



## COLLEGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Newsletter #3 / 2024

# COLLEGE CONDENSED



## CONTENTS

- **News**
- **Features**
- **Meet the College**
- **Events**
- **Publications**
- **Review & Preview**

### Dear reader,

The College is growing: we warmly welcome Professor Tahani Nadim who has joined the College in October, taking up the research professorship 'Curating Digital Objects of Cultural Knowledge and Memory'. The versed sociologist of science will focus on memory cultures in digital transformation.

Moreover, our very first cohort of Senior Fellows completed their research stays at the College by the end of the summer. They share their impressions in a feature article

on our website. Eight new visiting scholars from around the world have already followed in their footsteps – you will “meet” them in this newsletter.

Also, we highly recommend you to cast a look at our event calendar for this winter and the latest articles in our FEATURES section, and to browse through the latest publications by our former fellows.

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## NEWS

### Announcements and updates



### Newly Appointed: Tahani Nadim Investigates Memory Cultures in Digital Transformation

**With Tahani Nadim, Ruhr University Bochum and the College for Social Sciences and Humanities have gained a versed sociologist of science with a strong interdisciplinary profile for a research professorship in digital humanities.**

In October 2024, the sociologist of science Tahani Nadim has taken up the research professorship ‘Curating Digital Objects of Cultural Knowledge and Memory’, which is based at the Institute of Art History of Ruhr University Bochum and is part of the College for Social Sciences and Humanities. She will investigate how digital technologies and digital curating practices affect memory cultures. “Preserving memories and having access to them is essential for people’s sense of self, for their right to self-determination and democratic participation“, Nadim says.

[Learn more](#)



## College Welcomes Second Cohort of Senior Fellows

Eight outstanding international scholars from universities in Israel, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the USA are joining the College as Senior Fellows for the winter term 2024/2025. On 18 September, the College welcomed the visiting scholars and some of their tandem partners in Essen.

[Learn more](#)



## PostdocLab Working Groups Start Projects

Three working groups with researchers from the University Alliance Ruhr have taken up their projects on AI in science communication, civic education, and conflicts over urban space. They receive funding for 1.5 years as part of the College's PostdocLab programme.

[Learn more](#)

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## FEATURES

[New feature articles](#)

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In the FEATURES section, we provide insights into the research and activities at the College, display different perspectives within the social sciences and humanities, and spotlight individual researchers with their projects.



## Interview

### How to Write for Publication and Grant Applications

Writing for publication and securing research funding are crucial skills for academics and researchers. How can early-career scholars in the social sciences successfully plan and navigate their publication projects and grant applications? Senior and junior researchers share insights and recommendations.

[Learn more](#)



## Policy Brief

### Developing Social Innovation Digital Ecosystems

A Social Innovation Digital Ecosystem (SIDE) is a dynamic community of actors united by a common goal, addressing societal challenges through a collaborative, inclusive, and open process. The policy brief by former Senior Fellow Douglas Wegner and Jürgen Howaldt (TU Dortmund University) provides recommendations for practitioners and policymakers.

[Learn more](#)



## Interview

### Fellows' Farewell Feature: Perspectives of the First Senior Fellows

The first group of international Senior Fellows completed their research stays at the College in August. What are their perspectives on their hosting institution, the University Alliance Ruhr, and the Ruhr region? In this interview, eight of them share their impressions, personal views, and experiences.

[Learn more](#)

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## MEET THE COLLEGE

### Introducing new College members and Senior Fellows



#### Prof. Tahani Nadim

##### Research Professor 'Curating Digital Objects of Cultural Knowledge and Memory'

We warmly welcome our new research professor Tahani Nadim to the College. She has previously held a junior professorship in social and cultural anthropology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in a joint appointment with the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN). At the MfN she co-lead the 'Centre for the Humanities of Nature', which she co-founded in 2018. She was spokesperson and coordinator (together with Meike Hopp, TU Berlin) of the joint research project 'Museums and society: mapping the social' (2020–2024). She has worked as a programme manager at the Women's Art Library in London, an editor at Black Dog Publishing and a researcher in Goldsmiths Library (Open Access, data models and institutional repositories). She also curated exhibitions, collaborated with artists and runs the experimental research unit 'Bureau for Troubles'.

Tahani Nadim holds a PhD in sociology of science from Goldsmiths, University of London, UK. Her interdisciplinary research has focused on the politics of data, digitisation and collections, specifically in the context of natural history and biodiversity sciences. Her recent work engages with questions of conservation and preservation, silences in/of memory cultures and the role of archives in human-environment relations.

[Learn more](#)



Ahmad H.  
Sa'di



Imke  
Meyer



Patrício V.  
Langa



Zethu  
Matebeni



© Saskia Uppenkamp

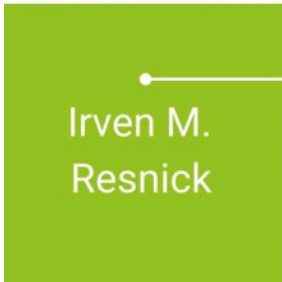


Foluke O.  
Unuabonah



© Catarina Rodrigues

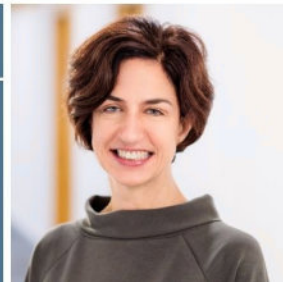
Althea  
Greenan



Irvén M.  
Resnick



Heidi  
Schlipphacke



Eight international Senior Fellows are working on intriguing research projects at the College during the winter term, together with tandem partners from Ruhr University Bochum, TU Dortmund University, and the University of Duisburg-Essen.

### **Dr Althea Greenan**

Goldsmiths, University of London (UK) |  
Curator

### **Prof. Patrício V. Langa**

Eduardo Mondlane University  
(Mozambique) | Sociology, Comparative  
Higher Education, Science and Policy  
Studies

### **Prof. Zethu Matebeni**

University of Fort Hare (South Africa) |  
Gender and Queer Studies, Sociology

### **Prof. Imke Meyer**

University of Illinois Chicago (USA) |  
German Studies

### **Prof. Irvén M. Resnick**

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
(USA) | Philosophy and Religion

### **Prof. Ahmad H. Sa'di**

Ben Gurion University (Israel) | Political  
Sociology

### **Prof. Heidi Schlipphacke**

University of Illinois Chicago (USA) |  
German Studies

### **Prof. Foluke O. Unuabonah**

Redeemer's University (Nigeria) |  
English Linguistics

Learn more about the projects

## EVENTS

November 2024 – February 2025

We cordially invite you to participate in our events and hope to see you at the College in Essen or online.



### Conference

#### Inclinations: Männerfreundschaften / Frauenfreundschaften

21–23 Nov. 2024 | Essen

This international conference explores literary and cultural representations of queer intimacies and inclinations in German-language literature and culture. It focuses on periods preceding the mid-19th-century solidification of terms purporting to catalogue, define and contain sexual difference. Please register by 17 Nov.

Learn more



### Emerging Scholars Workshop

#### GENDER ∩ DIVERSITY ∩ QUEER STUDIES

25 Nov. 2024 | Essen

Please register by 17 Nov.

Learn more

## SAVE THE DATE



### Mini-Conference

#### Albert the Great on Health, Disease, and Disability

13–14 Jan. 2025 | Essen, hybrid

Our Senior Fellow Irven M. Resnick and his tandem partner Alexandra Cuffel (TU Dortmund University) will host a two-day mini-conference on Albertus Magnus.

### Workshop

#### Discourse-Pragmatic Variation in Postcolonial English Contexts (DVPEC)

6–7 Feb. 2025

This international workshop, organised by our Senior Fellow Foluke Unuabonah (Redeemer's University, Nigeria) and her tandem partner Christiane Meierkord (Ruhr University Bochum), will focus on discourse-pragmatic variation in a wide variety of communicative interactions within postcolonial English contexts.

## REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS (selection)

### Feminist Foreign and Development Policy: Key to Transformation or Exercise in Branding?





More than a dozen countries worldwide have adopted a feminist foreign policy to date, although some of them, such as Sweden, later renounced it. In an insightful and lively panel discussion, which took place at the College on 25 June 2024 in cooperation with the Institute for Development and Peace (INEP, University of Duisburg-Essen), experts from government and academia exchanged views and elucidated various facets of feminist foreign and development policies. The recent developments in Germany, in contrast to other countries such as Canada, were at the centre of the discussion.

>> [Read the full event review](#)

## Decolonial Ecology: Literary and Cultural Representations in the Global South



In the hybrid workshop on 'Decolonial Ecology' on 25 and 26 July 2024, organised by our former Senior Fellow Sule E. Egya, scholars from Nigeria, India, Cameroon, Uganda, Germany, and the Netherlands discussed the entanglement of ecology and coloniality from different perspectives. The presentations shed light on how literary and cultural artists in Africa and Asia represent and interpret indigenous and local ecological practices and perspectives that were marginalised under colonial rule. The participants discussed how these concepts of ecology and interacting with nature can be understood as a counter-discourse to universalised forms of Western knowledge systems and, in view of current environmental crises, could show other ways of shaping the relationship between humans and the environment.

>> [LinkedIn post with photos](#)



Several of our former Senior Fellows have recently published new articles in recognised journals: on the nexus of ecology and decoloniality, on strategic bureaucracy in university governance, and on country ownership and LGBTQI+ inclusion in hostile environments.

**'When development cooperation principles clash: Country ownership and LGBTQI+ inclusion in hostile environments'**

*Journal of International Development* 36(7)

Brown, S. (2024)

[Read the full article \(open access\)](#)

**'Ecology and Decoloniality: Reading the Natural World in Twentieth-Century African Literature'**

*Scrutiny2. Issues in English Studies in Southern Africa*

Egya, S. E. (2024)

[Read the full article](#)

**'Developing Social Innovation Digital Ecosystems (SIDE): Recommendations for Practitioners and Policymakers'**

Wegner, D. / Howaldt, J. (2024)

[Read the full policy brief \(open access\)](#)

**'Strategic Bureaucracy: The Convergence of Bureaucratic and Strategic Management Logics in the Organizational Restructuring of Universities'**

*Minerva. A Review of Science, Learning and Policy*

Woelert, P. / Stensaker, B. (2024)

[Read the full article \(open access\)](#)

**'The Sequence Effect and its Impact on Cooperation, Conflicts, and Conflict Management in IT Freelancer-Client Relationships'**

*Negotiation and Conflict Management Research* 17(3)

Bassyouny, M. / Ehlen, R. / Wilkesmann, M. / Ruiner, C. / Apitzsch, B. / Schulz, L. (2024)

[Read the full article \(open access\)](#)

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## REVIEW & PREVIEW

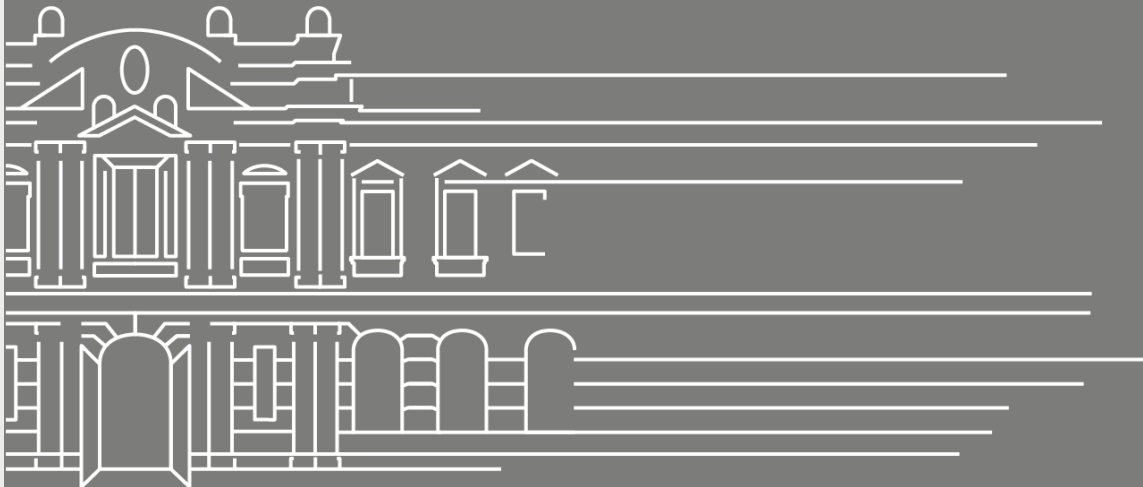
### Looking back and ahead

#### Review:

- With the **PostdocLab**, the College launched a new funding programme for postdoctoral researchers from the University Alliance Ruhr. It is designed to foster intensive cross-university collaboration in the social sciences and humanities and support early-career researchers in further developing their academic profiles and networks. Detailed information about the working groups are now available on our website. [Learn more](#)

Until the next newsletter is issued, please check our [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#) for all current news and events.

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### Feedback & Contact

We value your feedback and will gladly answer your questions.

[Contact us](#)



## COLLEGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

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