



## FRIAS Express - May 2024

Dear FRIAS Community,

two weeks into the summer semester 2024, many of our event series are already in full swing. And yet there are still a few highlights to come. Enjoy Reading!

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### New Perspectives on Sustainability Research



The upcoming FRIAS Lunch Lectures on 'SustainAbilities' will bring together speakers from various disciplines and contexts of Sustainability Research. They will showcase best practice examples to foster inter- and transdisciplinary exchange. The lectures will commence on May 2, 2024, at 12 pm. Talks last 30 minutes, followed by discussion, exchange, and snacks in the FRIAS lounge. All are welcome.

[More information](#)

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### From Hamas to University's Role in Democracy



At the semester's first "Freiburger Horizonte" event, historian and journalist Joseph Croitoru provided us with an overview of the history of Hamas and its role in the Middle East conflict. On May 7, philosopher Amrei Bahr will discuss the role of the university during times when our democracy is under threat. Additionally, Amrei Bahr will lead a workshop on working conditions in the German academic system for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers. Registration for the workshop ends on April 30. Both events will be held in German.

[More information on Freiburger Horizonte "Wissenschaft mit Haltung"](#)

[More information on the workshop "3 Jahre #IchbinHanna"](#)

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## Balzan - FRIAS Lecture on Iberian History



On May 23 at 4:15 pm, Juan Pimentel from the Instituto de Historia, CSIC, Madrid, will deliver the Balzan - FRIAS Lecture. He will explore some of the trends, topics and problems faced by the history of science in the early modern Iberian world, at the intersection of traditional imperial history, contemporary postcolonial debates, and global history.

[More information](#)

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## Focus on our Fellows



### News, Publications & Awards

A glimpse into some recent achievements of the current fellow cohort:

Our Senior Fellow [Massimo Leone](#) has been nominated [Ordinary Member of the Academia Europaea](#), in the class of Art History and Musicology, and with an affiliation with the class of Philosophy, Theology, and Religious Studies.

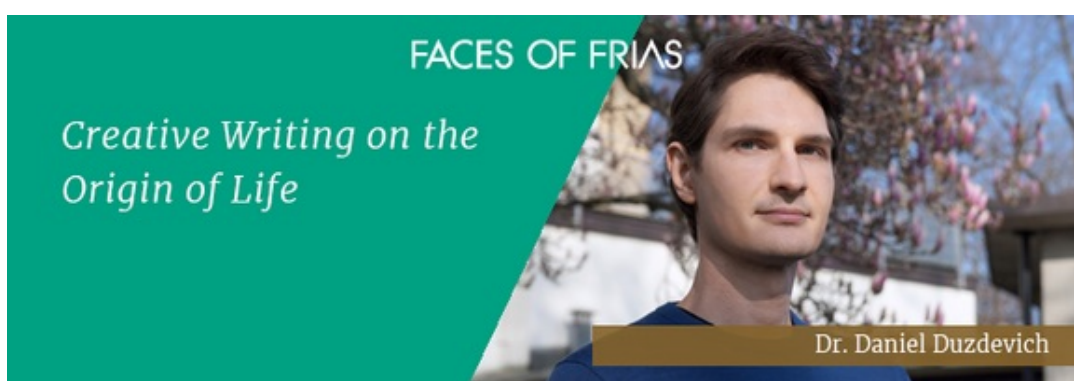
Senior Fellow [Anika Walke](#) was appointed as the inaugural Askwith Family Associate Professor of Holocaust Studies at Carnegie Mellon University, starting August 2025. Her [latest publication](#) was an article for a comprehensive anthology of the politics of Holocaust Memory.

Junior Fellow [Hans-Christian Riechers](#) is the editor of a recently published [book](#) featuring two early biographies of explorer Georg Wilhelm Steller, who participated in the Second Kamchatka Expedition, sailed across the Pacific with Vitus Bering, and was the first European to set foot in Alaska.

[Karola Kreitmair](#) (Senior Fellow 2022/23) was awarded the Vilas Associates Competition Award for "new and ongoing research of the highest quality and significance". We are looking forward to welcome Karola back at FRIAS as part of the [Alumni programme](#) in June 2024.

Junior Fellow [Maria Sulimma](#) has successfully received funding through the Margarete von Wrangell Junior Professorship Program of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts (MWK) of Baden-Württemberg. The program seeks to enable highly qualified women scientists at the universities and colleges to qualify for professorial appointments.

## Faces of FRIAS No. 8: Daniel Duzdevich



Where do we come from? How did life start? Our Fellow Daniel Duzdevich is a molecular biologist researching these fundamental questions. He typically delves into this inquiry within the confines of the laboratory until he realizes that comprehending the origin of life necessitates the inclusion of language. In the eighth issue of our series Faces of FRIAS, he gives us an understanding of his research.

[Read the interview](#)

## YAS-Podcast: Second season in the starting blocks



The upcoming second season of the podcast series "YAS!" will deal with the expansion of solar energy in Baden-Württemberg. In the first season, YAS members shared insights into diverse topics within sustainability research, offering a detailed look at their ongoing projects.

[Listen and subscribe to "YAS!"](#)

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## Director's Corner

Spring in Freiburg arrived surprisingly (without lasting), while snowfall has followed the early April blossoming of the magnolia tree in front of the FRIAS building – which I can never avoid mentioning in my spring DC. However, life at FRIAS has already reached a peak of the Academic Year. In April 2024, nearly 25 Fellows attended our regular springtime Fellows' Retreat, serving as an excellent kick-off for coming together and discussing challenges and needs of interdisciplinary communication and debates. What kind of "common ground" does interdisciplinarity need? How can we identify comparative and mutually productive topics? To what extent should performances of disciplinary knowledge be complemented by questioning disciplinary stereotypes? It was one of these vibrant moments of mutually productive exchange FRIAS stands for.

Another semester kick-off-highlight came with the Freiburger Horizonte series, our public discussion forum taking on issues of high relevance to society. Journalist and Historian Joseph Croitoru delivered a perfectly balanced and highly informative presentation and discussion on his 2024 book about "Die Hamas". This event showcases how "The Unconditioned University" (Jacques Derrida) could be like. At the next session, Amrei Bahr, a junior professor in philosophy at the University of Stuttgart and an increasingly sought-after voice in science policy debates, will discuss another highly debated question of today: What could be the position of universities when democracies are under threat? Back in 2021, Amrei Bahr co-initiated a crucial debate about the precarious situation of many early career researchers, particularly at German Universities (#IchBinHanna). Therefore, following her Freiburger Horizonte lecture, FRIAS will host a workshop for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers from the University of Freiburg on this topic.



As ever, thanks go to all contributing to these activities and making FRIAS such a lively, research oriented and out-reaching institution. This not only includes our Fellows, Alumni/ae and highly engaged Board Members, but particularly the great in-house team working constantly for our FRIAS mission. Have a perfect start into the summer, and get in touch with us if there are any ideas, questions or needs.

With best and warm regards,

Ralf von den Hoff



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