presented the main findings and policy recommendations of the *Global Tax Evasion Report 2024*. The presentation was followed by an interdisciplinary panel, in which a historian, an economist, and a tax law scholar discussed with Zucman the report's six main findings on the dynamics of global tax evasion and international tax competition as well as the six recommendations to reconcile globalization with tax justice.

Conference, May 27-28, 2024

The Past and Future of Global Tax Justice

This conference worked towards rectifying the lack of dialogue between scholars of taxation about the history and practices of global tax justice. The aim was to discuss global tax justice from the perspective of different disciplines, primarily history and law, and ultimately to achieve a better understanding of what global tax justice means from a procedural and substantive viewpoint.

“The fellowship at the Collegium truly transformed my professional career as an academic researcher and visual artist. The events broadened my horizon of interests and my network of contacts.”



Bruno Moreschi
Visual arts
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024

Broadening Horizons

Three Transformative Fellowship Journeys



As the new fellowship program enters its fourth year, it is a good moment to explore the paths that former fellows have taken after their time at the Collegium. Here, three early-career fellows share what motivated them to apply for a fellowship, the insights they gained and encounters they had during their time at the Collegium, and where those experiences have led them.

Bridging research and practice



Medinat Malefakis
International studies
Early-Career Fellow 2021–2022
Currently senior lecturer at NADEL,
ETH Zurich, CH

“As an academic and policy-oriented expert on terrorism, conflict, and peacebuilding, I was used to straddling multiple disciplines with my research. However, I was looking to shift my focus, find ways to combine theory with practice, and integrate new aspects into my research, such as the use of digital technologies and social media in conflict and peacebuilding. The fellowship at the Collegium offered the ideal environment and network to take this next step.

At the Collegium, I had the opportunity to broaden my perspective and the space to truly listen and reflect. Towards the end of my fellowship, I organized a symposium that allowed me to personally host colleagues in a professional setting, bringing researchers and practitioners together in the same room. This was very stimulating and empowering, in the sense that I gained confidence from the fact that my research integrates many important aspects. This experience not only expanded my network but also gave me the confidence to develop independent research projects in complex environments.

Today, I continue this journey as a senior lecturer at the Institute for Global Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NADEL), ETH Zurich, where the skills and insights gained during my fellowship have proven invaluable.”

From the art bubble to interdisciplinary exploration



Paulo Wirz
Fine arts
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024
Currently resident at the
New Europe College in Bucharest, RO

“My primary motivation for applying to the Collegium was the opportunity to step out of my ‘art bubble’ and immerse myself in an interdisciplinary environment that would challenge and expand my way of thinking and working. The open call encouraged projects that pushed beyond current practices, and I saw this as the perfect chance to finally venture into filmmaking. This shift proved to become transformative.

Before joining the Collegium, I was a teaching assistant at the Zurich University of the Arts and mostly interacted with people from the arts. During my fellowship, I expanded my professional network across diverse fields, ranging from computer science to evolutionary ecology or neuroscience. This broadened perspective influenced my approach to topics such as codes, keys, enigmas, and labyrinths, which had already been

central in my own research. With the Collegium’s support, I had the time and resources to develop my first moving-image project, which significantly enriched both my artistic practice and my understanding of this medium.

Currently, I am a resident at the New Europe College in Bucharest, working on my second film project—my first 16mm film—and creating bronze and glass sculptures. I’m also preparing for an upcoming residency in São Paulo and am eagerly anticipating my first institutional solo exhibition in Switzerland at the Kunsthalle Arbon in 2025/26. By engaging with different fields at the Collegium, I gained fresh perspectives and explored new ways of thinking, creating, and expressing ideas. I want to continue this way of working and am therefore considering to apply for another residency within an interdisciplinary environment.”

Shaping the trajectory of my career



Hannes Bajohr
Literary media studies
Early-Career Fellow 2022–2023
Currently assistant professor of German,
University of California, Berkeley, US

“Before starting my fellowship, I had just begun to explore a new topic: authorship in the age of artificial intelligence. The opportunity to apply for a fellowship at the Collegium came at a pivotal moment in my career, allowing me to fully immerse myself in research that was still in its early stages.

During my year at the Collegium, I made significant progress on my work. The fellowship granted me the time and space to focus on a single topic. Because of my expertise in large language models, such as ChatGPT, and AI more generally, I appeared as an expert on television and radio as well as in various online and print media during my fellowship. Beyond that, the fellowship helped me grow in many ways. I learned to work and communicate across disciplines, forging valuable connections in Switzerland and internationally. Perhaps most rewarding was being part of a vibrant, interdisciplinary community of scholars, where I gained new perspectives from colleagues in different fields.

Today, I am an assistant professor of German at the University of California at Berkeley, continuing the research on artificial intelligence and literature that I was able to deepen during my time at the Collegium. The fellowship was not only instrumental in my academic development but also in shaping the trajectory of my career.”

“Surprises are common in a day at the Collegium. One afternoon, lost in gathering data for a comparative analysis, I reeled down to the basement gallery, where I found artist Paulo Wirz preparing his exhibition. He had shifted what seemed like the entire contents of his studio to the Collegium and stood deep in all kinds of boxes of treasure, meticulously arranging a labyrinth of metallic papers and mirrors. This was the site of his first moving-image project *Parabolas*.

How beautiful to work somewhere where you can easily move between spreadsheet and sculptural installation. It is impossible to leave this place without ideas for new ways of working.”



Georgia Drew
Evolutionary ecology
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Full of Surprises

“During my fellowship at the Collegium, I was finishing a book on what is unbreathable in our landscapes, societies, and lives, while starting a new project on water, wetlands, and a philosophy of porosity. One morning, I attended Walid Sadok’s workshop on the increasing atmospheric drought, discussing sustainable soil and cultivation practices. Walid began his presentation with Tunisia’s 1980s ‘bread riots,’ connecting breathing, social dignity, and water. In this very moment, our areas of interest converged, merging my poetry with the present world.”

Rise of Atmospheric Drought
Integrating Across Scales and
Disciplines to Boost Plant Resilience
Workshop, December 12, 2023
→ Details on page 54



Marielle Macé
Ecocriticism
Senior Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Merging Interests

Senior Fellows

Visiting Professors, Academic and Artistic Guests



Link to fellows
2023–2024

The following pages offer short portraits of the senior fellows who spent time at the Collegium between September 2023 and June 2024. More information on their profiles, the projects they worked on as fellows, and the events they organized can be found on the Collegium’s website (see link above). Brief descriptions of the events convened by senior fellows can also be found in this publication’s chapter on “Events at the Collegium Helveticum.”



Veronica Akle
Associate Professor of Neuroscience
University of Los Andes, CO
Neuroscience

In her research, Veronica Akle focuses on using zebrafish as an animal model to study brain cancer progression and personalized treatments. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, Veronica explored the possibilities and implications of using and researching the coca plant to gain insights into psychoactive substances and help navigate their stigma.

Associate fellow: **Stephan Neuhauss**
Professor of Neurobiology, University of Zurich



Mario Biagioli
Distinguished Professor of Law and Communication
University of California, Los Angeles, US
Science and technology studies

In his research, Mario Biagioli studies the new forms of scientific fraud and misconduct that are spawned by the introduction of metrics of academic evaluation. Other interests include patentable subject matter, the history of the divide between idea and expression, and the role of eye-witnessing in science. While at the Collegium, Mario held a lecture on the history and function of the curriculum vitae.

Associate fellow: **Margarita Boenig-Liptsin**
Assistant Professor of Ethics, Technology, and Society, ETH Zurich



Tuncay Alan
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Monash University, US
Mechanical engineering

In his research, Tuncay Alan is interested in the interaction of micro-/nanoscale resonators with flowing fluid media. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, Tuncay explored new technologies to study the nucleation and early-stage growth of nanomaterials. Together with sound artist and Senior Fellow Tim Shaw, Tuncay developed a device to visualize how sound waves mix fluids and synthesize materials.

Associate fellow: **Andrew deMello**
Professor of Biochemical Engineering, ETH Zurich



Maneesha Deckha
Professor of Law and Lansdowne Chair
University of Victoria, CA
Legal studies

Maneesha Deckha's research expertise includes critical animal law, vegan ecofeminist theory, and postcolonial theory. She is the director of the Animals & Society Research Initiative at the University of Victoria and serves on advisory bodies relating to sociolegal studies, animal law, and feminist theory. In her fellowship project, Maneesha addressed the continued, ubiquitous uses of animals in human-health-related scientific research and focused on the commitment to replace animals in such research in Switzerland and other jurisdictions.

Associate fellow: **Margot Michel**
Professor of Private Law, Comparative Law, Animal Protection Law, and Philosophy of Law, University of Zurich



N. Asokan
Professor of Computer Science
University of Waterloo, CA
Computer science

N. Asokan is broadly interested in systems security, focusing specifically on two types of systems: computing platforms such as operating systems and hardware as well as systems based on artificial intelligence. During his fellowship, Asokan examined if and how the real-life impact of alleged security breaches can be assessed.

Associate fellow: **Shweta Shinde**
Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science, ETH Zurich



Somayeh Dodge
Associate Professor of Spatial Data Science
University of California, Santa Barbara, US
Geographic information science

In her work, Somayeh Dodge focuses on developing geographic data analytics, knowledge discovery, modeling, and visualization techniques for interdisciplinary research on movement in human and ecological systems. While at the Collegium, Somayeh studied how movement processes are influenced by the behavior of individuals, their social interactions, and their environment across different application domains such as movement ecology and human mobility.

Associate fellow: **Robert Weibel**
Professor of Geographic Information Science, University of Zurich



Niels van Doorn
Associate Professor of New
Media and Digital Culture
University of Amsterdam, NL
New media studies

Niels van Doorn explores how platforms and platformization are reshaping the relationships between the market, the state, and civil society actors. In doing so, his research focuses on the social inequalities and stratifications that mark these relations. While at the Collegium, Niels scrutinized the development of two gig platform companies, Deliveroo and Upwork, to better understand what factors explain both the heterogeneity and convergence in their respective business trajectories.

Associate fellow: **David Kaufmann**
Assistant Professor of Spatial Development and Urban Policy,
ETH Zurich



Huib Ernste
Professor of Human
Geography
Radboud University Nijmegen, NL
Human geography

Huib Ernste's academic research focuses on (critical) social theories and qualitative and quantitative research methodologies in human geography. During his fellowship, he investigated the affective relationship between human beings and urban places, using the neo-phenomenological perspective of Hermann Schmitz and Gernot Böhme. By comparing urban places, Huib empirically investigated how affection for specific places emerges and is created.

Associate fellow: **Hanna Hilbrandt**
Professor of Social Geography and Urban Studies,
University of Zurich



Katherine Elvira
Associate Professor,
Canada Research Chair of
Microfluidics for Drug
Discovery and Health Care
University of Victoria, CA
Analytical chemistry

Katherine Elvira has been developing a variety of microfluidic platforms for applications such as the quantification of lipid digestion, the safe generation of singlet oxygen for organic synthesis, and the rapid determination of distribution coefficients. During her fellowship, she started to build human-mimetic artificial cells and tissues on a chip the size of a postage stamp and investigated how nanoplastic pollution affects human cells.

Associate fellow: **Denise Mitrano**
Assistant Professor of Environmental Chemistry of Anthropogenic Materials, ETH Zurich



Kenneth Gillingham
Professor of Economics
Yale University, US
Environmental economics

Kenneth Gillingham's research focuses on consumer decisions in energy efficiency and renewable energy as well as on climate and energy policy. His work crosses multiple disciplinary boundaries while primarily drawing upon the fields of applied microeconomics, industrial organization, and energy modeling. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, Kenneth developed an econometric model of vehicle choice and driving, which will be applied to data on the vehicle fleet in Switzerland.

Associate fellow: **Massimo Filippini**
Professor of Public Economics and Energy Economics,
ETH Zurich



Makiko Hashinaga
Professor of Economics and
Business Administration
Sapporo Gakuin University, JP
Pedagogy

Makiko Hashinaga's research focuses on consumer education from a financial perspective and attempts to steer consumer behavior toward assuming more social responsibility. During her fellowship, Makiko dealt with the question of what drives Swiss citizens to adopt ethical consumption, e.g., fairtrade, organic, environmentally-friendly or animal-friendly consumption.

Associate fellow: **Jörg Rössel**
Professor of Sociology, University of Zurich

“The experiences I gained through this fellowship program have not only advanced my current projects but have also inspired new avenues for future research.”



Somayeh Dodge
Geographic information science
Senior Fellow 2023–2024



Christopher Hasson
Associate Professor of
Physical Therapy, Movement,
and Rehabilitation Sciences
Northeastern University, US
Sensorimotor control and learning

Christopher Hasson's research aims to improve physical rehabilitation by understanding how the brain learns to move the body and how robots might speed up this process. He uses a transdisciplinary approach that operates at the intersection of neuroscience, engineering, rehabilitation, and psychology. At the Collegium, Christopher investigated how science can integrate physiotherapists and rehabilitation robotics to achieve better patient outcomes.

Associate fellow: **Robert Riener**
Professor of Sensory-Motor Systems, ETH Zurich



Ulrike Klinger
Professor of Digital
Democracy
European University Viadrina, DE
Communication studies

Ulrike Klinger's research focuses on the impact of digital technologies on democracies and public spheres from theoretical and empirical perspectives by looking at, for instance, election campaigns, discourse dynamics, social bots, populism, and propaganda. As a senior fellow, Ulrike investigated how AI tools in combination with the almost unregulated distributive power of social media platforms will affect the super election year of 2024, when more than half of the world's population is called to vote.

Associate fellow: **Mike Schäfer**
Professor of Science Communication, University of Zurich



Anke te Heesen
Professor of the History
of Science
Humboldt University, DE
History of science

Anke te Heesen's research focuses on issues of objects and science, notation systems of scientists, art and science, and collecting or ordering practices. During her time at the Collegium, Anke finished writing a book-length essay exploring the significance of an iconographic observation: By the late 19th century, women were increasingly depicted against patterned backgrounds.

Associate fellow: **Monika Dommann**
Professor of Modern History, University of Zurich
Michael Hagner, Professor of Science Studies, ETH Zurich



Urte Krass
Professor of Early Modern
Art History
University of Bern, CH
Art history

Urte Krass has a keen interest in political iconography and the use of images in politics. During her fellowship at the Collegium, she concentrated on European understandings of burial practices from cultures in Africa, Asia, and the Americas during the 16th and 17th centuries. In a panel discussion, Urte addressed the issue of human remains in contemporary museums and collections.

Associate fellow: **Maarten Delbeke**
Professor of the History and Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich



Inge Hinterwaldner
Professor of Art History
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, DE
Art history

Inge Hinterwaldner's research focuses on interactivity and temporality in the arts, computer-based art and architecture, tectonics of programmed art, model theory, expressiveness of fluid dynamics, and the interdependence between the arts and the sciences since the 19th century. During her fellowship, Inge organized an exhibition, a workshop, and a lecture, all addressing the question of how programmed media art can and should be documented, recorded, and discussed in the future.

Associate fellow: **Michael Hagner**
Professor of Science Studies, ETH Zurich



Marielle Macé
Directrice d'études
School for Advanced Studies in the Social
Sciences (EHESS), FR
Ecocriticism

Marielle Macé is a writer and scholar of French literature. Marielle's books point to literature as being an ally for understanding different modes of existence. During her fellowship at the Collegium, she explored the strong link between speech and pollution and aimed to understand how the way we talk can make our environments more or less "breathable."

Associate fellow: **Andreas Kilcher**
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich



Kettly Mars

Writer

Independent, HT and US
Fiction writing

In her novels, Kettly Mars addresses themes such as gender relations and class issues in connection to the violence that power exerts, spiritual inheritance, and decolonization—issues that are at the core of the present and future of the country of Haiti. As a senior fellow, Kettly examined the central problems of South–North migration and the complicated human situations that can arise from the search for a better life.

Associate fellow: **Andreas Kilcher**
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich



Bernhard Mikeska

Theater and Artistic Director

RAUM+ZEIT, DE
Art

Situated at the crossroads between artistic research, and visual and performing arts, Bernhard Mikeska's works question the idea of a consistent space-time continuum and challenge people's habitual expectations and accustomed ways of perceiving. During his fellowship, Bernhard developed the immersive installation *Doktor Spielrein* that premiered in October 2024 at the Schauspielhaus Zurich (CH). He also created two dramaturgical and performative virtual encounters with historical figures at two distinct venues in Switzerland: one with Thomas Mann at the Waldhotel in Davos and the other with Grete Steffin at the Theater Neumarkt in Zurich.

Associate fellow: **Anton Rey**
Professor and Head of the Research Institute for the Performing Arts and Film, Zurich University of the Arts



Galen McKinley

Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Columbia University, US
Climatology and oceanography

Galen McKinley studies the ocean carbon cycle and its role in climate, using simulations and machine learning. As a senior fellow, Galen's goal was to elucidate the myriad unseen connections between people and the environment on the Earth, as well as how the human species can avoid exhausting the environment and eventually collapsing.

Associate fellow: **Nicolas Gruber**
Professor of Environmental Physics, ETH Zurich



Maryna Nehrey

Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics

National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, UA
Agricultural economics

Maryna Nehrey's research investigates the development of the Ukrainian agricultural sector, risk management, and digital transformation. As a senior fellow supported as part of the Collegium's scholars-at-risk program, Maryna studied the global landscape of experiences with agricultural digitalization and worked on developing a methodology to assess its effectiveness.

Associate fellow: **Robert Finger**
Professor of Agricultural Economics, ETH Zurich



Francesca Melandri

Writer and Filmmaker

Independent, IT & DE
Literature

Francesca Melandri is a screenwriter, novelist, and documentarian. As part of her fellowship at the Collegium, Francesca engaged in a conversation with the author Zora del Buono at the Literaturhaus Zurich, in which they talked about writing at the intersection of fiction, history, and politics.

Associate fellow: **Andreas Kilcher**
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich



Vadym Rakochi

Lecturer

Zurich University of the Arts, CH
Musicology

Vadym Rakochi's main research interest is the interaction between the evolution of the orchestra as a sociocultural institution and the development of the instrumental concerto as a musical genre. In his fellowship project supported as part of the Collegium's scholars-at-risk program, Vadym used a cross-cultural perspective to analyze the concerto genre and added new analytical and cultural-historical perspectives to aid in its understanding.

Associate fellow: **Dominik Sackmann**
Professor and Head of the Institute for Music Research, Zurich University of the Arts



Kriss Ravetto
Professor of Cinema
and Media Studies

University of California, Los Angeles, US
Film and digital media

In her research, Kriss Ravetto focuses on representations and theorizations of violence in film, media, and social media. As guest of director at the Collegium, Kriss worked on a book project titled *The Trouble with Ghosts*. Together with co-author Martine Beugnet, Kriss attempts to examine the troubled spaces between seeing and being seen, touching and being touched, and possessing and being possessed (or dispossessed).

Associate fellow: **Anselm Franke**
Professor of Curatorial Studies, Zurich University of the Arts



Walid Sadok
Associate Professor of
Agronomy and Plant Genetics

University of Minnesota, US
Crop science

The primary goal of Walid Sadok's research is to identify new crop traits that can enhance breeding programs and bolster global food security. During his fellowship at the Collegium, he utilized concepts from plant biology, agronomy, functional ecology, breeding, and climate science to integrate essential knowledge in response to increasing atmospheric drought and its biophysical underpinnings.

Associate fellow: **Andrea Carminati**
Professor of Soil Physics, ETH Zurich



Lyudmyla Romanyuk
Professor of Psychology

Taras Shevchenko National University Kyiv, UA
Developmental psychology

Lyudmyla Romanyuk's research focuses on the interplay of human values, subjective well-being, and self-efficacy in adults. During her fellowship as part of the Collegium's scholars-at-risk program, Lyudmyla turned to values psychology to ask: how do values influence subjective well-being and life satisfaction?

Associate fellow: **Alexandra Freund**
Professor of Developmental Psychology, University of Zurich



Thomas Schröpfer
Professor and Associate Head
of the Pillar of Architecture
and Sustainable Design

Singapore University of Technology
and Design, SG
Architecture and sustainable design

Thomas Schröpfer's research focuses on the relationship between design, technology, and environmental sustainability in urban planning and architecture. While at the Collegium, he worked on a book that addresses key questions related to the concept, planning, design, technology, and experience of recently-completed and upcoming sustainable integrated districts (SIDs) in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Associate fellow: **Sacha Menz**
Professor of Architecture and Building Process, ETH Zurich



Lorenzo Romito
Professor of Space and
Design Strategies

University of Arts Linz, AT
Space and design strategies

Through participatory action research, Lorenzo Romito investigates and documents the urban, social, and ecological transformation of suburbs and border areas. In collaboration with Giulia Fiocca, Lorenzo used his time at the Collegium to develop and adapt a method that merges civic engagement and artistic research with urban and social exploration, drawing on previous projects in Rome and applying them to Zurich.

Associate fellow: **Andreas Kilcher**
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich



Tim Shaw
Lecturer in Digital Media

Newcastle University, UK
Sound and media art

Tim Shaw's practice spans environmental sound art, digital media, media archaeology, installation art, and art walks. He frequently collaborates with data scientists, anthropologists, geologists, architects, and astrophysicists. During his fellowship, Tim explored the aesthetics of failure in live systems, enhancing awareness of the mechanisms behind our shared technological infrastructures. He created new artworks around these themes and presented them through a series of site-responsive interventions.

Associate fellow: **Hannes Rickli**
Professor at the Institute for Contemporary Art Research,
Zurich University of the Arts



Margaret-Anne Storey
Professor of Computer
Science and Canada Research
Chair in Human and Social
Aspects of Software
Engineering
University of Victoria, CA
Software engineering

In her work, Margaret-Anne Storey seeks to understand how software tools, data visualizations, and social theories can be leveraged to improve the way that software engineers and knowledge workers understand, analyze, and share complex information and knowledge. As a senior fellow at the Collegium, she investigated how AI and large language models impact the flow, experience, productivity, and tools of software developers.

Associate fellow: **Alberto Bacchelli**
Associate Professor of Empirical Software Engineering,
University of Zurich



Nikolaos Zagklas
Senior Researcher in the
Department of Byzantine
and Modern Greek Studies
University of Vienna, AT
Byzantine studies

Nikolaos Zagklas is a medieval cultural historian with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean. His research activity lies at the intersection of traditional philology and literary interpretation with a special interest in issues of patronage, poetry, and genre theory. During his fellowship, Nikolaos explored the entanglements of diverse intellectual concepts in medieval Greek tradition.

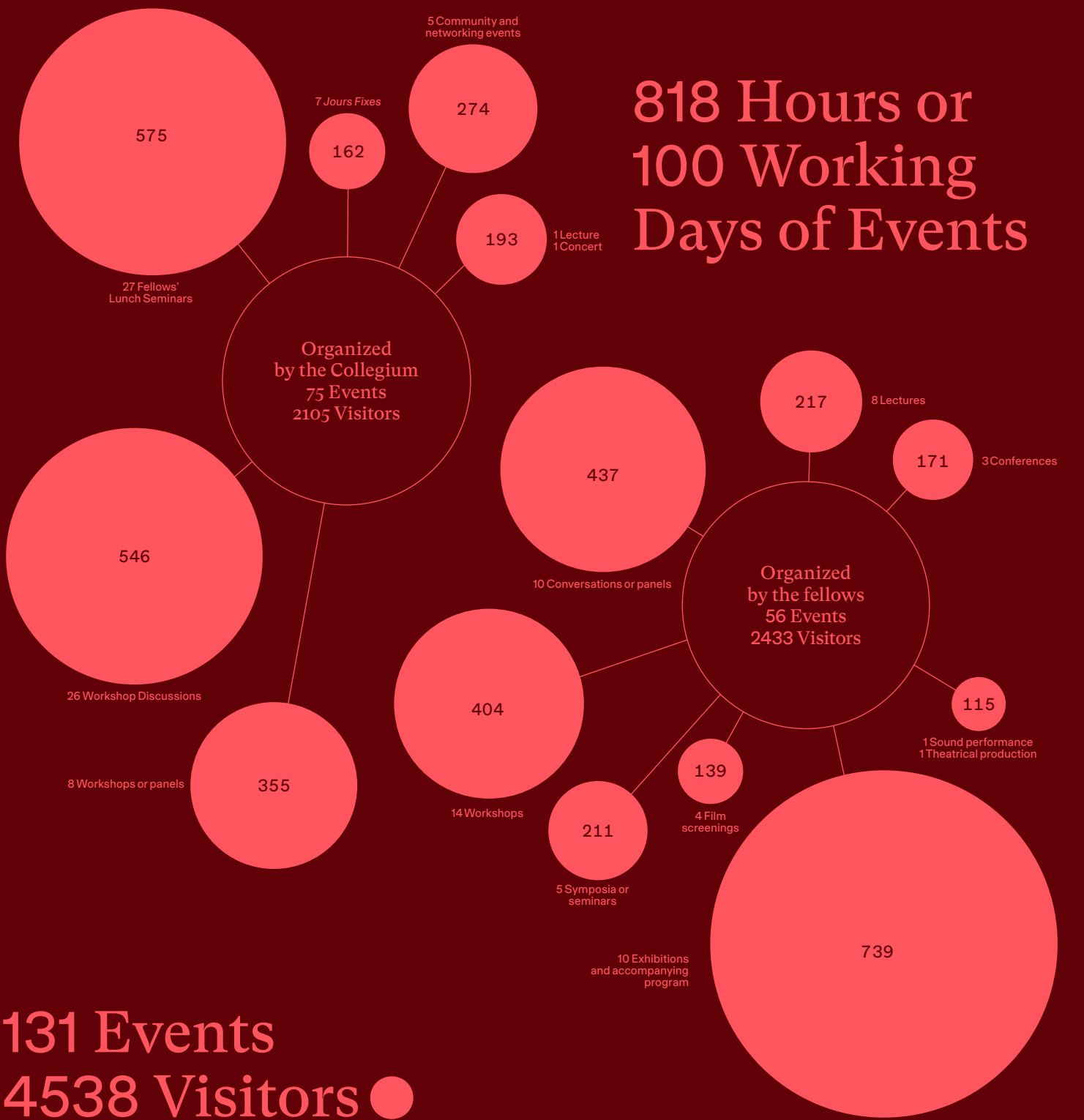
Associate fellow: **Carmen Cardelle de Hartmann**
Professor of Medieval and Modern Latin Philology,
University of Zurich

Academic Life & Engaging Different Audiences

The Collegium is a place of exchange, open to creative and experimental ideas. Thinking about and acting on the big challenges of the future require the engagement of different disciplines and audiences. In its program, the Collegium follows a bottom-up approach, inviting fellows to organize in groups around topics of shared interest, including academic culture, artificial intelligence, climate change, digital literacy, or biodiversity. Bringing together a diverse group of fellows allows for new perspectives to emerge and grow—far beyond the fellowship period. In addition to providing protected time and space for individual projects, the Collegium therefore facilitates exchange between fellows across a wide range of disciplines. With its academic program, the Collegium thus encourages fellows to develop skills for cooperation and thinking together across disciplinary boundaries. Such experiences also foster mutual trust, an essential element for collaboration between disciplines.

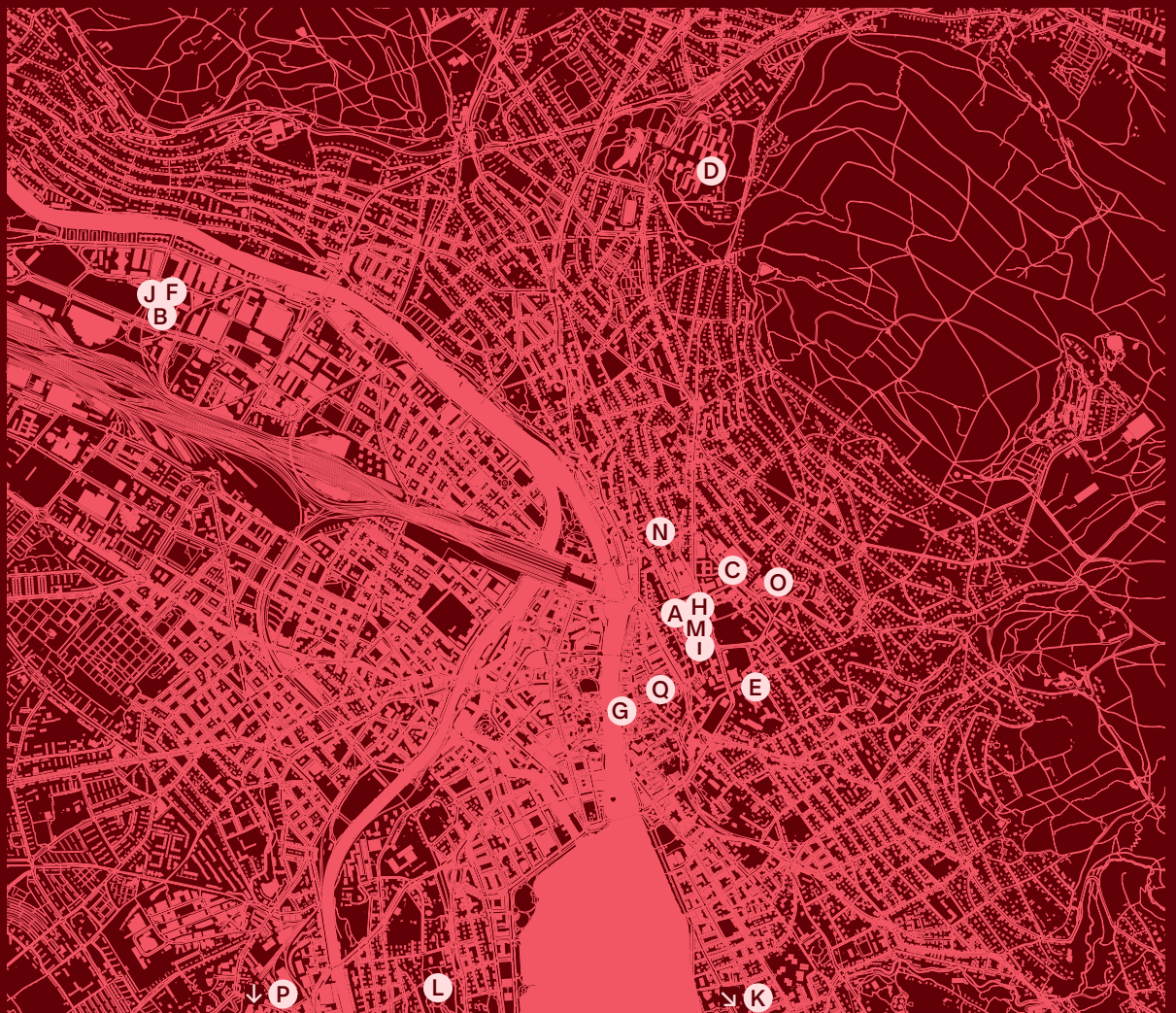
Event Statistics

Fellow Year 2023–2024



24 Partner Institutions and 19 Locations

- African Students Association of Zurich (ASAZ)
- Afrinova
- Alliance Française de Zurich
- A Alumni Pavillon, ETH Zurich
- Aux arts etc.
- Cattedra de Sanctis, Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture, ETH Zurich
- Chair for the History of the Anthropocene, UZH
- B Chamber music hall, ZHdK
- C Collegium Helveticum
- Department of Music, ZHdK
- D Department of Geography, UZH
- E Department of Romance Studies, UZH
- Digital Society Initiative, UZH
- Embassy of Japan in Switzerland
- EPFL Lausanne
- ETH for Development, ETH Zurich
- Global Governance Center, Geneva Graduate Institute
- Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich
- Institute of Information Security, ETH Zurich
- Italian Cultural Institute Zurich
- F Kino Toni, ZHdK
- G Literaturhaus Zurich
- H Main building, ETH Zurich
- I Main building, UZH
- J Mehrspur Musikklub, ZHdK
- K Museum Haus C.G. Jung
- L Museum Rietberg
- M Natural History Museum, UZH
- N Project-Based Labs, ETH Zurich
- O Sensory-Motor Systems Lab, ETH Zurich
- C Solar Observation Tower (STS), ETH Zurich
- Strategic Foresight Hub, ETH Zurich
- N Student Project House, ETH Zurich
- P Studio Paulo Wirz
- Theater Neumarkt
- Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture, ETH Zurich
- Walking Festival of Sound
- Zurich Information Security and Privacy Center, ETH Zurich



“The encounters with other fellows and the events they organized broadened my intellectual horizons and profoundly influenced my thinking about my research.”



Nikolaos Zagklas
Byzantine studies
Senior Fellow 2023–2024

Academic and Artistic Life

Space and Time for Exchange

As members of the Collegium community, fellows are actively involved in academic life and have ample opportunities to exchange thoughts and ideas with each other, for instance at weekly seminars, site visits, or through the program of events organized by the fellows. The Semper Observatory, located in the heart of Zurich's university district, serves as a place for work and study, offering both time and space to interact and exchange ideas with one another.

Formats organized by the Collegium

The Collegium facilitates exchange between fellows across disciplines and provides protected time and space for individual projects. The following describes the range of discussion formats and events.

Workshop Discussions

Each week, an early-career or senior fellow presents their ongoing work followed by a discussion. It has become traditional to continue the conversation in an informal setting.

Fellows' Lunch Seminar

Fellows come together to identify topics of shared interest and discuss them over lunch. The discussions begin with short contributions from various fellows with different backgrounds. Throughout the year, groups of fellows take on the responsibility and organize the Fellows' Lunch Seminar around their shared interests.

Jour Fixe

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

Reading, Film, and Discussion Groups

Fellows are encouraged to discuss texts and topics of shared interest in smaller groups. The Collegium supports these initiatives by providing the necessary space and infrastructure.

Ludwik Fleck Lecture

For transdisciplinary research at the Collegium, Ludwik Fleck's thinking continues to be an important reference. Since 2006, the Fleck Lecture has been delivered by an invited speaker who speaks on a topic related to the life and work of Ludwik Fleck. Past Ludwik Fleck lecturers include Lorraine Daston, Carlo Ginzburg, Michael Gordin, Bruno Latour, Annemarie Mol, and Christian Drosten.

Statements by fellows about these formats can be found in the spotlights "Essence of Academia" on page 52, "Relevance Across Fields" on page 63, and "Shifting Perspectives" on page 70 of this report.

Formats organized by the fellows

Early-career and senior fellows are encouraged to contribute to the Collegium's program by applying with an idea for an event which can be realized during their fellowship. They deliver or organize a lecture, convene a meeting, organize a workshop, symposium, or conference, or make use of the Collegium's exhibition space, but there are no specific limitations set by the Collegium. The diversity of projects, people, disciplines,

and backgrounds is also reflected in the event program, with the Semper Observatory serving as a focal point where different audiences can join in the discussion. Each event is individual and organized around the fellows' interests and work. There is no single format to be applied to all events.

The event spaces

The fellows' events are usually open to the public. For workshops, conferences, panel discussions, film screenings, and the like—for an audience of up to seventy guests—the Collegium can offer the Meridian Hall as a venue for lectures or concerts. For events for a smaller audience of up to twenty people, the Rudolf Wolf Room provides a more intimate atmosphere. The Collegium also provides exhibition and performance spaces that create opportunities for dialogue across different fields, or exchange between arts and sciences.

Most events take place in the event spaces of the Collegium. However, when it seems appropriate, they also take place elsewhere and help engage new audiences.



Gallery, one of the two exhibition spaces at the Collegium.



Meridian Hall

“The last week of October 2023 showcased the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary exchange at the Collegium. It began on Monday, when science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson came together with experts in security studies, climate science, and cultural anthropology during both a panel discussion and workshop to explore storytelling as a tool for climate communication. This was further illuminated during Robinson’s ETH Global Lecture held at ETH Zurich on the same day. On Wednesday, in a conversation at the Literaturhaus Zurich, Francesca Melandri offered an enriching perspective on how to balance fiction, history, and politics, sharing her experiences as a writer navigating these complex themes. One day later, the weekly Fellows’ Lunch Seminar and Workshop Discussion with all fellows filled the rooms of the former observatory with vibrant conversations. And finally, on Friday, the Collegium transformed into an immersive, experiential hub of musical exploration by PhD students from the Zurich University of the Arts, offering multimedia performances, artificial intelligence improvisations, and sound installations.”



Mick Lehmann
Communications
Collegium Helveticum

Futures Storytelling
Workshop and panel discussion
with Kim Stanley Robinson
Workshop, October 23, 2023
→ Details on page 60

The Ministry for the Future
With Kim Stanley Robinson
ETH Global Lecture, October 23, 2023
→ Details on page 60

Francesca Melandri in Conversation
with Zora del Buono
Conversation, October 25, 2023
→ Details on page 53

**Jour Fixe, Fellows’ Lunch Seminar,
and Workshop Discussion**
→ Details on page 46

(Re-)Searching for Resonance
Contemporary Music at the Collegium
Concert, October 27, 2023
→ Details on page 60



Spotlight Breadth and Depth

Event Calendar

2023

September 13

Epistemic Authority

Organized by Seraina Dür (ZHdK), Nadia Mazouz (ETH Zurich), and Mario Wimmer together with the Epistemic Authority Working Group.

October 16

How AI is Disrupting Developer Productivity It's More Complicated Than We May Think

Fellow Lecture by Senior Fellow Margaret-Anne Storey.

October 17

Hidden Deep Demystifying the Coca-Plant for Science and Beyond

Workshop by Senior Fellow Veronica Akle.

October 23

Futures Storytelling

Workshop and panel discussion with Kim Stanley Robinson. In cooperation with ETH Strategic Foresight Hub and Collegium Helveticum.

October 23

The Ministry for the Future ETH Global Lecture

Lecture by Kim Stanley Robinson. Organized by ETH Strategic Foresight Hub in cooperation with Collegium Helveticum. Venue: ETH Zurich

October 25

Francesca Melandri in Conversation with Zora del Buono

In cooperation with Literaturhaus Zurich, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Zurigo, and the Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich. Venue: Literaturhaus Zurich

October 27

(Re-)Searching for Resonances Contemporary Music at the Collegium

Concert by doctoral students of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). In collaboration with Isabel Mundry (ZHdK).

October 31

Literature and Law in the Greco-Roman Tradition

Panel discussion with Senior Fellow Nikolaos Zagklas, Associate Fellow Cardelle de Hartmann Carmen, and José Luis Alonso.

November 8

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

Workshop by Early-Career Fellow Paola Cerrito.

November 22

Radical Reading

Workshop by Henning Trüper and Mario Wimmer.

November 29–December 13

Dense + Green Cities Architecture as Urban Ecosystem

Exhibition by Senior Fellow Thomas Schroeffer.

December 4

Do We Need Short Books?

Panel discussion with Senior Fellow Anke te Heesen, Valentin Groebner, David Hesse, and Niki Rhyner.

December 11

Politics and Poetics of Exile Lecture by Didier Fassin

Organized by Senior Fellow Marielle Macé.

December 15

Rise of Atmospheric Drought Integrating Across Scales and Disciplines to Boost Plant Resilience

Workshop by Senior Fellow Walid Sadok and Associate Fellow Andrea Carminati.

December 18

Sample Delivery Methods For In-Situ Studies and Serial Crystallography

Workshop by Senior Fellow Tuncay Alan.

2024

January 16

Working the Image Exch W/ Turkers and Other Collective Experimentations

Workshop by Early-Career Fellow Bruno Moreschi and Gabriel Pereira.

January 22

Corpses, Casts, and Copyrights Displaying Human Remains

Panel discussion with Senior Fellow Urte Krass, Associate Fellow Maarten Delbeke, Bärbel Küster, and Noémie Etienne.

January 22–February 1

Structural Media

Exhibition by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw

January 30

Resilience in Challenging Circumstances

The Path to a Sustainable Agricultural Future in Ukraine

Lecture by Senior Fellow Maryna Nehrey. Organized by the Ukrainian Association of Students and Academics in Zurich. Venue: ETH Zurich

January 30

Structural Media

Workshop and seminar by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw.

January 31

Structural Media

Performance by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw, Dirty Electronics, and Valentina Vuksic.
Venue: Zurich University of the Arts

February 3

I Prefer Not To

Conversation with Hito Steyerl and Mario Wimmer.

February 5

SustainAgro Strengthening Economic Growth, Sustainability, and Innovation in Agriculture

Panel discussion by Senior Fellow Maryna Nehrey.

February 7

Bespoke Artificial Cells and Tissues for Drug Discovery

Fellow Lecture by Senior Fellow Katherine Elvira.

February 16

The Global Tax Evasion Report 2024

Panel Discussion with Gabriel Zucman

Organized by Early-Career Fellow Madeline Woker.

February 15–29

Docu & Demo Archiving Programmed Media Art

Exhibition by Coded Secrets and Senior Fellow Inge Hinterwaldner.

February 20

In Between Performance and Documentation

Lecture by Dragan Espenschied.
Organized by Senior Fellow Inge Hinterwaldner.

February 21

Docu & Demo Condensed Knowledge Formats

Workshop by Senior Fellow Inge Hinterwaldner.

February 24

Is the Babel Fish a Threat to Literature?

Panel discussion with Patrick Karpiczenko aka Karpi and Ann Cotten.
In cooperation with Literaturhaus Zurich.
Venue: Literaturhaus Zurich

February 27–28

Accelerating Replacement Toward Animal-Free Science Research at Swiss Universities

Workshop by Senior Fellow Maneesha Deckha.

March 4

Ukrainian Chamber Music

An Autobiography
Concert organized by Senior Fellow Vadym Rakochi.
Venue: Zurich University of the Arts

March 25

Can We Be Smarter than the Phytoplankton? A Perspective on the Global Climate and Sustainability

Lecture by Senior Fellow Galen McKinley in discussion with fellows Makiko Hashinaga, Maneesha Deckha, and Emma Mavodza.

March 26

Digital Money and Digital Futures for Value Exchange

Workshop by Early-Career Fellow Emma Mavodza.

April 8

Climate Crisis and the Humanities

Workshop with Guest of Director Nayanika Mathur. Organized by Debjani Bhattacharyya.

April 10

Politics in Proximity On Inequality and Local Governance

Workshop by Early-Career Fellow Ari Ray.

April 17

Developing Effective Climate Policy

Workshop by Senior Fellow Kenneth Gillingham

April 18

Real-Life Impacts of Security Vulnerabilities

Workshop by Senior Fellow N. Asokan, Associate Fellow Shweta Shinde, and Kari Kostianen.
Venue: ETH Zurich

April 22

La Zattera (The Raft) A Performative Archive of Forgotten Memories, Marginal Realities, and Lost Futures of Modern Rome

Workshop by Senior Fellow Lorenzo Romito and Giulia Fiocca.
In cooperation with the Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich.
Venue: ETH Zurich

April 23–24

The Role of Culture in the Exploration of Post-Trauma Suffering

Conference by Early-Career Fellow Celestin Mutuyimana.

April 25

Acapulco Working in Progress or First Cut

Film screening by Early-Career Fellow Bruno Moreschi.
Venue: Zurich University of the Arts

April 29

Ghostly Currency The Afterlife of Celebrity

Fellow Lecture by Kriss Ravetto in discussion with Martine Beugnet.

May 8

Drivers of Ethical Consumption in Switzerland and Japan

Panel discussion by Senior Fellow Makiko Hashinaga.

Event Calendar

May 13

The Curriculum Vitae Recording, Constructing, and Evaluating Authorship
Fellow Lecture by Senior Fellow Mario Biagioli.

May 14

IMAMOU
Haiti, Migration, and Storytelling
Film screening and discussion with Madafi Pierre and Kettly Mars.
Organized by Senior Fellow Kettly Mars.
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich and the Department of Romance Studies at University of Zurich.

May 15–June 14

IMAMOU
In the Beginning There Was Water
Exhibition by Senior Fellow Kettly Mars. Curated by Keabetswe Bocomino (Afrinova).
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich and the Department of Romance Studies at University of Zurich.
Venue: University of Zurich

May 23

A Virologist’s Look Back on COVID-19
Ludwik Fleck Lecture by Christian Drosten.
Venue: ETH Zurich

May 27

Hypothesis Rome
Three Roman Algorithms to Navigate Unpredictable Transient Times
Seminar by Senior Fellow Lorenzo Romito and Giulia Fiocca.
Venue: ETH Zurich

May 27–28

The Past and Future of Global Tax Justice
Conference by Early-Career Fellow Madeline Woker and Alice Pirlot.
Venue: University of Zurich

May 28–29

Inclusive Cities
New Methods to Understand Informal Infrastructure Access
Symposium by Early-Career Fellow Yael Borofsky and Associate Fellow Isabel Günther.

May 28–29

Urban Lighting Realities
4D Virtual Settlements from Cape Town to Sarajevo
Exhibition by Early-Career Fellow Yael Borofsky and Michael Walczak.

May 29

Affective Dimensions of Urban Places
Workshop by Senior Fellow Huib Ernste.
Venue: University of Zurich

June 5

Planetary Health
It Takes More Than a Village to Find a Solution
Symposium by Early-Career Fellow Noé Brasier.

June 4

Continuity and Change
Reflecting on over a Decade of Platform-Mediated Gig Work
Workshop by Senior Fellow Niels van Doorn, Niels Beerepoot, Meg Kitamura, and Selma Piukovici-Karadag.
Venue: ETH Zurich

June 10

Generative AI, Social Media, and the Super-Election Year of 2024
Fellow Lecture by Senior Fellow Ulrike Klingner.

June 12

Radio-Activities
Architecture and Broadcasting in Cold War Berlin
Book launch with Alfredo Thiermann, Laila Seewang, and Michael Osman.
In cooperation with ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne.

June 12

Integrating Science, Physiotherapists, and Robots in Rehabilitation
Symposium and workshop by Senior Fellow Christopher Hasson and Associate Fellow Robert Riener.
Venue: ETH Zurich

June 13–20

Grete Steffin and Brecht and You
A VR production. Idea and concept by Senior Fellow Bernhard Mikeska, together with Juliane Hendes and Lothar Kittstein.
In cooperation with Theater Neumarkt and RAUM+ZEIT.
Venue: Theater Neumarkt, Zurich

June 19–20

Movement Analytics in the Era of Big Data and Open Science
Workshop by Senior Fellow Somayeh Dodge and Associate Fellow Robert Weibel.
Venue: University of Zurich

June 19–27

The Observatory
Remnants of Explorations on Lost, Marginal, and Possible Realities
Exhibition by Senior Fellow Lorenzo Romito and Giulia Fiocca.
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich and the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich.
Venue: ETH Zurich

June 19–July 14

O Encontro das Partes Partidas
The Encounter of Broken Parts
Exhibition by Early-Career Paulo Wirz.

June 21–24

Walking Festival of Sound
Festival by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw and Jacek Smolicki.
Venue: various in and around Zurich

September 18

Manipulating Microbiomes
Microbiota-based Interventions for Pathogen Control
Workshop by Early-Career Georgia Drew.

“Celestin Mutuyimana’s conference on how culture influences the experience of post-traumatic suffering resonated deeply with me, as it addressed themes I have personally encountered, such as civil war and genocide. The insights I gained from his event were profound. For instance, he presented interviews with genocide perpetrators who spoke about the trauma they bear.

Additionally, the conference explored how traditional mourning rituals, which might appear unusual to outsiders, can be instrumental in helping victims cope with trauma and may have evolved naturally over generations for this purpose.”

The Role of Culture in the Exploration
of Post-Trauma Suffering
Conference, April 23–24, 2024
→ Details on page 21



N. Asokan
Computer science
Senior Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Formative Experiences

“I really appreciated the *Jour Fixe* as a concept. I think it captures the essence of academia where we have the responsibility to explore diverse topics and adapt our perspectives as we gain new knowledge. The *Jours Fixes* at the Collegium are designed with this idea in mind. We set aside our specific areas of expertise and dedicate these days to exploring entirely different subjects, allowing us the opportunity to engage in discussions and embrace new ideas and approaches.”

Jour Fixe, Fellows' Lunch Seminar,
Workshop Discussion
→ Details on page 46



Katherine Elvira
Analytical chemistry
Senior Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Essence of Academia

Events at the Collegium

Engaging Different Audiences

Early-career fellow events

As part of their time at the Collegium, each early-career fellow has the opportunity to organize a cross-disciplinary event around their work. All events by the 2023–2024 early-career fellows are presented on their respective profile pages in the “Fellows First” chapter of this publication.

Senior fellow events

Senior fellows are invited to either deliver a lecture, invite a guest speaker, or host a cross-disciplinary event. The scope of these events is generally in proportion to the length of a senior fellow’s stay at the Collegium. The following is a list of all the events organized by the 2023–2024 senior fellows.

October 16, 2023, Fellow Lecture

How AI is Disrupting Developer Productivity It’s More Complicated than We May Think

Lecture by Senior Fellow Margaret-Anne Storey.

Since the beginning of civilization, humans have innovated technologies to enhance their physical and intellectual abilities. Hunting tools, language, and writing are just a few examples that have disrupted how humans work, play, think, learn, and create. As early adopters and creators of artificial intelligence (AI), software developers are at the forefront of this disruptive technology. In her Fellow Lecture, Margaret-Anne Storey examined AI’s impact on software development practices, productivity, and developer experience.

October 17, 2023, Workshop

Hidden Deep Demystifying the Coca Plant for Science and Beyond

Organized by Senior Fellow Veronica Akle.

The coca plant holds a unique position as an ancient medicinal plant. Knowledge of its healing properties has been passed down from generation to generation via the oral traditions of the Indigenous cultures of the Andes. For the past five decades, however, through the abuse of one of its alkaloids—cocaine—the plant has also become inextricably linked to illegal drug trafficking, hindering the study of its beneficial medicinal applications. This workshop invited participants from various disciplines to discuss the possibilities and implications of using and researching the coca plant to gain insights into psychoactive substances and help navigate their stigma.

October 25, 2023, Conversation

Francesca Melandri in Conversation with Zora del Buono

Organized by Senior Fellow Francesca Melandri. In cooperation with Literaturhaus Zurich, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Zurigo, and the Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich. Venue: Literaturhaus Zurich

Francesca Melandri is a renowned Italian author known for her screenplays and novels. Her third novel, *Sangue giusto*, has gained significant attention far beyond Italy. In this work, Melandri connects the current refugee crisis with Italy’s colonial past. The author Zora del Buono spoke with her about writing at the intersection of fiction, history, and politics.

October 31, 2023, Panel discussion

Literature and Law in the Greco-Roman Tradition

With Ulrike Babusiaux, Florian Hartmann, and José-Domingo Rodríguez Martín. Organized by Senior Fellow Nikolaos Zagklas, Associate Fellow Carmen Cardelle de Hartmann, and José Luis Alonso.

According to the ancient theory established by Aristotle, rhetoric is divided into three types of speech: court speech, political speech, and occasional or ceremonial speech. On a more general level, literature and legal texts have often been treated as two different categories due to their contrasting nature. This panel discussion focused on the relationship between literary and legal texts and thus established connections between literature, rhetoric, and jurisprudence.

November 29–December 13, 2023, Exhibition

Dense + Green Cities Architecture as Urban Ecosystem

Organized by Senior Fellow Thomas Schroeffer.

This exhibition explored the intricate relationship between urban structures and the urban environment, treating them as interconnected ecological systems. Through systematic case studies of pioneering architectural projects, the exhibition delved into various aspects, including urban planning and design, architectural innovation, environmental impact, social dynamics, and economic considerations, all contributing to a holistic understanding of how to create more sustainable and livable urban environments.

Do We Need Short Books?

With Anke te Heesen, Valentin Groebner, David Hesse, and Niki Rhyner.
Organized by Senior Fellow Anke te Heesen.

The panelists discussed recent trends in publishing and the question of whether we need long or short books, what this has to do with the market, and whether “short” and “long” can even be associated with certain epistemic virtues.

December 11, 2023, Lecture

Politics and Poetics of Exile

Lecture by Didier Fassin

Organized by Senior Fellow Marielle Macé.

Refugees who have fled persecution, conflicts, or poverty often travel for years across deserts, mountains, or seas. Alone or with their family, in search of a safe place, they face natural hardships, armed groups, police violence, and people’s hostility. In his lecture, anthropologist, sociologist, and physician Didier Fassin connected scenes from fieldwork and writings, exploring the politics and poetics of exile.

December 15, 2023, Workshop

Rise of Atmospheric Drought Integrating Across Scales and Disciplines to Boost Plant Resilience

Organized by Senior Fellow Walid Sadok and Associate Fellow Andrea Carminati.

This workshop explored the impact of global atmospheric drought on plant productivity, bringing together experts from diverse fields such as molecular biology, crop physiology, plant breeding, ecology, soil physics, and climate science. The presentations addressed the effects of rising atmospheric drying across different scales, from genes to landscapes, and discussions focused on identifying knowledge gaps and strategies to enhance plant resilience in agriculture and ecology.

December 18, 2023, Workshop

Sample Delivery Methods For In-Situ Studies and Serial Crystallography

Organized by Senior Fellow Tuncay Alan.

X-ray free electron lasers (XFEL) can generate extremely bright and ultrafast X-ray pulses to determine the structural properties of complex biomolecules and capture rapid chemical processes. The high intensity of the X-rays, however, destroys the studied samples immediately after detailed information is extracted. This workshop brought together chemists, structural biologists, beamline scientists, and engineers to explore the latest advancements in sample delivery techniques for X-ray sources.

January 22, 2024, Panel discussion

Corpses, Casts, and Copyrights Displaying Human Remains

With Bärbel Küster, Noémie Etienne, Maarten Delbeke, and Urte Krass. Organized by Senior Fellow Urte Krass and Associate Fellow Maarten Delbeke.

Human remains in the depots of Western collections and museums have become a challenge that keeps provenance researchers busy. Most human remains are kept hidden from the public. Some, however, were and are on display in exhibitions. This panel discussion addressed the centuries-long visibility of corpses in churches, collections, and museum spaces. The discussants talked about the status of human remains, raising questions such as: Are human remains objects or subjects? How do human remains negotiate transitions between different institutional environments, systems of belief, sets of values, and communities?

January 22–February 1, Exhibition

Structural Media

Curated and art works by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw.

Tim Shaw exhibited two artworks that are designed to directly engage with their surrounding infrastructures. Installed in various spaces within the Collegium, each piece established a direct link to the wider world via an internet connection. The artworks operated as dynamic, ever-changing systems, influenced by the serendipitous fluctuations of global internet activity and server traffic across diverse geographical locations.

January 30, 2024, Workshop and seminar

Structural Media

Organized by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw.

This event combined a workshop led by Tim Shaw and the media artist Dirty Electronics with a seminar. The workshop explored the media archeology of the electronic spark. Participants built a DIY spark gap using a pulse arc generator, electrodes, and a battery. In the accompanying seminar, artists, academics, and media scholars were invited to share projects and explore the notion of “structural media” as an approach to art-making which promotes a heightened perception of the inner mechanisms of our shared communication technologies.

January 31, 2024, Performance

Structural Media

Performance by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw, Dirty Electronics, and Valentina Vuksic.
Venue: Mehrspur Musikklub, Zurich University of the Arts

An evening of performances from artists exploring DIY media, deconstructive technologies, and sculptural electronics. Visitors could expect a sensorium of sound, light, computational failures, and intermedia constructions.

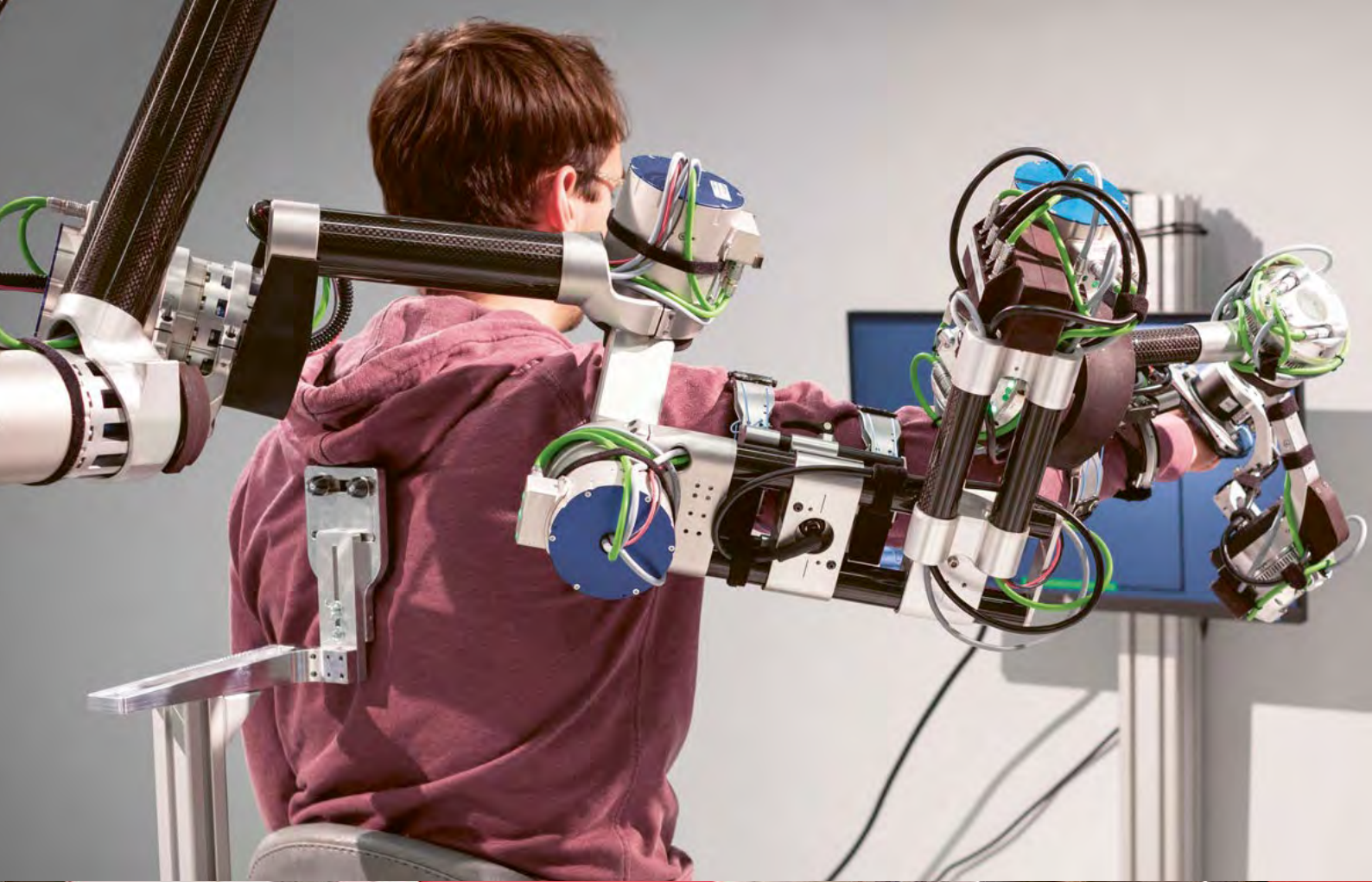
February 3, 2024, Conversation

I Prefer Not To Hito Steyerl in Conversation

Organized by Mario Wimmer.

In this conversation, artist Hito Steyerl engaged in a conversation with Mario Wimmer about shadows, indiscernibility, and how to become invisible and eventually disappear. They talked about critical artistic positions towards the technologies of artificial intelligence, community gardening, the colors of truth, or the character of artistic work between societal expectations and the art market, ending with a plea for unconditional artistic freedom.





SustainAgro Strengthening Economic Growth, Sustainability, and Innovation in Agriculture

Organized by Senior Fellow Maryna Nehrey.
Part of the exhibition *ETH with Ukraine:
Exchanging Knowledge for a Sustainable and
Resilient Future* at ETH Zurich.

This event served as a platform for lectures and a panel discussion with experts in the field of agricultural economics, policy, and innovation. The participants discussed the establishment of an agricultural cluster within the framework of the Swiss Network with Ukraine and emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable development in the agricultural sector. The discussions aimed to foster cooperation, knowledge exchange, and progress in sustainable agricultural development.

February 7, 2024, Fellow Lecture

Bespoke Artificial Cells and Tissues for Drug Discovery

Lecture by Senior Fellow Katherine Elvira.

Cells are complex, making it challenging to understand each component's role in drug transport. Katherine Elvira's research uses microfluidic technologies to build bespoke artificial cells and tissues to measure how each part influences drug movement. In her lecture, she demonstrated how these artificial cells mimic drug transport from the intestine to the bloodstream and how cell membranes change during cancer. These *in vitro* models aim to improve predictions of drug behavior *in vivo*.

May 12, 2023, Workshop

Docu & Demo

Archiving Programmed Media Art

Curated by Coded Secrets and Senior Fellow Inge Hinterwaldner.

The cabinet exhibition addressed the question of how coded media art can and should be documented, recorded, and discussed in the future. It displayed the outcomes of three different experiments by Inge Hinterwaldner and her interdisciplinary research teams *Browser Art* and *Coded Secrets*. The exhibition explored questions such as: If screenshots, video recordings, and short texts are insufficient for documentation, what should supplement or replace them? What forms provide condensed knowledge transmission? And how does the building of models fit into the humanities?

In Between Performance and Documentation

Lecture by Dragan Espenschied. Organized by Senior Fellow Inge Hinterwaldner.

From the early discussions on preserving digital art, it was clear that documentation would be crucial for stabilizing works in a volatile digital environment. However, the exact definition of "documentation" and its intended artifacts remain unclear. Various techniques have since been used to assert ownership, capture the essence of artworks, and document institutional histories. But the question remains: What forms of documentation can support the preservation and continuation of a digital artwork's performance?

February 21, 2024, Workshop

Docu & Demo

Condensed Knowledge Formats

Organized by Senior Fellow Christopher Ellison.

In this workshop, invited participants presented input statements about the pros and cons of established and new formats for condensing knowledge. Starting from the practices, projects, and experiences of the invited scholars, they discussed: What supports a wealth of future research and enjoyment in our digital world? Given the omnipresence and impermanence of the digital realm, what timeframe are scholars working within?

June 9, 2023, Workshop

Accelerating Replacement Toward Animal-Free Science Research at Swiss Universities

Organized by Senior Fellow Maneesha Deckha.

In 2021, the Swiss Federal Council tasked the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) with launching a National Research Program to reduce animal use and suffering in science and to prioritize the replacement of animals in experiments. While animal experimentation has long been debated from bioethical, philosophical, and legal perspectives, there has been less exploration from the perspective of critical theory. This workshop discussed the application of critical theory to the replacement principle in relation to policy and legal reform and aimed to generate recommendations to help universities align with the SNSF's call.

Ukrainian Chamber Music An Autobiography

Organized by Senior Fellow Vadym Rakochi.
Venue: Chamber music hall, Zurich University of the Arts

In this concert, the Institute for Music Research at the Zurich University of the Arts and the Collegium Helveticum brought Ukrainian chamber music to the stage. The moderated concert featured works by Myroslav Skoryk, Volodymyr Zubytsky, Jevgen Zhurbin, Ivan Karabyts, Vadym Rakochi, and Dmytro Kyryliv, all performed by Ukrainian musicians.

March 25, 2024, Panel discussion

Can We Be Smarter than the Phytoplankton? A Perspective on the Global Climate and Sustainability

Lecture by Senior Fellow Galen McKinley in discussion with fellows Makiko Hashinaga, Maneesha Deckha, and Emma Mavodza.

The ocean acts as a significant carbon sponge, helping to slow climate change. This happens primarily through the annual bloom of phytoplankton. They grow rapidly in spring and die off when resources are depleted, raising questions about humanity's own sustainability. Are we adequately addressing the climate crisis, and can we be smarter than phytoplankton? This panel discussion focused on the interconnected issues of climate, food systems, sustainable consumption, animal rights, social justice, and development.

April 17, 2024, Workshop

Developing Effective Climate Policy

Organized by Senior Fellow Kenneth Gillingham.

Debates persist regarding effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This workshop gathered social science scholars to share insights from economics, political science, and political economy on addressing climate change. Topics included climate policies, promoting green innovation, and the development of climate policy amid uncertainty, while considering its political feasibility, impact on various populations, and economic efficiency.

Real-Life Impacts of Security Vulnerabilities

Organized by Senior Fellow N. Asokan, Associate Fellow Shweta Shinde, and Kari Kostianen
Venue: Alumni Pavillon, ETH Zurich

(How) can we assess the real-life impact of purported security vulnerabilities? This workshop aimed to answer this question by starting a conversation among offensive security experts, industry practitioners, and experts in economic matters.

April 22, 2024, Workshop

La Zattera (The Raft) A Performative Archive of Forgotten Memories, Marginal Realities, and Lost Futures of Modern Rome

Organized by Senior Fellow Lorenzo Romito together with Giulia Fiocca.
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich.
Venue: ETH Zurich

La Zattera was initiated in Rome in 2020 as an experience of civic engagement, involving artistic research along with urban and social exploration. It is a nomadic performative archive that collects—through public and shared processes—the dispersed and removed living memories of those who have inhabited the city of Rome both invisibly and informally during its 150-year history as a capital city, struggling for city rights and generating innovative ways of living.

April 29, 2024, Fellow Lecture

Ghostly Currency The Afterlife of Celebrity

Fellow Lecture by Kriss Ravetto in discussion with Martine Beugnet.

Kriss Ravetto and film theorist Martine Beugnet discussed the ghostly afterlives of celebrity and their entanglement with desire, consumer culture, and property. They explored issues such as the income generated by celebrity images and footage after their death, the ownership of the deceased's property, and the afterlives of ephemeral objects like texts, voice messages, or videos in new, often commercial, contexts.

Drivers of Ethical Consumption in Switzerland and Japan

Organized by Senior Fellow Makiko Hashinaga.
Supported by the Embassy of Japan in Switzerland.

Experts from Switzerland and Japan in sociology, law, and consumer behavior came together to analyze the current situation of ethical consumption, and to discuss effective measures to promote more sustainable consumer behavior. The aim of the event was to talk about the various factors in which Switzerland and Japan differ and to find solutions for creating a sustainable production and consumption cycle. The following open discussion was accompanied by a workshop to increase participants' awareness of their own product selection criteria.

April 22, 2024, Fellow Lecture

The Curriculum Vitae Recording, Constructing, and Evaluating Authorship

Lecture by Senior Fellow Mario Biagioli.

In his lecture, Mario Biagioli talked about the history and function of the curriculum vitae in academia. His focus was not on résumés, which summarize relevant professional experiences for specific job applications, but on the distinct genre used by academics to represent their various roles, including publications, teaching, and service. He demonstrated how the curriculum vitae is essential for job-seeking and serves as a primary means for the ongoing evaluation of academics by their institutions.

May 14, 2024, Film screening

IMAMOU Haiti, Migration, and Storytelling

Organized by Senior Fellow Kettly Mars.
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich and the Department of Romance Studies at the University of Zurich.

In her documentary *Diapositives*, Madafi Pierre portrays five people of Haitian origin living in Switzerland. Pierre explores the connections between Haiti and Switzerland, addressing themes of migration, mobility, belonging, and the fluidity of home. The screening was followed by a conversation with Madafi Pierre and Kettly Mars on storytelling, personal and political aspects of migration, and Haitian history, culture, and spirituality.

IMAMOU In the Beginning There Was Water

Organized by Senior Fellow Kettly Mars. Curated by Keabetswe Boccomino (Afrinova).
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for French Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich and the Department of Romance Studies at the University of Zurich. Supported by Aux arts etc., l'Alliance Française de Zurich, and the African Students Association of Zurich (ASAZ).
Venue: Department of Romance Studies, Library, University of Zurich

In Haitian Voodoo, Agwe is the ruler of the waves of the sea and protector of sailors, ships, as well as the animals and plants of the sea. His ship, IMAMOU, transports the souls of the dead to the afterlife and it is said he helped the souls of those who suffered in the slave trade. Based on the mystical boat IMAMOU, this exhibition featured artworks by Laura Arminda Kingsley, Sasha Huber, and Tessa Mars and explored the artistic and literary expressions of Haitian spirituality. Through a focus on water, it asked what images, texts, and rituals enable Haitians to (re-)connect with ancestors and nature, heal individual and collective traumas of past colonial violence, and deal with both political instability and the maritime effects of global warming.

May 29, 2024, Workshop

Affective Dimensions of Urban Places

Organized by Senior Fellow Huib Ernste.
Venue: University of Zurich

The concept of “atmosphere” refers to the affective dimension of urban spaces. Atmospheres are complex assemblages of various elements, including materiality, aesthetics, memory, experiences, and the politics of emotions. Huib Ernste, along with several students of geography, explored the affective dimensions of different urban places in Zurich. The city is home to numerous higher education institutions, each with its unique atmosphere, which collectively enhance the overall ambiance of Zurich.

Continuity and Change Reflecting on over a Decade of Platform-Mediated Gig Work

Organized by Senior Fellow Niels van Doorn together with Niels Beerepoot, Meg Kitamura, and Selma Piukovici-Karadag.
Venue: ETH Zurich

Platform-mediated gig work is maturing, with some platforms operating for nearly 15 years. This period has seen the global expansion of the gig economy, market consolidation, and regional variations in the model. As the novelty fades, platform firms have survived through litigation, institutional concessions, and diversification. Post-COVID-19, they face challenges like advances in AI, inflation, and cost pressures. The workshop explored key forces, dynamics, and regional differences and provided nuanced assessments of the gig economy's past, present, and future.

June 10, 2024, Fellow Lecture

Generative AI, Social Media, and the Super-Election Year of 2024

Lecture by Senior Fellow Ulrike Klinger.

The lecture provided compelling examples of how artificially-created content is being used in election campaigns and discussed the key insights that media effects research can offer into the impacts of election campaigns on voting decisions. Ulrike Klinger's lecture provided a deeper understanding of the evolving field of digital political communication.

June 12, 2024, Symposium & workshop

Integrating Science, Physiotherapists, and Robots in Rehabilitation

Organized by Senior Fellow Christopher Hasson and Associate Fellow Robert Riener.
Venue: ETH Zurich

How can science integrate physiotherapists and rehabilitation robotics to improve patient outcomes? Through a series of thought-provoking presentations and discussions, this question was probed, parsed, and pondered by scientists, clinicians, and engineers. In the afternoon, attendees participated in interactive demonstrations of the Sensory-Motor Systems Lab's ongoing research projects, including robotic arms, beds, wheelchairs, and exoskeletons.

Grete Steffin and Brecht and You

VR production. Idea and concept by Senior Fellow Bernhard Mikeska, together with Juliane Hendes and Lothar Kittstein.
In cooperation with Theater Neumarkt and RAUM+ZEIT.
Venue: Theater Neumarkt, Zurich

In this VR production, the visitors encountered the actress and author Grete Steffin, who was also Bertolt Brecht's partner. This VR encounter recreated the moment of her farewell: Steffin was to die shortly afterwards and Brecht was to emigrate to the United States. In a singular situation, the visitors could immersively experience the power relation between both Brecht and Steffin as well as between the viewer and the artwork.

June 19–20, 2024, Workshop

Movement Analytics in the Era of Big Data and Open Science

Organized by Senior Fellow Somayeh Dodge and Associate Fellow Robert Weibel.
Venue: University of Zurich

The research on movement data is developing fast, with applications spanning from health, mobility, and sustainability research to movement ecology and climate change. This workshop brought together researchers and technology developers from academia and industry for a cross-disciplinary discussion of challenges and new advancements in the field.

June 19–27, 2024, Exhibition

The Observatory Remnants of Explorations on Lost, Marginal, and Possible Realities

Curated by Senior Fellow Lorenzo Romito together with Giulia Fiocca.
In cooperation with the Visiting Professorship for Italian Literature and Culture at ETH Zurich.
Venue: Solar Observation Tower (STS), ETH Zurich

Since its abandonment, the solar observation tower has been infiltrated by a number of "stalkers" for spatial investigations. Based on notes, maps, pictures, and sketches left on site, it can be assumed that the aim was to interpret the number of sunspots. The exhibition was an invitation to explore the observatory together with such exploration traces in order to investigate and map out clues of lost, marginal, and possible realities.

Walking Festival of Sound

Co-directed by Senior Fellow Tim Shaw together with Jacek Smolicki.
Venue: Various spaces in and around Zurich

This transdisciplinary event explored the role of walking through and listening to our everyday surroundings. It combined several free and public events including walking performances, alternative city tours, and soundwalks, all taking place in diverse public.

Other events

In the spirit of engaging different audiences, the Collegium also cooperates with partner institutions, facilitating events both in the observatory and other venues in Zurich.

September 13, 2023, Workshop

Epistemic Authority

Organized by Seraina Dür (ZHdK), Nadia Mazouz (ETH Zurich), and Mario Wimmer together with the Epistemic Authority Working Group.

Throughout the history of science, epistemic authority has often been attributed to scientific instruments or professors, invoking objectivity or a god-like perspective. Recent discussions on epistemic injustice and violence have led to a more critical view of knowledge formation. For decades, however, various individuals and groups have sought to include diverse forms of knowledge on equal terms. This workshop gathered artists, scholars, scientists, and practitioners to explore the potential and future roles of epistemic authority in science and society.

Futures Storytelling With Kim Stanley Robinson

In cooperation with the Strategic Foresight Hub, ETH Zurich.

How can we create narratives about a sustainable future which resonate with diverse audiences? Kim Stanley Robinson, author of *The Ministry of the Future*, joined Myriam Dunn Cavelty, climate scientist Erich Fischer, and cultural anthropologist Christine Lötscher for a panel discussion at the Collegium on using storytelling for societal dialogue. The conversation continued with Collegium fellows, experts, and students. Later in the ETH Global Lecture, Robinson engaged in a discussion with Nako Nakatsuka and Chris Luebke about the impact of his book and the environmental crisis.

After the discussion, fellows and invited guests had the chance to engage in further conversation through a workshop with Kim Stanley Robinson.

October 23, 2023, Lecture

The Ministry for the Future ETH Global Lecture

Lecture by Kim Stanley Robinson. Organized by the ETH Strategic Foresight Hub.
Venue: ETH Zurich

The Ministry for the Future, by Kim Stanley Robinson, is a book which has had far-reaching impact—more than the author could have predicted when he wrote it. The story moves out of Zurich to embrace a world deeply changed by attempts to deal with the climate crisis. In this lecture, the author addressed questions such as: What was he hoping to achieve with the work? What has happened in the three years since it was published? What has he learned? What is he hoping for, now that that his work of fiction has become one of the stories through which people understand the crisis we all face?

October 27, 2023, Concert

(Re-)Searching for Resonances Contemporary Music at the Collegium

Concert by PhD students of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK).
In collaboration with Isabel Mundry (ZHdK).

This concert event presented musical works created as part of the research projects of PhD students of the Zurich University of the Arts. Through multimedia performance, artificial intelligence improvisation, sound installations, and traditional instrumental music, the various spaces of the former observatory were explored through music. The different aesthetic imprints and technical approaches created a broad spectrum of contemporary musical creation.

November 22, 2023, Workshop

Radical Reading

Workshop by Henning Trüper and Mario Wimmer.

Today, the act of reading is facing increasing complexities, with more texts and readers than ever, evolving genres, and the rise of digital media. As machines become better at reading, human engagement with the act seems to be in decline. Yet, reading retains a radical potential, both scholarly and political, involving hopes and fears. This workshop invited scholars to explore this potential, asking: What remains of reading as a core humanist skill? What is the future of humanist knowledge in a shifting cultural landscape?

February 24, 2024, Panel discussion

Is the Babel Fish a Threat to Literature?

With Patrick Karpiczenko aka Karpi and Ann Cotten.
In cooperation with Literaturhaus Zurich.
Venue: Literaturhaus Zurich.

Machines are faster and cheaper in creating usable translations of written texts than humanseverwere. But what exactly does “usable” mean and can artificial intelligence produce more than just mediocrity? After a presentation by AI expert Karpi (Patrick Karpiczenko), there followed a discussion between him and translator and poet Ann Cotten. Together they explored questions such as: Is it still worth learning languages if we all walk around with an instantaneous translator in our pocket? Is learning to read and write still necessary, or just something we indulge in? How will we change as a species if the written word is no longer the foundation of our thinking?

April 8, 2024, Workshop

Climate Crisis and the Humanities

With Guest of Director Nayanika Mathur.
Organized by Debjani Bhattacharyya.

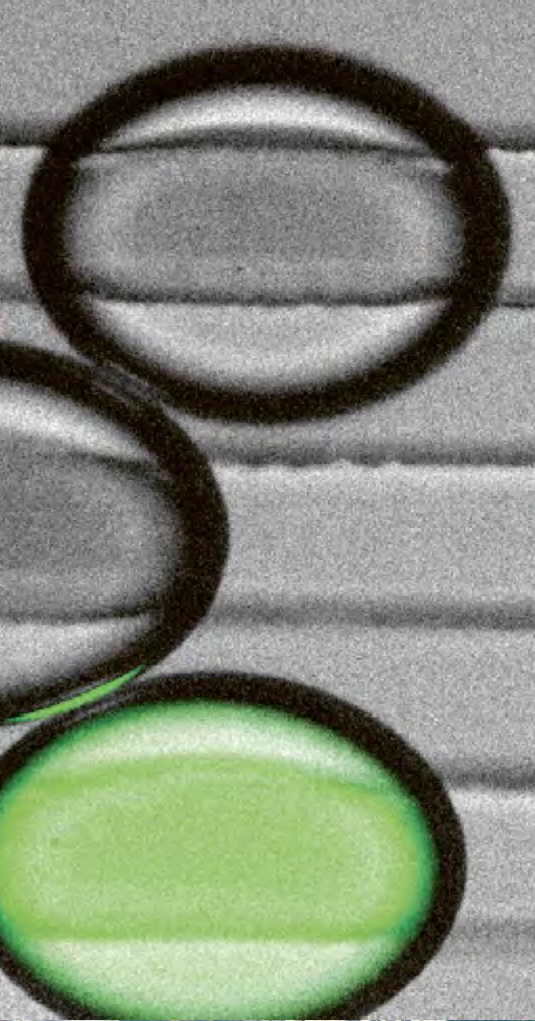
Anthropologist Nayanika Mathur, who co-leads the network Climate Crisis Thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Oxford (UK), talked about her latest book *Crooked Cats: Beastly Encounters in the Anthropocene* (University of Chicago Press, 2023). In the book, Mathur illuminates the Anthropocene in three critical ways: as method, as a way of reframing human–nonhuman relations on the planet, and as a political tool indicating the urgency of academic engagement in times of climate crisis. Subsequently, early-career scholars involved in topics related to Mathur’s research presented and discussed the projects that they had been working on.

June 12, 2024, Book launch

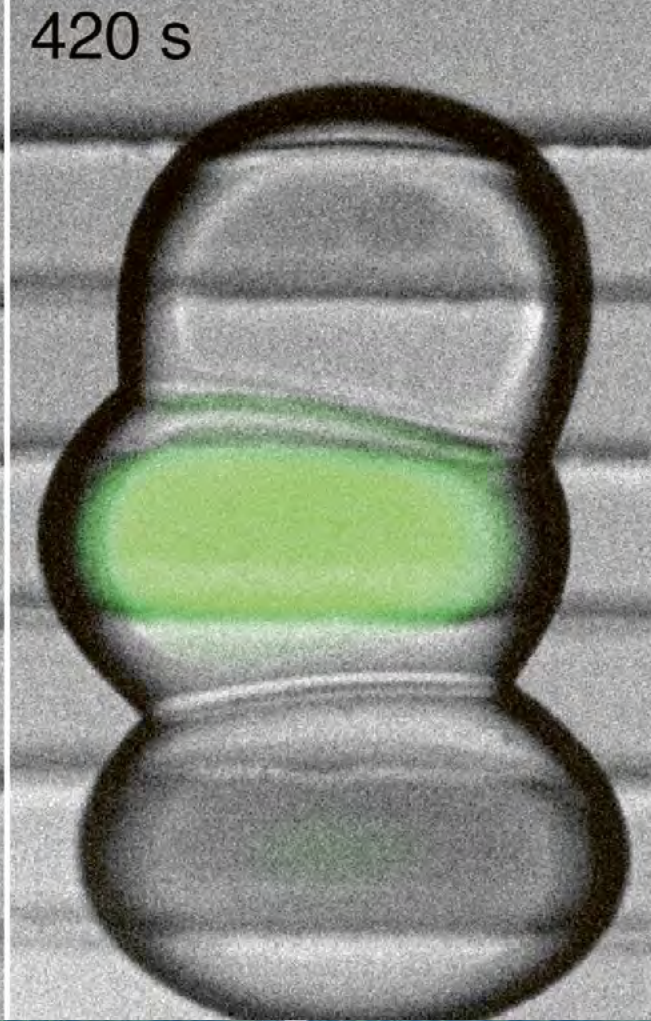
Radio-Activities Architecture and Broadcasting in Cold War Berlin

Book launch by former Early-Career Fellow Alfredo Thiermann.
In cooperation with ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne.

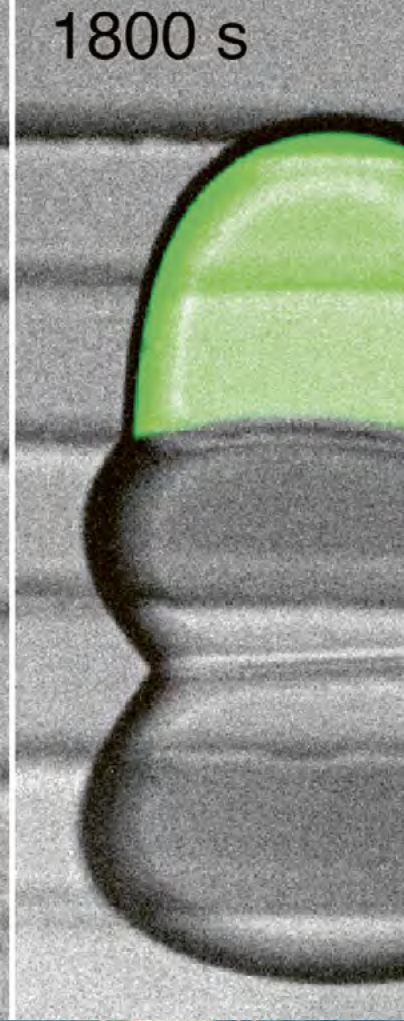
In dialogue with Laila Seewang and Michael Osman, Alfredo Thiermann presented his book *Radio-Activities* (MIT Press, 2024), in which he investigated this spatial conflict by interrogating the political, technological, and environmental dimensions of architecture at a time when buildings began to interact with the remote transmission of information. In doing so, the book interrogates the status and agency of buildings during a period—not unlike today’s—of increasingly hyperconnected, ubiquitous, and apparently invisible modes of coexistence.



420 s



1800 s



Ludwik Fleck Lecture

Every year, the Collegium invites distinguished scholars to deliver the Ludwik Fleck Lecture. With this lecture, the Collegium honors the life and work of Ludwik Fleck. A pioneering microbiologist and philosopher of science, Fleck was persecuted by the Nazis and survived two concentration camps. In 2005, the Collegium received what remained of his research materials together with other papers related to his life and work. Today, these materials are available through the Archives of Contemporary History at ETH Zurich.

The 2025 Ludwik Fleck Lecture will be delivered on May 5, 2025 by Naomi Oreskes, the Henry Charles Lea Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University.

April 23, 2024, Ludwik Fleck Lecture

A Virologist's Look Back on COVID-19

Lecture by Christian Drosten.
Venue: ETH Zurich

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Christian Drosten became widely recognized as a public expert and advised the German government as a member of the expert council on the coronavirus. In January 2020, led by Drosten, the Charité Institute of Virology in Berlin also developed the world's first detection method for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. In his lecture at the Collegium, Drosten looked back on the COVID-19 pandemic from his perspective.



Christian Drosten delivering the 2024 Ludwik Fleck Lecture.

“In my first week at the Collegium, we visited the Rietberg Museum for non-European art and design and engaged in a discussion on provenance. The guided tour sparked a thoughtful conversation about whether it’s appropriate to label certain items as ‘art’ if they—in fact—symbolize power or are funerary objects. This highlighted the relevance of the topic across various fields. Provenance also raises questions about the sources of our data in Western science: Are we properly crediting the existing knowledge that predates our involvement? Colonialism manifests in many ways and continues to influence both our scientific practices and our understanding of art.”

Jour Fixe, Fellows’ Lunch Seminar,
Workshop Discussion
→ Details on page 46



Galen McKinley
Climatology and oceanography"
Senior Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Relevance Across Fields

“The highlight of my time at the Collegium was the first meeting with the fellows, where we selected shared interests. The process itself was what mattered most—not just the topics—but the inclusive approach that fostered a positive working environment and helped build relationships. I ended up in a diverse group with fellows Noé, Madeline, and Nikolaos, united by our shared interest in gender and inequality. I was impressed by how the Collegium values each fellow’s unique intellectual abilities, promoting diversity and inclusivity, which significantly enhanced my growth as an early-career fellow beyond what I could have imagined.”



Emma Mavodza
Development studies
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Building Relationships

The Atmosphere of the Collegium Helveticum

A Conversation with Huib Ernste



Huib Ernste is professor emeritus of Human Geography at Radboud University Nijmegen (NL) and was a senior fellow at the Collegium 2023–2024. His research interests encompass critical social theories as well as qualitative and quantitative methodologies in human geography. During his fellowship, Huib developed an interest in how the atmosphere at the Collegium is shaped by the people, their cultural backgrounds, and the building itself. To explore this, he conducted interviews with a number of fellows. On the next page, Huib shares his reflections and insights from this process.

Why did you choose to investigate the atmosphere of the Collegium?

In my research, I'm interested in how places affect us emotionally and how we experience them. In other words, I'm looking at what places do to people and what people do with places. While the practical use of a place is one thing, its "atmosphere" is another. As a researcher, I'm also curious about what makes academic environments tick. So, the Collegium was a perfect chance to dive into what makes this academic hotspot work so well.

"The whole building and place is perceived as an oasis within the dense university district of Zurich."

Huib Ernste

Can you explain what you mean by atmosphere?

Atmosphere is a concept coined by philosophers like Hermann Schmitz and Gernot Böhme. It describes not just the individual feelings of a person at a specific place, but the whole mix of different aspects: individual emotions and moods, as well as aesthetic qualities of the material setting, the cultural heritage of the place and background of the people using it, and the role of the social interactions happening there.

Does the atmosphere at the Collegium differ from other academic places?

Yes, most fellows stated that there is a huge difference. Again, maybe not functionally but mainly atmospherically. The Collegium is for example very special for its very multidisciplinary nature. You'll often find that each fellow comes from a completely different field, rather than working with peers from the same discipline. At a regular university department, you might collaborate with colleagues from your own field, but there's often also a bit of competition. At the Collegium, though, you interact with people from different disciplines who, even when asking tough questions, are respectful because they come from a different disciplinary background. This creates a very open atmosphere, which makes it easy to focus and be productive, while the uneasy questions also stimulate creativity and open new horizons.

"The open and friendly office of the director played a special role in setting the Collegium's atmosphere."

Huib Ernste

Is this the same for all fellows?

Every fellow enters the Collegium in a specific mood, which can affect how they experience the atmosphere. This can change from day to day or over the course of their fellowship. I interviewed one fellow who brought a tense, competitive mindset from their previous environment and found it difficult to adjust to the new environment in the beginning. Another fellow had a harder time accommodating to the atmosphere because of cultural differences from their home country. For both, their fellowship was still a horizon-widening experience.

This all seems to be about social relations and less about the place itself.

The iconic place of the former Observatory in which the Collegium is based is also part of the atmosphere. It is a beautiful place, but in comparison to regular university buildings, it has many unusual multi-purpose rooms, a roof terrace, and exhibition spaces. That provokes alternative ways of doing and thinking. The long spiral staircase climbing up to the main observatory had a strong symbolic meaning for most fellows. They associated it somehow with disorientation in the positive sense of the word. Also, the open and friendly office of the director of the Collegium, where many meetings among fellows took place, played a special role in setting the Collegium's atmosphere. The whole building and place is perceived as an oasis within the dense university district of Zurich. The materiality and aesthetics of the place are not separable from the events and people inhabiting the building. The shared offices evoke an atmosphere of community. At the same time, the building allows moments of seclusion and concentration, like during a yoga session on the rooftop terrace, or in the library in the basement. Overall, the atmosphere at the Collegium is, therefore, a real assemblage of different atmospheres in different parts of the premises.

The current style in which the Collegium is run, with its focus on academic freedom and respectful informality, stands out for all fellows as a very positive contribution to the good atmosphere at the Collegium.



Huib Ernste
Human geography
Senior Fellow 2023–2024

Outlook

In September, the Collegium welcomed a new cohort of fellows who is carrying forward the intellectual energy of previous years. The fellows' research and engagement continue the cross-disciplinary dialogue and invite guests to join the discussion.

We hope that the Collegium's redesigned website conveys this spirit by allowing users to explore connections among fellows, projects, and events, thus creating a digital network that spans past and current fellowship years. In addition, the Collegium will soon document all activities in the open-access *Proceedings of the Collegium Helveticum*, which will double as a platform for fellows' working papers and preprints.

Moreover, the Collegium is cooperating with Theater Neumarkt on a theater production, involving former and current fellows. This series of theatrical pre-enactments will stage conversations between experts and the audience around select issues of climate change.

“The Collegium often feels like a little piece of academic utopia, where you have the freedom to reflect on your research and test out new ideas.”



Yael Borofsky
Development economics
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024



Fellowship year 2024–2025

Website redesign

In the 2023–2024 academic year, the Collegium redesigned its website in collaboration with the design studio Upset. The website now offers users the ability to browse and discover connections between fellows, projects, and events, creating a digital network across the present and past fellowship years. It reveals connections and relationships and enables users to gain a broader perspective on the activities and expertise of the Collegium community. This interconnectedness enhances collaboration by making it easier for users and fellows alike to find potential collaborators with shared interests, while also encouraging knowledge-sharing across disciplines. Furthermore, the Collegium will soon offer personalized newsletters, enabling users to subscribe to topics that match their interests.

The website currently features the fellows and activities from the past four years. Information about fellows and their projects from the previous two decades will be added soon.

To add another and more long-term way of sharing and archiving the activities at the Collegium, the open-access journal *Proceedings of the Collegium Helveticum* will soon be launched. This journal will document all events as well as including occasional working papers and preprints by its community of researchers. The journal will be established with the support of the HOPE platform, an open-access publishing environment offered by the University Library Zurich. This initiative will ensure that all activities will remain permanently available and accessible to the public, regardless of the website's future status.

“The Thursday gatherings were a unique blend of spontaneous informality and insightful critique. Whether at our collective lunch, during the afternoon presentations by a fellow, or in casual conversation after it, these exchanges were both inspiring and thought-provoking. Every Thursday, I knew I would learn something new that could shift my perspective on my research, my environment, or even my personal state of mind. But undoubtedly, the greatest highlight from my fellowship was the wonderful friendships I built over those ten months.”

Jour Fixe, Fellows' Lunch Seminar,
Workshop Discussion
→ Details on page 46



Paulo Wirz
Fine arts
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Shifting Perspectives

Current Fellows

The Community Continues to Grow



Link to fellows
2024–2025

With the beginning of the 2024–2025 fellowship year, the Collegium welcomed nine early-career and nine senior fellows—with more to join the cohort over the course of the year. While the fellows will all be pursuing their individual projects, they intersect in areas of shared interest such as “Climate Change and Aesthetics,” “Places of Kinship,” and “Futures of Technology.”

On the Collegium’s website, you can find an overview of and further details on all of the 2024–2025 fellows, including short biographies and project descriptions (see link above). It also provides a list of the associate fellows who support the early-career and senior fellows and help the international fellows connect with Zurich’s academic and cultural community.

Early-career fellows



Bronte Alexander

Born 1992 in Darwin, AU
PhD: Griffith University, AU (2022)
Political geography

Fellowship project

Queer Migrant Mobilities Mapping Everyday Bordering and Belonging

Associate fellow: **Annuska Derks**
Associate Professor of Social Transformation
Processes, University of Zurich



Denise Bertschi

Born 1983 in Aarau, CH
PhD: Swiss Federal Institute of
Technology Lausanne (EPFL),
CH (2024)
Artistic research

Fellowship project

The Colors of Colonial Chemistry Dyes, Photography, and Architecture in 19th Century Switzerland

Associate fellow: **Philip Ursprung**, Professor of the
History of Art and Architecture, ETH Zurich
Anselm Franke, Professor of Curatorial Studies,
Zurich University of the Arts



Ettore Camerlenghi

Born 1990 in Bergamo, IT
PhD: Monash University, AU
(2023)
Behavioral ecology

Fellowship project

Drivers and Constraints to the Emergence of Complex Multi- level Societies in the Animal Kingdom

Associate fellow: **Damien Farine**
SNSF Eccellenza Professor of Social Evolutionary
Ecology, University of Zurich



Viktoria Cologna

Born 1995 in Bolzano, IT
PhD: ETH Zurich, CH (2021)
Environmental psychology

Fellowship project

Seeing is Believing How Extreme Weather Event Experience and Media Attention Relate to Climate Policy Support

Associate fellow: **Mike Schäfer**
Professor of Science Communication,
University of Zurich



Danny van der Haven

Born 1995 in 's-Hertogenbosch,
NL
PhD: University of Cambridge,
UK (2024)
Materials science

Fellowship project

Saving Sand Upscaling Predictions of Grainy Materials for Sustainability

Associate fellow: **David Kammer**
Assistant Professor of Computational Mechanics
of Building Materials, ETH Zurich



Anna Luhovska

Born 1996 in Kyiv, UA
PhD: National Academy of Fine
Arts and Architecture, UA (2023)
Art history and visual arts

Fellowship project

Decoding Zurich's Art Scene Unraveling Institutional Impact on Artistic Career Developments

Associate fellow: **Bärbel Küster**
Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art,
University of Zurich



Charlotte Müller

Born 1995 in Bern, CH
PhD: ETH Zurich, CH (2023)
Learning sciences

Fellowship project

Understanding by Means of Sensorimotor Experience The Role of Embodied Metaphor for Chemistry Learning

Associate fellow: **Martina Rau**
Professor of Research on Learning and Instruction,
ETH Zurich



Jean Souviron

PhD: Université Libre de Brux-
elles, BE (2022)
Architecture

Fellowship project

Sealed Climates Mapping the Ecological Impact of the Western European Thermal Modernity

Associate fellow: **Laurent Stalder**
Professor of the Theory of Architecture,
ETH Zurich



Francesco Sovrano

Born 1991 in Veneto, IT
PhD: University of Bologna, IT
(2023)
Artificial intelligence

Fellowship project

Explaining the Unexplainable Bridging the Gap Between Generative AI and Theory- Driven Explanations

Associate fellow: **Alberto Bacchelli**
Associate Professor of Empirical Software
Engineering, University of Zurich

Senior fellows



Moran Bercovici

Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, IL
Mechanical engineering

Fellowship topic

LiquiFab

Crafting with Liquids in the Absence of Gravity

Associate fellow: **Lucio Isa**
Associate Professor of Soft Materials and Interfaces, ETH Zurich



Audrey Bowden

Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Vanderbilt University, US
Biomedical engineering

Fellowship topic

Luminous Links

Exploring Light's Role Across Science, Society, and Sensation

Associate fellow: **Daniel Razansky**
Professor of Biomedical Imaging, ETH Zurich



Louis-Philippe Dalember

Writer and Poet
Literature

Fellowship topic

Literature, History, and Society Talks

A Socio-Legal and Policy Perspective

Associate fellow: **Andreas Kilcher**
Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich



Anna Magdalena Elsner

Associate Professor of French Studies and Medical Humanities
University of St. Gallen, CH
Literature

Fellowship topic

A New Death

Cultures of Dying in France

Associate fellow: **Sandro Zanetti**
Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Zurich



Ignacio E. Grossmann

R. R. Dean University Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering
Carnegie Mellon University, US
Chemical engineering

Fellowship topic

Optimal Design of Sustainable Process and Energy Systems

Associate fellow: **Guillén Gosálbez**
Professor of Chemical Systems Engineering, ETH Zurich



Nikou Hamzehpour

Associate Professor of Soil Science
University of Maragheh, IR
Soil science and environmental degradation

Fellowship topic

Susceptibility of Terrestrial Ecosystems to Degradation The Interactive Effects of Land Use and Climate Change

Associate fellow: **Sebastian Dötterl**
Assistant Professor of Soil Resources, ETH Zurich



Tülin Kaman

Associate Professor and Lawrence Jesser Toll Jr. Chair in the Department of Mathematical Sciences
University of Arkansas, US
Computational and applied mathematics

Fellowship topic

Uncertainties in Extreme Weather Predictions

Associate fellow: **Renato Pajarola**
Professor of Visualization and Multimedia, University of Zurich



Jakob Ohme

Head of Research Group
Weizenbaum Institute Berlin, DE
Communication studies

Fellowship topic

Visual Aspects of Political Communication

Associate fellow: **Frank Esser**
Professor of International and Comparative Media Research, University of Zurich



Pujo Semedi Hargo Yuwono

Professor in the Department of Anthropology
Gadjah Mada University, ID
Social and cultural anthropology

Fellowship topic

Sharing with the Devil Theft and Corruption in an Indonesian Coffee Plantation

Associate fellow: **Annuska Derks**
Associate Professor of Social Transformation Processes, University of Zurich

“One of the things I appreciated the most during this time was the opportunity to work independently while still receiving a high level of support if needed.”



Noé Brasier
Translational medicine
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024

Fellowships at the Collegium

Learning From A Diversity of Perspectives

Fellowships at the Collegium provide protected time to pursue individual research and the opportunity to participate in a vibrant and international community of fellows. In an increasingly complex world, we need both specialist knowledge and interdisciplinary cooperation to respond to the major challenges of our times. Therefore, the Collegium brings together fellows from all academic and artistic disciplines at different stages of their careers.

The Collegium Helveticum fellowship program is open to highly promising early-career researchers and artists as well as exceptional academics and artists who are already established in their careers. Based on the fellows' shared interests, the program invites cross-disciplinary exchange and dialogue. The Collegium values diversity and nurtures a fair and respectful work environment. Applications from all disciplines represented at the three supporting institutions are welcome, from the humanities and social sciences, the natural sciences, engineering, and technology to life sciences, medicine or the arts, architecture, and design. All fellows are encouraged to contribute to the Collegium's program by applying with an idea for an event they can realize during their fellowship. If you are unsure whether the Collegium's program is a good fit for you, we encourage you to connect with past and current fellows for guidance and advice.

Early-career fellowships

Early-career fellowships are open to researchers at the postdoctoral level (within five years of academic age after completing a PhD) or art school graduates at an equivalent stage in their career (within five years of academic age after completing an MFA or equivalent). The notion of academic age considers, e.g., periods of care work or part-time employment. For details about academic age, please refer to the call for applications. The fellowship takes the form of full-time employment at a postdoctoral salary at ETH Zurich. Since the Collegium cannot provide laboratory infrastructure or studio space, early-career fellows can negotiate with the directorship of the Collegium to allocate up to 40% of their time to work outside the Collegium if this is essential for the proposed project or furthers their skills in important ways.

We also encourage small interdisciplinary teams of up to three people to apply with a joint project. The Collegium is a family-friendly workplace. Therefore, joint research and task-sharing proposals will be considered.

Senior fellowships

Senior fellowships are open to established artists or academics who would like to become fellows at the Collegium during a stay as an academic or artistic guest or visiting professor at ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, or the Zurich University of the Arts. The fellowship contributes to the costs of living with CHF 1,000 CHF per month. Applications can be submitted any time during the year, a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve months before the start of the planned fellowship. Applications are reviewed twice a year, and dates of review are available on the Collegium's website.

Associate fellows

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

Scholars-at-risk fellowships

The privileged working conditions at the Collegium create an obligation to share academic freedom and opportunity with colleagues under immediate political threat. With the financial support of the OPO-Foundation and the Foundation for Basic Research in the Human Sciences, the Collegium was able to offer fellowships for scholars at risk from 2022-2024. Applicants are required to provide documentation of their status as a scholar at risk. The program's continuation beyond the fellowship year of 2024-2025 is contingent on available funding.



Information on detailed selection criteria and application forms

“I will always remember the warm welcome and support I received from the Collegium team months before my fellowship began. On my first day, I was greeted by a vibrant mix of colleagues from various disciplines, countries, and cultures, all eager to meet me. These experiences taught me an invaluable lesson for my career: the importance of ensuring people feel welcome well before they officially start. It resonates with a saying from my culture, ‘Ibitangiye neza birangira neza,’ which means ‘what starts well, ends well.’ The Collegium not only honored this adage but also made it a living reality for me.”



Celestin Mutuyimana
Psychology
Early-Career Fellow 2023–2024



Spotlight Feeling Welcome

Organization

Staff

Sebastian Bonhoeffer

Director

Mario Wimmer

Deputy Director

Andrea Truttmann

Administration and Events

Mick Lehmann

Communications

Supporting staff

Eliot Gisel

Communications

Yasmina Annese Perez

Administration (from November 13, 2023)

Charlotte Harnau

Events (until November 10, 2023)

Luisa Maria Slongo

Events (Administration until November 13, 2023)

Governing board

Marijke Hoogenboom

Head of Dossier Research, Zurich University of the Arts

Elisabeth Stark

Vice President Research, University of Zurich

Christian Wolfrum

Vice President for Research, ETH Zurich

Martine Vernooj

Secretary of the Governing Board, ETH Zurich

Selection committee for early-career fellowships

Marcel Bleuler

Head of the Institute for Contemporary Art Research, Zurich University of the Arts

Annette Oxenius

Professor in the Department of Biology, ETH Zurich

Sylvia Sasse

Professor of Slavic Literature, University of Zurich

Nicholas Spencer

Professor Emeritus in the Department of Materials, ETH Zurich

Kerstin Noëlle

Vokinger

Professor of Law and Medicine, University of Zurich

Advisory board

Antje Boetius

Director of the Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Bremerhaven, Professor of Geomicrobiology at the University of Bremen

Monika Bütler

Honorary Professor of Economic Policy at the University of St. Gallen

Lorraine Daston

Director Emerita at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Sir Charles Godfray

Director of the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford

Martino Stierli

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

Jörg Widmann

Professor of Composition at the Barenboim-Said Academy, Berlin

PhD program

“Epistemologies of Aesthetic Practices”

Judith Siegmund

Head of Program, Zurich University of the Arts

Dominique Raemy

Coordinator

Benno Wirz

Coordinator

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