

FRIAS Express - Dezember 2022



Dear FRIAS Community,

when faced with sweeping changes, it can be difficult to transition smoothly into a new chapter, can't it? Not in our case. The takeover by the new board of directors in October has been a collaborative and harmonious affair which allowed us to continue what we dedicated ourselves to do: organising interesting discussions in our well-established formats, trying to offer our fellows and groups the best surroundings possible for conducting their research, and keeping in touch with our community. But of course we won't stay still, either - otherwise there would be no reason to keep you updated in this newsletter. Have a wonderful Christmas time and stay tuned for what's to come!

CHANGEOVER AT THE FRIAS BOARD



As of October 1, classical archaeologist Ralf von den Hoff has assumed the office of full-time director at FRIAS. The new board is completed by part-time speakers Veronika Lipphardt and Barbara Di Ventura. During a festive ceremony in November companions have bid farewell to Bernd Kortmann and the former board of directors.

["I am leaving with a smile in both eyes"](#)

[New FRIAS Board of Directors presents its plans](#)

LUNCH LECTURES

FRIAS Lunch Lecture Series 22/23

Freedom of Scientific Research: Demands, Challenges and Limits



While research facts become increasingly important for political decisions, [research freedom is increasingly under pressure](#). One of this semester's FRIAS Interdisciplinary Colloquia with our fellows addressed this topic on December 13. And this semester's Lunch Lectures are considering the question of Academic Freedom from different angles. On December 22, our Nigerian based fellow Zainab Shallangwa will rethink Academic Freedom in fettered spaces from the perspectives of a Female African Researcher. Join our discussion at the University of Freiburg!

[More information](#)

FOCUS ON OUR FELLOWS



© Bernhard Strauss. Proxy 38, Detail, 2021/2022, Buntstifte auf Wand, 220 x 800 cm

Artist in Residence at FRIAS

Katrin von Lehmann, fellow at our Young Academy for Sustainability Research (YAS), resided at FRIAS as an 'Artist in Residence' from September to October. Inside the FRIAS building, she worked on her experimental drawing on sustainability on one of the office walls. She plans to present her work in an art exhibition in Freiburg in 2023. Stay tuned!

News, Publications & Awards

FRIAS will host Distinguished Fellow **Jürgen Osterhammel** until the end of 2025. As part of the Balzan funding, he will continue organising masterclasses on Global History.

Distinguished Fellow **Hans Joas** has received the award for scientific lifetime achievement from the German Society for Sociology (DGS) as well as a honorary doctorate by Peter-Pázmányi-University Budapest.

FRIAS-Alumna **Janet Johnson** (January 2020 - May 2020) has received the Heldt Prize 2022 for best book in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian women's and gender studies.

A [new article on urban tree planting initiatives](#) by our fellow and YAS-member **Rita Sousa-Silva** and colleagues has been published in the journal 'Landscape and Urban Planning'.

Departures and Arrivals at FRIAS

The following fellows are new at FRIAS or have left us/will leave us soon.

Arrivals

Alexandr Khechumyan (Central European University Budapest, Law)

Giorgia Alu (University of Sydney, Italian Studies/History)

Departures

Oksana Mykhalchuk (Potebnia Institute of Linguistics, Linguistics)

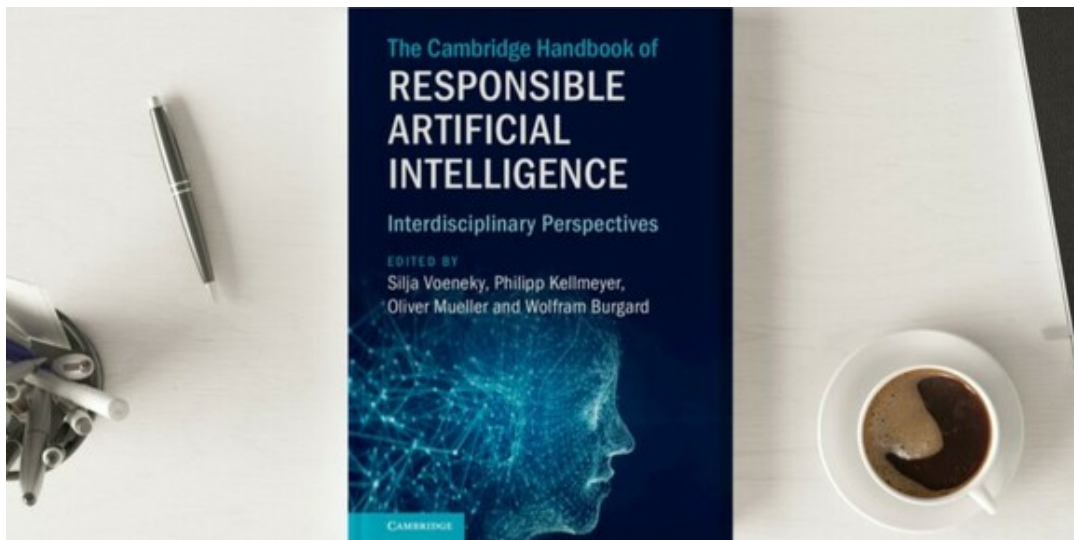
Nataliia Malynovska (National University of Ostroh, Politics)

Sebastian Wogenstein (University of Connecticut, Human Rights and Literature)

Karsten Schubert (University of Freiburg, Politics)

Marit Rosol (University of Würzburg, Geography).

HANDBOOK ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



The former FRIAS Saltus! Group “Responsible Artificial Intelligence” around Silja Vöneky, Philipp Kellmeyer, Oliver Müller and Wolfram Burgard has presented the "Cambridge Handbook of Responsible Artificial Intelligence" at FRIAS in October. This work provides a wide variety of transdisciplinary perspectives on Artificial Intelligence and discusses pressing governance challenges posed by AI and AI systems.

[More information on the Book](#)

ARTICLE ON FRIAS IN "EU RESEARCH“



Our Co-Fund Fellowship Programme has brought leading researchers from all disciplines to Freiburg to exchange with local researchers. In doing so, it has fostered new projects and set up consistent networks. An article in the magazine "EU Research" points out the achievements of the programme and how it is implemented into FRIAS.

[Read the article](#)

STAUDINGER LECTURE WITH BRUCE BEUTLER



In October we hosted immunologist Bruce Beutler, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2011 for the 29th edition of our Staudinger Lecture. Mr Beutler, currently Director of the Center for Genetics of Host Defense at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, gave us a very personal insight into his personal origins, his motivation to become a natural scientist and his academic career which made him cross Freiburg several times.

[Video on our Media Library](#)

CONFERENCE ON RADICAL DEMOCRACY



In a time of transformation of the political, what role should theories of radical democracy play in regard to right-wing populism, authoritarianism and cleavages over "identity politics" or conspiracy theories? This was the topic of a well-attended hybrid FRIAS conference, organized by FRIAS fellow Karsten Schubert and other researchers early into their careers.

[Conference report \(German\)](#)

Director's Corner



Down fell the curtain of the Kortmann era at FRIAS at the end of the last 'Director's Corner' of September 2022. Up went the curtain for the next board of directors on 1 October 2022! I am glad to serve as the new Executive Director of FRIAS together with Barbara Di Ventura and Veronika

Lipphardt as the new co-directors. Let me start with our warm thanks to Bernd Kortmann, Annegret Wilde and Günther Schulze as the former board of directors and to the entire FRIAS team for making this transition so easy and smooth. We celebrated the former board's farewell very appropriately on 2 November – not the least with a lively evening reception at FRIAS that was well attended by many university members, friends, supporters, alumni/ae and fellows. You will find some pictures of the festivities [here](#).

Barbara, Veronika, and I took over FRIAS with no need for fundamental renewals. Rather, we would like to follow the path of the previous board: in the midst of our university, dedicated to supporting the excellent research of our fellows, enabling new research ideas and creating a stimulating atmosphere of academic freedom and interdisciplinarity. Last but not least, I will do my best to maintain DC (as Bernd lovingly called it) as an informative and entertaining format for all friends of FRIAS.

And so, as 2022 is coming to an end, what has been in the FRIAS news lately? First, after two years of remote activities, FRIAS is almost completely back in the 'presence mode': what a relief! The well attended 'Staudinger Lecture' by immunologist and 2011 Nobel Laureate Bruce Beutler on 5 October was an impressive proof of the attractiveness of our in-person public events. In November, we also re-started the FRIAS Lunch Lectures. This semester they are dedicated to 'Freedom of Research' well worth being discussed across disciplinary and national boundaries. Furthermore, we have re-introduced lunch@FRIAS every Monday in the FRIAS Lounge, thus strengthening exchange within our FRIAS community.

From 5-7 October, FRIAS' 'Young Academy for Sustainability Research' (YAS) held its 5th meeting at FRIAS. For me, this was yet another perfect introduction to what FRIAS stands for: creative research projects of an international and interdisciplinary group of 18 early career researchers who dedicate their studies to meeting the challenges of climate and environmental change. The first YAS' 'Artist in Residence' was another great experience. From September to October, Katrin von Lehmann spent the last two months of her fellowship at FRIAS. In dialogue with the YAS members, she finished her experimental drawing on sustainability, which still adorns one of our building's north wing office walls. In 2023, Katrin's work will hopefully be on show in an art exhibition in Freiburg. If you are interested, keep an eye on further information on our homepage.

Of course, the 2022/23 FRIAS Fellows' arrival was the most important news in late September and October. For almost 20 fellows FRIAS has become home for the next months, with some having arrived earlier in 2022 and more arriving from February/March 2023 onwards. We do our best to support their research in an encouraging manner. In her greetings to the new fellows at the traditional Evening Fellow Welcome on 12 October, Internal Fellow Eva von Contzen compared FRIAS to Alice's Wonderland where unexpected things keep popping up: another new FRIAS director's inspiration to be thought of in the future. The Fellow Retreat on 13 and 14 October was the starting point for forming this academic year's fellow community. It was held in the 'Black Forest Studios' at Kirchzarten, with a vista on (and walk in) the hilly nature surrounding Freiburg.

Since then, it has been great to attend our Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) colloquium at FRIAS in person. The Natural Science Colloquia will be following early in 2023. As of next semester, we will unite both colloquia in order to further stimulate the exchange across academic cultures, which is a core idea of FRIAS, after all.

Not everything can be mentioned that has enriched life at FRIAS since September. In October, our 2022/23 Internal Junior Fellow Karsten Schubert from the University of Freiburg's department of political sciences organized a FRIAS Junior Researcher Conference on 'Transformation of the Political and Theories of Radical Democracy'. However, after only two months at FRIAS, he had to leave us already before his fellowship ended in order to take on a permanent position in the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth – unfortunate for the FRIAS community, a great opportunity for him, and thus a success story. Finally, as always, fellows and alumni/ae are harvesting the fruits of their research at FRIAS in other ways, too. I only want to point to the publication of the 'Cambridge Handbook of Responsible Artificial Intelligence', which we 'launched' on 26 October at FRIAS, edited by the members of a former Saltus! Group, which started at FRIAS in 2018. Congratulations!

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, there are many good reasons to look into the future of FRIAS optimistically. Hopefully, the new year will also bring better news from Ukraine and other war and crisis areas around the world, where not only research and researchers are at risk. In this sense, dear fellows, board members, alumni/ae, and friends of FRIAS, in the name of the entire team let me send you warm greetings and wish you a Happy New Year 2023.

FOLLOW US:



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