



## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 09.04.2024

### KWI Welcomes New Cohort of Fellows

**This April we welcome our 8th Cohort of International Fellows. Over the course of the next six months, we will be joined at KWI by six new researchers. To encourage collaborations between our guests and members of the UA Ruhr universities, we would appreciate the circulation of this press release to your networks. If you are interested in connecting with our fellows or have any questions, feel free to write [Dr Ricarda Menn](mailto:DrRicardaMenn@kwi-nrw.de) at [ricarda.menn@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:ricarda.menn@kwi-nrw.de).**

**BOJAN BAĆA** is a political and cultural sociologist whose research primarily focusses on civil society, social movements, and contentious politics. After receiving his PhD from York University in 2018, he has held postdoctoral research fellowships at the University of Graz, Charles University, Heidelberg University, and most recently at the University of Gothenburg. He is currently a research associate at the University of Montenegro. At KWI, Bojan will concentrate on developing a research grant proposal centred around epistemic practices and evidentiary activism through which mistrust, scepticism, and denial are translated into conspiracist counter-knowledge.

**PAUL BUCKERMANN** is a sociologist whose research and teaching focusses on art, politics, and science. He received his PhD from the University of Lucerne. He has held teaching and research positions at universities and art/music universities in Basel, Lucerne, Bielefeld, Zurich, Vienna, and Paderborn and has been at the University of Heidelberg since 2020. In the winter term 2023/2024, he served as a deputy chair for political sociology at the Max-Weber Institute of Sociology in Heidelberg. Recent publications focus on the history of documenta, literary criticism, cultural policy, and art rankings. As a **THYSEN&KWI FELLOW**, he will work on his project "What is Art Good For? Multiple Justifications in Boundary Work for the Arts".

**FERENC HAMMER** has been an associate professor in the Media and Communications Department at ELTE University in Budapest since 1997. His teaching areas, research fields, and project topics comprise disinformation, media representations of inequalities and conflict, cultural history areas such as everyday life in Communism, or the sociology of consumption. He has worked as a scholar in the UK, USA, and Germany. His most recent work addresses certain dimensions of silencing, self-censorship, and intimidation in academia. This approach involves a plan for implementing a mentoring system designed for scholars at risk.

**MINWOO JUNG** is an assistant professor of sociology, women's studies, and gender studies at Loyola University Chicago. He is a sociologist whose work centres on gender, sexuality, race, and empire, with an emphasis on political activism and knowledge

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production. His research is situated at the intersection of the sociology of gender and sexualities, political sociology, and global and transnational sociology. At KWI, he will work on his first book project, which examines the conditions and consequences of sexuality politics in Asia from a comparative perspective.

**ANCA MANDRU** is a research fellow at the University of Birmingham, where she taught modern European history and is part of the project “The Liminality of Failing Democracy: East Central Europe During the Interwar Slump”. She received her PhD in Eastern European History in 2019 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At KWI, she will work on her book project, provisionally entitled Fiction as History: Literature and the Making of a Leftist Culture in Romania (1880–1939). Her research explores the relationship between literature, history, and politics, examining the interplay between literary traditions and political cultures.

**HANNAH RICHTER** is a lecturer in politics at the University of Sussex, where she researches and teaches contemporary critical political thought. She received her PhD from the University of Kent in 2019. Hannah’s research explores how post foundational philosophy, usually associated with genealogies of knowledge and ontological critique, can help us understand and formulate responses to the practical challenges contemporary democracies face. At KWI, she will continue her research on post-truth populism. Her project comparatively explores the political ideologies of key conspiracies that shaped 20th and 21st-century democratic politics to gain insight into the distinct logic of contemporary conspiratorial populism.

Detailed information about the researchers and their research interests, pictures, and CVs can be found [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 KWI 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.

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

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de/en](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de/en)

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