

University of Bayreuth Centre of International Excellence “Alexander von Humboldt”

Sponsorship Programmes for Excellent International Researchers: Prospectus 2022





Preface by the President

The University of Bayreuth Centre of International Excellence “Alexander von Humboldt” – Our Roadmap to Excellence

The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre was founded to promote courageous research following the example of one of the most audacious explorers of his age, Alexander von Humboldt. Indeed, the significance of Humboldt for our Centre of Excellence is considerable. First, it was in Upper Franconia - not far from Bayreuth - where the world-famous naturalist revolutionised both mining technology and occupational safety before he embarked on his celebrated journey to the Americas. Second, Humboldt has characteristics and values we foster at the University of Bayreuth – his relentless spirit, his networking skills, and his notorious candour encourage us to initiate conversations between countries, cultures, and disciplines.

In today’s fast-paced and connected world, international networking is more important than ever. The insights of creative minds who dare to think differently and develop innovative and sustainable solutions are indispensable. We rely on the free and international discourse, on personal exchange – not only in video calls or online bar camps, but more importantly, through direct encounter in labs, lecture halls and libraries.

Our Fellows and Grantees with their Bayreuth hosts as well as our Strategic Scientific Workshop consortia are prime examples of international research collaboration. Since the foundation of the Humboldt Centre, they have come to Bayreuth from 27 countries around the globe and from a broad spectrum of topical research areas.

This prospectus presents the researchers and collaborative efforts we have granted in 2021. It also invites you to take part in this endeavour to internationalise research at the University of Bayreuth.

The fruitful collaborations our sponsorship programmes have made possible will not end after the research stay or joint papers. They are designed to keep the promise of ongoing output and sustainable synergies to promote creative ideas and innovative solutions – as Alexander von Humboldt put it in a letter from Venezuela in 1799, “Ideas can only be of use if they start living in many minds” ... and in many generations to come.



Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible
President of the University of Bayreuth

The Rondell, the heart of our university. From here, all paths radiate to the faculties on campus, connecting quite literally research areas, administration and, of course, people.



Portrait of the University of Bayreuth

Creative, courageous, innovative, and liveable

The green campus of the University of Bayreuth is a meeting place of people and ideas where academic life is more varied and personal than it is at Germany's larger universities. Top-notch research, state-of-the-art teaching methods, international influences, diversity, and a springboard to a successful career – these are all things the University of Bayreuth stands for.

The University of Bayreuth in numbers

Starting out relatively small in 1975 with 632 students, 22 endowed chairs, and three departments, the University of Bayreuth is now firmly anchored in the national and international university landscape. Today, we are one of the most successful young universities in Germany. The University of Bayreuth is ranked 45th out of the world's top 475 universities younger than 50 in the 'Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Ranking'. It is part of the top ten percent of 5,500 universities worldwide in THE World University Ranking.

Interdisciplinary research and teaching is the main feature of our more than 160 degree programmes offered at seven faculties in the natural sciences, food sciences, engineering, law and economics, as well as language, literature and cultural studies. The University of Bayreuth has about 13,000 students, 1,650 academic staff (260 of them professors) and 1,020 non-academic employees on the campus in Bayreuth and in Kulmbach. This makes it one of the largest employers in the region.

Engaging in cutting-edge research

The University of Bayreuth is making its mark with research: the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence conducts cutting-edge research at an international level, the excellence of the Bavarian Research Institute of Experimental Geochemistry & Geophysics (BGI) is recognised worldwide, and polymer and colloid research is an innovation driver of future-oriented materials. Thus, it is not surprising that the university raises more than a quarter of its annual budget in third-party funding.

More than just a university

The University of Bayreuth aspires to be more than just a university. Thus, we consider it indispensable to constantly improve and examine each classic field of action, to see whether and how it can adequately address the four questions of our time – internationalisation, digitalisation, equal opportunities and diversity as well as sustainability. We therefore consciously perceive these areas as cross-cutting issues honing our profile in a new dimension.

Board of Directors and Executive Board for the Selection of Short Term Grants and Strategic Scientific Workshops

The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre is headed by a two-member Board of Directors that oversees the Centre's activities and its strategic development to further internationalise research at the University of Bayreuth. The Executive Board consists of the Board of Directors, the Vice President for Research and Junior Scholars as well as the Vice President for Internationalisation, Equal Opportunities and Diversity.



Anna Köhler is Professor of Soft Matter Optoelectronics (Experimental Physics II) at the University of Bayreuth and the Executive Director of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre. From 2013 to 2016, she was the Vice President for International Affairs and Diversity.



Bernhard Herz is Professor of International Economics & Finance (Economics I) at the University of Bayreuth and the Deputy Director of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre. He was the Vice President for International Relations from 2007 to 2010.

The Executive Board selects the guest researchers applying for Short Term Grants and Strategic Scientific Workshops at the Humboldt Centre. They also advise and report to the University Governing Board. All Executive Board members are dedicated researchers of international recognition as well as avid networkers committed to increasing the international visibility and reputation of the University of Bayreuth.



Thomas Scheibel is Professor of Biomaterials as well as the acting Vice President for Internationalisation, Equal Opportunities and Diversity of the University of Bayreuth.



Britta Planer-Friedrich is Professor of Environmental Geochemistry and the acting Vice President for Research and Junior Scholars of the University of Bayreuth.

External Advisory Board for the Selection of Senior and Junior Fellows

The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre has established a rigorous evaluation process to ensure a competitive selection of excellent international researchers and collaborative projects. Within the sponsorship programme “Senior and Junior Fellowships”, the Centre seeks expert reviews from qualified peers who attest to the scientific achievements and broad recognition of each applicant within the research community. The final selection lies with an External Advisory Board of seven internationally distinguished researchers and science managers, all highly renowned in their respective fields.



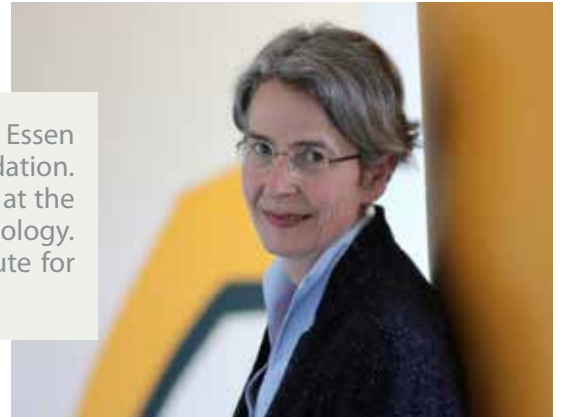
Arndt Bode is Professor emeritus of informatics and former CIO at the Technical University of Munich. He is one of the leading researchers of computer architecture and computer engineering. He serves as the acting president of the Bavarian Research Foundation as well as the vice president of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He is also member of the Advisory Board at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre (LRZ) of the Bavarian Academy.



Christian Bode is the former secretary general of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the former chairman of the DAAD Alumni & Friends. For his long-standing commitment to internationalisation he has received several honorary doctorates, awards and medals, including the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Richard Cogdell FRS holds the Hooker Chair of Botany at the University of Glasgow. He was the Deputy Head of College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences at the University of Glasgow for nearly a decade. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, has received the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Research Award and is a frequent internationally sought-after advisory board member and reviewer, e.g. for the German Excellence Strategy.



Julika Griem is the director of the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI) and, since 2016, vice president of the German Research Foundation. Her previous positions include professorships for English Literature at the Goethe University Frankfurt and the Darmstadt University of Technology. She is a member of the steering committee of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies.



Olav Gjelsvik is a full Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oslo and former director of the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, a centre of excellence at the University of Oslo. He held various prestigious positions at, inter alia, UC Berkeley and the University of Oxford, and is a member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.



Michael Sander is Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. With comprehensive bachelor and master-level training in Environmental Sciences from the University of Bayreuth, he received a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Yale University in 2005. Michael Sander's research group has expertise in three major areas: redox biogeochemistry, environmental macromolecular chemistry, and environmental chemistry of micropollutants.



Natalie Stingelin FRSC is a full Professor of Materials Science at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta. She held prior positions at Imperial College London, the University of Cambridge, Queen Mary University of London, the Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven, and ETH Zurich. She holds a Chaire Internationale Associée by the Excellence Initiative of the Université de Bordeaux since 2016. She is a former Senior FRIAS Fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies.

Sponsorship Programmes for Excellent Research across Borders

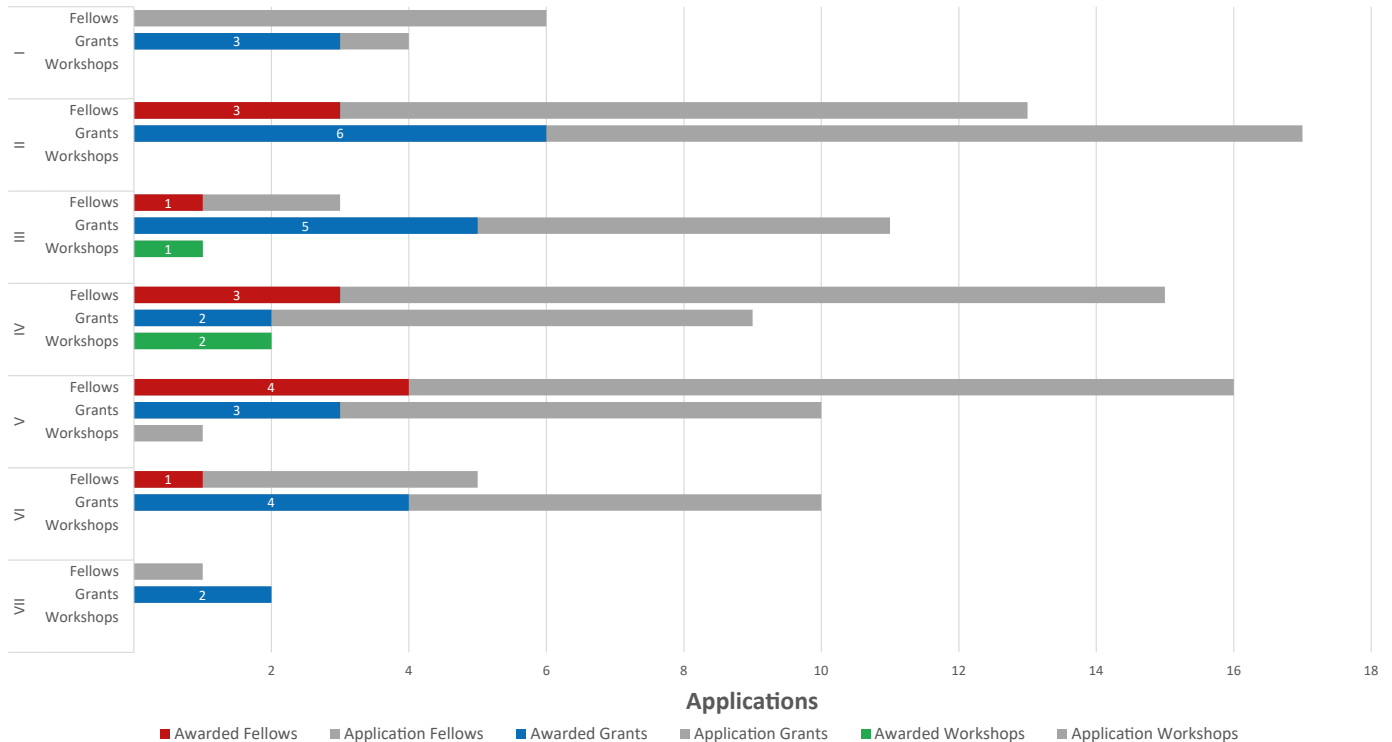
The University of Bayreuth Centre of International Excellence “Alexander von Humboldt” supports academic exchange across existing boundaries: across disciplines, different (research) cultures and countries, and between established and younger colleagues. The Centre invites outstanding international researchers to short and longer visits to the university. In addition, it sponsors Strategic Scientific Workshops that are conducted by Bayreuth researchers in cooperation with international partners. Our funding formats at a glance:

Senior and Junior Fellowships Pages 14-23	Short Term Grants Pages 24-27	Strategic Scientific Workshops Pages 28-31
<p>Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case-by-case (typically 3-6 months) <p>Financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50,000 € (Seniors) 30,000 € (Juniors) <p>Host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 hosts <p>Host subsidy for main host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 € humanities / social sciences 800 € natural sciences / engineering sciences <p>Call for applications and selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for proposals once a year Selection by External Advisory Board 	<p>Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-3 weeks <p>Financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursement of travel expenses to Bayreuth and back Accommodation costs in Bayreuth Visa fees Daily allowance Max. 3,500 € <p>Host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 hosts (without host subsidy) <p>Call for applications and selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls for proposals twice a year Selection by Executive Board 	<p>Duration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 days <p>Financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max. 20,000 € per event <p>Call for applications and selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for proposals once a year Selection by Executive Board

Covering a Broad Range of Disciplines

Since the foundation of the Humboldt Centre in 2019, all of the seven high-achieving faculties of the University of Bayreuth have welcomed our Fellows, Grantees or the participants of Strategic Scientific Workshops: the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Computer Science (I), the Faculty of Biology, Chemistry & Earth Sciences (II), the Faculty of Law, Business & Economics (III), the Faculty of Languages & Literature (IV), the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences (V), the Faculty of Engineering Science (VI) and the Faculty of Life Sciences: Food, Nutrition & Health in Kulmbach (VII).

Distribution by Faculties 2019-2021



Strengthening Our International Network

Since 2019, a total of 126 applicants from all over the world have aspired to come to the University of Bayreuth in the framework of one of our sponsorship programmes: the Fellowships (red), the Short Term Grants (blue) and the Strategic Scientific Workshops (green).



Image: Google Maps

Senior and Junior Fellowships 2021

Senior and Junior Fellowships are awards to renowned scientists working at research institutions abroad. They carry out a research project in close cooperation with researchers in Bayreuth. The Fellowships are meant to establish and strengthen structural and individual ties with researchers at the University of Bayreuth.

The awards are presented once a year as the result of a competitive selection process. The selection is strictly merit-based and the selection criteria are the academic excellence of the applicant and the research project.

- All Fellows spend typically **three to six months of cooperative research** at the University of Bayreuth together with their host(s). The research stay can be divided into several stages.
- We advise researchers who have completed their PhD and have up to **four years** of post-doctoral experience to apply for Junior Fellowships. We expect applicants with a minimum of **eight years** of post-doctoral experience, a tenured professorship or an equivalent

permanent position to apply for Senior Fellowships. Researchers between four and eight years of post-doctoral experience can apply for a Junior or a Senior Fellowship.

- The **Senior Fellowship** value totals €50,000. Fellows may use the awarded amount to cover costs in the context of the collaborative research project. Candidates need to submit a budget plan with their application.
- Senior Fellows may use part of the award to include junior researchers from their research group in the cooperative project.
- The **Junior Fellowship** value totals €30,000. Fellows may use the awarded amount to cover costs in the context of the collaborative research project. Candidates need to submit a budget plan with their application.
- For the duration of their stay, the host of a Fellow receives a monthly subsidy of €500 in the humanities and social sciences, and €800 in the natural sciences and engineering sciences to compensate local costs.



Testimonials

„I live in a country where mobility - research or otherwise - is restricted for a vast majority of people by poverty and danger to life and limb. In this context, international research mobility is not only a privilege, but a responsibility.“

Senior Fellow Professor Stephanus Muller

„My archival work this year has been hampered by limited time slots and pre-booking requirements in the archives. But this was not an issue at the University of Bayreuth, where I have had access to a nice office and where my host, Professor Klaeger, has ensured that I've had a really fantastic and productive stay.“

Junior Fellow Dr. Justin Begley

„Bayreuth University campus is wonderful, it is circular, so integrative and inclusive to all sciences (...). After remaining working at home due to COVID pandemic, Bayreuth campus has meant a boost of energy to me.“

Junior Fellow Professor Violeta Radovich

„It is both a great honour to receive the BHC Senior Fellowship and a splendid occasion to conduct in tandem with Professor Anno Mungen a potentially groundbreaking research project, whose significance resonates well beyond the Wagner festivals per se. It is no less an invaluable opportunity to further develop collaborative scholarship and maintain the traditions of indefatigable enquiry that stand proudly as the pillars of the Research Institute for Music Theatre Studies (fmt).“

Senior Fellow Professor Krzysztof Kozłowski

„I felt triumphant and grateful as I arrived in Bayreuth and began to work in my office at the department of the study of religion. This was especially so as I have fond memories of my earlier visit to Bayreuth university in 2010 where I attended a one-month summer academy organised by BIGSAS.“

Junior Fellow Dr. Abdelmjid Kettioui

„Exchanges such as the possibility to work and discuss abroad not only have a scientific function, but also lead to the exchange of cultural aspects between researchers of different countries, and to the development of international networks. So as soon as travel bans were lifted, I bought a ticket to Bayreuth.“

Junior Fellow Dr. Gianvito Vilé

Senior Fellow

Professor Krzysztof Kozłowski
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland

Disciplines:

Theatre Studies and Music Theatre

Project:

Media Use and Propaganda: The Bayreuth Wagner Festival 1933-1944

Host:

Professor Anno Mungen,
Research Institute for Music Theatre Studies (fimt)



<http://filmoznawstwo.com/pracownicy/>

The Bayreuth Richard Wagner Festspiele was the apple of the eye of National Socialist propaganda. On account of various (historical and cultural) circumstances, the Festspiele in the period 1933-44 has been, in the main, ignored as a subject of research. The relevant media-satellites around this festival have suffered a similar fate. The research project therefore aims to fill this hiatus by examining the role of the Festspiele - a primary medium of theatre and the media wedded to it - as a vehicle of propaganda in Nazi Germany. Moreover, based on archival materials, the project demonstrates the instrumental use of media channels in the hierarchy of that time: 1) radio, 2) film, 3) press and 4) Programmheft. Further, the study highlights the consequences of the changes instigated by Hitler, whereby after 1939 the Festspiele turned into 'Kriegsfestspiele'. This important historical turning point saw propaganda aims change, as did the profile of the Bayreuth audience.

Krzysztof Kozłowski (MA, PhD and Postdoc, AMU Poznań) is full professor of Theatre and Film Studies. He has conducted research in opera and media at the University of Bayreuth (fimt) as well as at IfAM in Lüneburg, a city he later revisited, lecturing as visiting professor at Leuphana University of Lüneburg. His main areas of research are opera and music theatre, history of the German and American cinema, film music, as well as the history, theory and aesthetics of media. Professor Kozłowski has, among others, published on Stanley Kubrick. He is first Polish edition editor of Wagner's late correspondence on opera dramaturgy as well as Polish translator and editor of Werner Faulstich's *Filmästhetik*.

Senior Fellow

Professor Stephanus Muller
Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Disciplines:

Musicology

Project:

How is South African art music (not) African art music?

Host:

Dr. Lena van der Hoven, Musicology



<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/arts/research/prof-stephanus-muller>

The research project considers, for the first time, the interfaces between art music production in South Africa and notions of African art music articulated by Akin Euba and a host of other African scholars and composers. These musical and discursive interfaces have not been the object of scholar enquiry. At stake is the important and overdue development of different perspectives on African musical modernity – research that requires the unique musical sources of the archive of the Iwalewahaus. The research project builds on an existing collaboration with Dr. Lena van der Hoven, whose work on opera in Africa considers shared concerns with the definition and delimitation of ‘African’ as a descriptor for music production in (South) Africa. The awarded Fellowship not only strengthens, but also expands thematic and institutional collaborative capacities at the University of Bayreuth and at Stellenbosch University.

Stephanus Muller is Professor of Music and Director of the Africa Open Institute for Music, Research and Innovation at Stellenbosch University. He is the publisher of an online digital arts initiative, herri.org.za. His most recent book, co-edited with Stephanie Vos, is the published and annotated correspondence between composer Arnold van Wyk and conductor Anton Hartman, *Sulke vriende is skaars: Die briewe van Arnold van Wyk en Anton Hartman 1949-1981* (Protea, 2020).

Junior Fellow

Dr. Justin Begley
University of Helsinki, Finland

Disciplines:

Literature

Project:

Botany Before Linnaeus: Poetry and Scholarship in the
Res publica Botanica, c. 1660-1740

Host:

Professor Dr. Florian Klaefer, English Literature



<https://lmu-munich.academia.edu/JustinBegley>

This project charts the gestation and consolidation of botany as a distinct field in Europe from c. 1660-1740. During the Renaissance, it was generally physicians who studied plants for medical purposes. By the mid-eighteenth century, however, prestigious professorships had appeared in the subject, and holders of existing chairs in medical botany began to devote considerable attention to investigating plants as such. While Carl Linnaeus is now well studied, the field-shaping output of his immediate precursors has been largely neglected. The present research project begins to fill this lacuna, concentrating on the output of three English figures who were critical to raising botany's status: Nehemiah Grew, Stephen Hales, and John Martyn. By charting how these botanists manipulated rhetorical tropes and literary traditions, this project aims to provide an intricate backstory to August Strindberg's memorable claim that 'Linnaeus was actually a poet who happened to become a naturalist', forging a tangible link between the 'cultures' of science and literature.

Justin Begley investigates early modern intellectual, scientific, and literary history. He has held fellowships at the University of Helsinki, the Royal Society, the Herzog August Bibliothek, the University of Bucharest, and the Folger Shakespeare Library. He has published in journals including *Intellectual History Review*, *Annals of Science*, *Perspectives on Science*, *Review of English Studies*, and *The Seventeenth Century*. While his articles focus on thinkers from Pierre Gassendi to John Hill, he is also transforming his Oxford DPhil thesis on Margaret Cavendish into a monograph and completing a critical edition of her family's medical manuscript. Begley has begun a project on the "Res publica Botanica, c. 1660-1740", which is the topic of his collaboration with Professor Klaefer in Bayreuth.

Junior Fellow

Dr. Abdelmjid Kettioui
Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco

Disciplines:

Cultural and Media Studies

Project:

Moroccan Activist Atheism in the Diaspora: The Neoliberal Politics of a Subcultural 'Non-Movement'

Host:

Professor Paula Schrode, Religious Studies



This research project aims to map out Moroccan atheist activism in the diaspora as a subcultural 'nonmovement' (Bayat 2010). Emerging in the wake of the so-called Arab Spring in 2010/ 2011, these unorganized and marginalized voices of irreligion have steadily encroached upon a religious field theretofore monopolized by the state and the Islamists. Taking atheist activist Hicham Nostik as a case study, this project is based on interviews with key atheist, secular and Islamist-leaning activists in Morocco and abroad. Nostik mobilizes the Moroccan dialect to demystify Islam's sacred Arabic texts through 'subcultural modes of knowledge production' (Kettioui 2020). Articulating an oppositional and decolonial position vis-à-vis Islam's religious authoritarianism and the Arab invasion of North Africa in the seventh century, Nostik reproduces the neoliberal and supremacist idiom of New Atheism and remains reticent about state authoritarianism and the 'coloniality of modernity' (Mignolo 2018).

Abdelmjid Kettioui is an assistant professor of English and Cultural Studies at l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes, Morocco. Abdelmjid received his PhD in Cultural Studies from the University of Fez in 2018. He had joined the DAAD-funded project 'The Maghreb in Transition: Media, Knowledge and Power' as a research fellow for three years in 2016. Abdelmjid's research focuses on Moroccan youth's subcultural modes of knowledge production at home and in the diaspora. He particularly investigates language politics, self-expressions of modernness, non-belief and activism in trans/national perspective, secularizing movements, and discourses of enlightenment from below.

Junior Fellow

Professor Violeta Radovich
University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Disciplines:

Marine Environmental Law

Project:

International ocean governance beyond national jurisdiction

Host:

Professor Eva Julia Lohse, Public Law



The research project investigates the negotiations of a new legally-binding treaty under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, aiming to protect marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. It focuses on the topics marine genetic resources and marine protected areas. The project takes into account regulation of participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) to provide their traditional knowledge. Second, the project studies negotiations in the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to the Convention on Biological Diversity for identifying and protecting ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, especially as regards IPLCs participation. Third, it analyses negotiations as of 2014 in the COPs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding the role of the Ocean and IPLCs participation. Finally, it compares and integrates the above-mentioned regulations to detect strengths and weaknesses in environmental ocean regulation and propose integrative solutions.

Violeta Radovich holds a PhD in Maritime Law and a LLM in Environmental Law from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). She is a postdoc fellow at CONICET (Argentine Council of Technical and Scientific Research) and studies marine space regulation to mitigate and adapt global climate change impacts. She attended the Summer Academy at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Radovich is a tenured Associate Professor of Environmental Law at UBA, Senior Professor and Researcher at Universidad Nacional de la Defensa (UNDEF), and Associate Professor of International Organizations at Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM).

Junior Fellow

Dr.-Ing. Gianvito Vilé
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Disciplines:

Chemical Engineering

Project:

Deciphering microkinetic relationships in single-site catalysts for sustainable chemical processes

Host:

Professor Andreas Jess, Chemical Engineering



<https://www.vile-research-group.com/>

Single-site catalysts (SSCs) represent a pinnacle in catalyst design with remarkable potential for sustainable chemical transformations. These materials isolate well-defined and accessible metal atoms within a porous heterogeneous carrier, achieving activities and selectivities matching those of traditional homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts. This area of research has received an explosion of interest in recent years, thanks to advances in catalyst design and characterization, and due to their outstanding catalytic performance. Despite their uses, no study has explored in great detail how the reaction mechanism can be a function of the SSCs structure. This research project aims to integrate the application of cutting-edge characterization methods with dedicated microkinetic modelling, in order to rationalize the kinetic response of these materials. This enables to ascertain those structure-activity relationships that are key for catalyst design and further optimize the materials structure.

Gianvito Vilé is a Group Leader at Politecnico di Milano. He graduated in Chemical Engineering and received his PhD from ETH Zurich. His research encompasses the design of novel catalytic materials for sustainable chemical technologies. In particular, he is a recognized expert in the emerging field of single-atom catalysis. For his research, he has received several awards, including the Dimistris N. Chorafas Prize from the Weizmann Institute of Sciences, the nomination as 'Influential Researcher in Chemical Engineering' by the American Society of Chemistry, the nomination as 'Emerging Chemical Engineers' by the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Felder Award.

Meet the Fellow: Dr. Justin Begley and the History of Botanical Poetics

Thanks to their shared interest in early modern scientific knowledge, Dr. Justin Begley and his host, Professor Florian Klaeger, fully capitalised on Begley's stay at the University of Bayreuth to initiate a considerable number of activities. The beginning of a promising collaboration!



Junior Fellow Justin Begley and Susanne Lopez Enriquez, Managing Director of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre

What are the foci of your joint research funded by the Fellowship?

Justin Begley: Professor Klaeger and I have joint research foci on the poetics of scientific knowledge and the applicability of scientific analogies across kingdoms and,cosms' (the microcosm and macrocosm) in different textual forms during the early modern period. Our conversations have helped to shape two major articles that I am producing. We have also organised a workshop that will bring together researchers at the University of Bayreuth. In addition, we have begun planning an international conference on 'Forms of Knowledge in Early Modern Science' that will allow us to refine our joint research programme in light of related literary and historical agendas. Our shared methodology will be

honed through this conference. In addition, we have discussed applications for several joint research grants so as to continue our collaboration in the years to come.

In what way is your work interdisciplinary, and what does interdisciplinarity mean to you?

The University of Bayreuth is home to an array of scholars working on the histories of science, knowledge, and literature. Capitalising on a shared interest in early modern scientific knowledge, the aim of Professor Klaeger's and my collaboration has been to initiate a dialogue about how scientific investigations interacted with poetics at a pivotal moment in the histories of both. This makes it an inherently interdisciplinary project, irreducible to the histories of either one discipline. Having worked consistently at the intersection of literature/philology and history, interdisciplinarity is integral to my approach.

What is in your opinion the future of your field?

Research into the history and poetics of scientific knowledge has a very exciting future. This is chiefly because, in our present moment, understanding the ways in which scientific ideas and findings are selected and conveyed to non-specialist audiences is particularly essential. I believe that the history of botanical poetics will have an equally rich future because of a revived popular concern with the functions and uses of plants. This present-day fascination with the vegetal is not only inspired by the possible medicinal value of plants, especially when it comes to treating psychological illnesses. Indeed, much of what we can learn about plants will have consequences for understanding networks, communication, and even consciousness, and thus the human/AI distinction. Going well beyond taxonomy, my work draws attention to the little-known history of speculative approaches to botany.

What does international research mobility mean to you?

Having worked at universities in two continents and six countries, mobility has been an essential component of my academic career. The challenges of the past two years, since the emergence of Covid-19, have been considerable, preventing travel for international conferences, reducing networking and funding possibilities, and slowing down essential archival work. The general shrinking of the global landscape has resulted in the closing of doors for many, especially younger and less established scholars. The academic possibilities today seem far removed from those in 2019. Then again, thanks to the commitment of institutions such as the University of Bayreuth to funding collaborative research, new and exciting connections have emerged, as in my case. I greatly hope that possibilities for international mobility continue to re-emerge, since I am convinced that in-person conferences and symposia, and the informal collaborations that so often ensue from them, are essential to academic innovation.



Fellows Justin Begley and Stephanus Muller with Susanne Lopez Enriquez, Managing Director of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre

Short Term Grants 2021

With its Short Term Grants, the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre invites scientists and scholars working abroad to spend a short research stay of one to three weeks in Bayreuth in order to engage in dialogue with a host scientist from the University of Bayreuth.

The reasons for coming to Bayreuth by means of a Short Term Grant are manifold: International researchers may initiate joint projects with Bayreuth researchers to explore potential for collaboration or they may continue and deepen promising, yet existing innovative endeavours.



Executive Director Prof. Dr. Anna Köhler and the President of the University of Bayreuth, Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible, at the first award ceremony

Overview Short Term Grants

The Short Term Grants include the reimbursement of travel costs between their institution and Bayreuth, accommodation costs in Bayreuth, as well as additional costs such as visa fees and a daily allowance. Costs will be reimbursed upon request up to a maximum of €3,500.

The selection of all Short Term Grants is made by the Executive Board of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre.

On the following pages, we present the Short Term Grantees selected in 2021.



Awardees of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre at the first award ceremony with Executive Director Prof. Dr. A. Köhler and President Prof. Dr. S. Leible



Dr. Jan Blahůt

Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Project: Influence of changing temperature patterns on the rock strength

Disciplines: Geology, Geomorphology

Host: Professor Oliver Sass, Geomorphology

Climate change will affect temperature and moisture regimes in mid-latitude regions such as Bavaria and Czech Republic. Previous studies suggest that warmer and wetter climates will accelerate rock weathering. This should affect the current rockfall hazard, as it has already been observed. However, there is a lack of data that directly quantifies the influence of temperature and climate change induced temperature change on rock strength. This short term project aims to answer the important question: How much will changes in moisture and temperature amplify the rock weathering? A series of controlled temperature loadings are performed on selected rock samples from a mild climate of Central Czechia under dry and saturated conditions. During the loading, automatic ERT, TDR and AE sensors are used to monitor moisture and cracking of the samples. Consequently, we utilise sample testing to analyse changes in the rock strength.

Dr. Huong Dieu Dang

University of Canterbury (UC), Christchurch, New Zealand

Project: Sustainability, Climate Risk and Sovereign Credit Ratings

Disciplines: Finance, Economics

Host: Professor Klaus Schäfer, Business Administration I: Finance and Banking Management



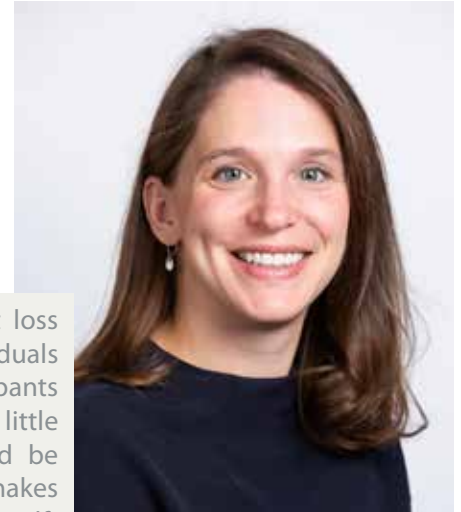
This study examines climate risk exposures, environmental awareness and attitudes toward climate risk at the country level. These factors have not been widely explored in previous studies on sovereign credit risk. In the first stage (to be conducted in 2022), we address two questions: (i) How did exposures to climate risk affect a country's sovereign rating level and rating change? and (ii) Was there a structural change in sovereign rating criteria toward more stringent ratings following the signing of the Paris Agreement? In the second stage, we examine the effect of environmental awareness on sovereign rating dynamics, and we answer this question: Did environmental awareness and attitude toward climate risk in a country moderate the effects of climate risk exposures on its rating level and rating change? This study contributes to the debates concerning the regulations on climate change and environmental risk mitigation across countries.

Professor Rebecca Krukowski
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

Project: Improving self-monitoring feedback on eating behaviour

Disciplines: Nutrition, Behavioural Science, Psychology

Host: Junior Professor Laura König, Public Health Nutrition



Dietary self-monitoring is a key predictor of success in behavioural weight loss programmes. To support greater adherence to self-monitoring and to help individuals interpret their own self-monitoring data to set effective behavioural goals, participants are typically provided with interventionist feedback. Currently, there exists little empirical evidence regarding how dietary self-monitoring feedback should be constructed, how participants interpret feedback, and what impact feedback makes on future eating behaviours. Examining perceptions of various forms of dietary self-monitoring feedback (e.g., graphical vs. written vs. oral feedback) as well as the effect of feedback on future eating behaviours provides necessary insight to inform future research on the optimal design for self-monitoring feedback.

Dr. Feng-Shu Lee
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan

Project: Discrediting Vision: Music and optical illusion in nineteenth-century Europe

Disciplines: Opera History, Theatre and Drama

Host: Professor Anno Mungen,
Research Institute for Music Theatre Studies (fmt)



This project examines how optical illusion contributes to a fresh understanding of Wagner's work. We argue that, whereas artists and scientists in post-Industrial Revolution Europe tested the manipulatable nature of human vision, Wagner found in it a source of inspiration for his critical approach to the relationship between sight and sound. His use of offstage music often appeared under the dramatic pretext of supernatural scenes involving optical illusion. We suppose that this approach derived from his larger musical concerns during his creative process. Therefore, we examine his manuscripts of *Der fliegende Holländer* in the National Wagner Archive. This study aims to broaden the understanding of the impact of optical illusion on music from the perspective of the traditions of German theatre in this context.

Meet the Grantee: Professor Nilufer Bharucha and Diasporic Literature and Culture

The Executive Board selected Professor Nilufer Bharucha in the very first call of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre in 2019. However, due to the global pandemic, it was until November 2021 that she could finally make it from India to Bayreuth. At the University of Mumbai, Professor Bharucha directs the 'Mumbai Muenster Institute of Advanced Studies'. In Bayreuth, she was happy to explore the potential for coordinated research on diasporic literature and culture together with her host, Professor Florian Klaeger (Chair of English Literature).

What are the foci of your joint research funded by the Short Term Grant?

Nilufer Bharucha: Our joint research interests focus on diasporic writing, in particular that of the vast Indian diaspora. The purpose of the visit was, first, to enter into an interdisciplinary dialogue with colleagues from Bayreuth and elsewhere on 'symbols of the future and the future of symbolism'. This topic links the study of futures and futurity with the question of methodology across disciplines, inquiring into the nature and the purpose of symbolic signification in fields as varied as ecology, philosophy, and literature. In pragmatic terms, the aim of the visit was to explore the possibility of establishing, at the University of Bayreuth, a joint research infrastructure for the study of diasporic literature.

What does international research mobility mean to you?

My visit to Bayreuth was delayed by one and a half years owing to the pandemic. I was very glad to finally come here, and to make use of what has turned out to be a small window of opportunity for such mobility. I think our work thrives on personal encounters and nuanced dialogue, which cannot be replaced by Zoom meetings forever. During my visit to Bayreuth, we laid the foundations for a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Bayreuth and the University of Mumbai, which will hopefully enable colleagues and students to reap the benefits of international mobility.



Nilufer Bharucha is Director of the Mumbai Muenster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS), formerly the CoHaB Indian Diaspora Centre. She has published widely in India and abroad on the literature and cinema of the Indian Diaspora, Law and Diaspora Literature, and the Writing of the Parsees. She is also a creative writer in English and a translator of Gujarati poetry and fiction into English.

Strategic Scientific Workshops 2021

The Bayreuth Humboldt Centre supports Strategic Scientific Workshops by Bayreuth researchers in cooperation with colleagues working at universities or research institutions abroad. All Workshops are expected to deepen existing or establish new ties with the clear objective to create sustainable pioneering research networks for the University of Bayreuth.

The Executive Board of the Bayreuth Humboldt Centre selects the Strategic Scientific Workshops once a year as the result of a competitive selection process which is strictly merit-based.



The overall selection criteria are the academic excellence of the participants and of the proposed workshop as well as its strategic significance.

The Workshop needs to take place at the University of Bayreuth for a minimum of two days. Eligible applicants are senior faculty members of the University of Bayreuth who cooperate with at least one international partner institution, preferably from strategic destinations according to the internationalisation strategy of the University of Bayreuth. The Centre may grant support up to €20,000 for the organisation of the workshop.



Collaborating Partners:

Professor Eva Julia Lohse

Chair for Public Law, University of Bayreuth

Professor Margherita Poto

Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

Dr. Giulia Parola

Faculty of Law, Federal University of Rio Grande (FURG), Brazil

Dr. Omondi Robert Owino

Law Department, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology School of Law, Nairobi, Kenya

Jane Murungi

School of Law, University of Nairobi (Kisumu campus), Kenya



Project: Co-production of knowledge in climate governance

Climate change demands solutions from multilevel and polycentric perspectives and new methods in environmental decision-making. Our 3-day-workshop sets a common framework for co-production of knowledge (CoPK) through the mapping and evaluation of existing climate-smart practices. By using an inductive and comparative approach, we explore how state and non-state actors can systematically and effectively develop ways of CoPK in order to take into account perspectives of different knowledge bearers. We assert that CoPK can successfully counter the perceived lack of effectiveness of the mostly unilateral participatory rules in administrative and international decision-making. The workshop connects the narrative of effective participation with best practices of CoPK from selected local, traditional, and indigenous communities, in selected areas affected by climate change. The long-term aim is to consolidate our international network and develop training and capacity-building materials.

Collaborating Partners:

Professor Gesine Lenore Schiewer

Chair for Intercultural German Studies, University of Bayreuth

Professor Etienne Damome

Mediation, Information, Communication, Arts (MICA), Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, France

Professor Alain Kiyindou

Director of the MICA, UNESCO Chair, Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, France

Professor Dotsé Yigbe

Linguistics and Literature Studies, Université de Lomé, Togo



Project: Languages of Participation. Interdisciplinary networking of participatory communication, information technology, ethics and social innovation.

Participatory communication and social innovation are a highly topical interdisciplinary research area at the intersection of computer science research, communication and social sciences, as well as ethics. At the international level, especially in African countries, it is of great interest for positive social, economic, and legal developments. The partner universities Bordeaux Montaigne and Bayreuth as well as the UNESCO Chair in Bordeaux have the necessary complementary research and application expertise, including extensive experience with research projects in West Africa.



„The strategy workshop allowed us to have an international working meeting where the very topical issue of participatory communication could be explored further across disciplines. In this way, we were able to advance the global networking of research in this field. This is what we can now continue to work on intensively.“ (Prof. Gesine Schiewer)

„The exchanges in Bayreuth reinforced the need to strengthen scientific cooperation between our three institutions and enabled us to identify fruitful avenues for collaboration.“ (Prof. Alain Kiyindou)

„As a doctoral student, it was a godsend to have so many experienced ears listening to me very actively during the doctoral seminar. The exchanges were rich and important. First trip to Germany, great memories...“ (Kadidja Traore, PhD Candidate)

„The exchanges in Bayreuth reinforced my interest in the theme of participatory communication. As a young researcher in Information and Communication Sciences, I remember it as an interdisciplinary and intercultural meeting. It has made me want to come back to Bayreuth as part of a post-doctoral mobility.“ (Augustin Noukafou, PhD Candidate)

„This is the first time I have been to Germany and Bayreuth. (...) In addition to the scientific interest, the intercultural dimension was very interesting during these three days of work where we also discovered other structures of the university such as the Humboldt Centre.“ (Namoin Yao Baglo)

Editing and Contact

University of Bayreuth Centre of International Excellence

“Alexander von Humboldt”

Managing Director Susanne Lopez Enriquez

Universitätsstraße 30

95447 Bayreuth

Germany

Tel.: +49 921 55-5223

E-Mail: humboldt-centre@uni-bayreuth.de

www.humboldt-centre.uni-bayreuth.de

