



PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 09.01.2023

KWI Welcomes New Cohort of Fellows

At the beginning of April, the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) will be joined by a new cohort of guests from within and beyond Germany. The fellows of the sixth cohort will be in Essen until the end of September 2023. To encourage collaborations between the fellows and members of the UA Ruhr universities, we would appreciate the circulation of this press release to your networks. For any contact requests or further information, please contact [Dr Ricarda Menn \(ricarda.menn@kwi-nrw.de\)](mailto:ricarda.menn@kwi-nrw.de).

Dr. Niklas Barth is Assistant Professor (Akademischer Rat a.Z.) at the Institute for Sociology at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. From August until November 2022, he was a visiting fellow in the German Department at Yale University. At KWI, Niklas will work on his second book project, entitled (In)Communicability: Forms, Functions and Limits of Tactful Communication.

PD. Dr. Christian Berger is a historian of modern and contemporary art. As Thyssen@KWI Fellow, Christian Berger will study examples of public art in the Ruhr area, focusing on works that directly engage with the industrial history of the respective sites instead of concealing their past use, transformation, and exploitation.

Dr. Christian Kirchmeier is Assistant Professor of European Culture and Literature at the University of Groningen. He received his Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil.) in Modern German Literature from the University of Munich and was a visiting scholar at Yale University for his postdoctoral research. At KWI, he will explore the literary and filmic representation of microtopoi.

Dr. Candela Marini is a cultural historian with a focus on nineteenth-century visual culture. She holds a PhD in Romance Studies from Duke University. During her time as an international fellow at KWI, she will work on her book manuscript, titled Images at the Front: War Photography and Visual Literacy in Argentina and Chile (1860s–1880s).

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Dr. Sanam Roohi has held various fellowships, most recently the Alexander von Humboldt fellowship at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen (2020–2023), During her time in Essen, Roohi will work on her book manuscript, tentatively titled *In Pursuit of the American Dream: Kamma Diasporic Giving and the Transnational Reproduction of Caste Capital*.

Dr. Cecilia Sebastian received her PhD in German Studies from Yale University in May 2022. She is currently working on her book manuscript, *Critical Theory in Revolt*, which charts a new history of the Frankfurt School tradition of Critical Theory through its 1960s engagement with Black and anticolonial liberation struggles and the global student movements that they inspired.

Dr. Philipp Weber studied German Literature, Philosophy, and Modern History in Münster, Berlin, and Paris. He was a Feodor Lynen Fellow at Indiana University Bloomington and is now at the Ruhr University Bochum. His research project at KWI deals with the dynamics between morality and narratives.

Detailed information about the researchers and their research interests, pictures, and CVs can be found in the attachment to this email and [on the KWI homepage](#).

ABOUT KWI INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

KWI International Fellowships are awarded for six months to excellent researchers from the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences. The Thyssen@KWI Fellowship, financed by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, is integrated into the international fellowship programme and reaches out to excellent researchers of all nationalities. Both fellowship programmes were established in 2020. The next call for applications will follow shortly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[KWI International Fellowship Programmes](#)

About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focuses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, “visual literacy” and a

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“teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

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