



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation



HUMBOLDT RESIDENCY PROGRAMME
Cohort 2022
Annual Topic: Social Cohesion



HUMBOLDT RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

New Challenges Need New Ideas

The numerous challenges facing us today – such as climate change, the emergence of zoonoses and the current COVID-19 pandemic – clearly demonstrate that the benefits to society as well as the visibility of scientifically generated knowledge partly depend on sharing ideas with other sectors of society. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s network is uniquely able to bring together international thought-leaders with differing perspectives and experience on specific topics.

Headed by annually changing hosts, the Humboldt Residency Programme seeks to bring together Humboldtians and other researchers with actors in civil society, journalists, entrepreneurs and artists to work on a common topic during the residency.

In the form of media formats, events and publications, this programme aims to generate tangible new impetus in academia, society and politics. The programme reinforces innovation by transdisciplinary cooperation beyond the boundaries of science.

Cynthia Miller-Idriss (Host)

Professor (Sociology)



Cynthia Miller-Idriss is a Professor in the Schools of Public Affairs and Education at American University in Washington, DC, where she runs the Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab (PERIL). She regularly briefs national legislatures and global security, education, and intelligence agencies on trends in domestic violent extremism and strategies for prevention and disengagement. Her most recent book is “Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right”. Cynthia Miller-Idriss writes frequently for mainstream audiences, as an opinion columnist for MSNBC and in recent by-lines in The New York Times, Foreign Affairs, The Washington Post, and more. She holds a BA from Cornell University and an MPP in Public Policy, MA and PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan. Twitter: @milleridriss.

Publication(s)

- Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right (Princeton University Press, 2022)
- The Extreme Gone Mainstream (Princeton University Press, 2018)
- Blood and Culture (Duke University Press, 2009)

Social Cohesion (annual topic 2022)

What is it that holds the world together? If we follow current developments around the globe, this question seems more urgent than ever. The rise in populist and authoritarian activity, increasing polarisation in the media, hate speech, right-wing radicalism and religious conflicts are eroding democratic life and social cohesion. At the same time, science, art and politics have a special responsibility in explaining anti-democratic structures and connecting knowledge for the benefit of the community as a whole.

The Humboldt Residency Programme is designed not only to sound out current trends in social division but also new forms of (virtual) communitarianism in its academic contexts whilst, at the same time, addressing them in a creative and communicative fashion. By launching the Humboldt Residency Programme in spring 2022, the Humboldt Foundation is sending a signal on behalf of communality and cross-disciplinary collaborations both on the level of content and structure.

Amina Atiq

Poet, Performance Artist and Producer



Amina Atiq is a Yemeni-British international poet, performance artist, creative workshop-practitioner, independent producer and award-winning citizenship community activist. She was a BBC Words First Finalist in 2019, an Associate and Anti-racism Advisory member for Curious Minds, Artist fellow for the Dadafest International, and member of the Weston Jerwood Creative programme. In 2020 she produced a short documentary “Unheard Voices – capturing the stories of Yemeni Shopkeepers” which was successfully screened and translated in Arabic at Belquees TV. In 2021 she produced a Yemeni Artist Exchange Day in Egypt, Cairo funded by DadaFest exploring the themes of diaspora and war-torn Yemen.

Her current project is a new public-poetry work in collaboration with 20 Stories High, working closely with Muslim Young people across Merseyside, UK. Twitter: @AminaAtiqpoetry.

Publication(s)

- Rewriting the North: Amina Atiq (The Portico Podcast, January 17, 2022)
- My Heart-Home Land (TEDxLSTM, January 8, 2020)
- The face of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen has died – let that be a wake-up call to us all (Independent, November 4, 2018)

Meili Criezis

Doctoral Student (Justice, Law and Criminology)



Meili Criezis is a Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL) Graduate Research Assistant and a PhD student in Justice, Law, and Criminology at American University. Before joining the PERIL team, she worked at the Mayor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security in Houston, Texas where she monitored extremist online communications and researched community resiliency initiatives. She is a Global Network on Extremism & Technology (GNET) Contributor and an Accelerationism Research Consortium (ARC) Fellow.

Her research focuses on Islamic State propaganda, gender and extremism, and extremist activities in online spaces. Twitter: @malikacoexist54.

Publication(s)

- Al-Qaeda’s Algerian Strategy: Attempts to Co-opt the Hirak and Rehabilitate the Salafi-Jihadi Image (International Center for Counter-Terrorism, March 31, 2022)
- ‘Many Sisters Wish They Were Men’: Gendered Discourse and Themes in pro-ISIS Online Communities (Journal for Deradicalization, No. 25: Winter Issue 2020/21)
- Online Deceptions: Renegotiating Gender Boundaries on ISIS Telegram (Perspectives on Terrorism, Volume 14, Issue 1)

Pasha Dashtgard

Doctoral Candidate (Social Psychology)



Pasha Dashtgard is the Director of Research for the Polarization and Extremism Research Innovation Lab (PERIL). He is currently a PhD candidate in Social Psychology in the Department of Psychological Science at the University of California, Irvine, and formerly a postdoctoral Research Fellow at Loyola Marymount University's Psychology Applied Research Center (PARC). He has a MA in Mental Health Counseling and an EdM in Education from Columbia University, Teacher's College. Pasha's research interests span masculinities, online radicalization, PTSD, and large-scale mental health service delivery. Current research projects include creating a scale to measure male supremacy, and developing prevention-focused interventions for extremism for a wide range of audiences.

Publication(s)

- Maintaining a healthy democracy (Manuscript under review)
- Inoculating against persuasion by scientific racism propaganda: The moderating roles of propaganda form and subtlety (Manuscript under review, 2021)
- The body in isolation: The physical health impacts of incarceration in solitary confinement (PLoS One, October 2020)

Julia Elad-Strenger

Professor (Political Psychology)



Julia Elad-Strenger is a political psychologist at the department of Political Studies, Bar Ilan University, Israel. Her research focuses on the psychology of political ideology and on the role of group processes, group norms and social identity concerns in shaping political attitudes and policy preferences, particularly in the context of intra- and international intergroup conflict. As an interdisciplinary researcher, her research integrates psychological and political scholarship and methodology, employs a broad range of quantitative methodologies, from large N-surveys to lab experiments, and includes comparative analyses in the Middle Eastern, Western-European and US contexts.

Publication(s)

- Out of sight, out of mind: The emotional determinant of "harmful inaction" intergroup conflict (Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 101, 2022)
- "Pinkwashing" the Radical-Right: Gender and the mainstreaming of radical-right policies and actions (European Journal of Political Research 61, 2022)
- Is disgust a conservative emotion? (Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, 46(6), 2020).

Nikola Karasová

Postdoctoral Researcher (History and Migration Studies)



Nikola Karasová is a Research Fellow in the ERC project “Unlikely refuge? Refugees and Citizens in East-Central Europe in the 20th century” at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences. She investigates refugees to Cold War Czechoslovakia, focusing on the social history of refugeedom, humanitarianism, and citizenship. Having specialized in political extremism, populism, and conspiracy theories in Greece, she earned her PhD in 2021 from Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) and Aristotle University (Thessaloniki, Greece). She joined the COST action Comparative Approaches to Conspiracy Theories (2016-2019) and the project “Beyond Hegemonic Narratives and Myths. Troubled Pasts in the History and Memory of East-Central and South-East Europe” (2017-2019). Twitter: @NiKarasova

Publication(s)

- The Holocaust Museum of Greece, Thessaloniki: In Whose Memory? (Nationalities Papers, 2022 forthcoming)
- Řecko [Greece] (Populismus v časech krize [Populism in the Time of Crisis], 2017)
- Lidový svaz – Zlatý úsvit: Řecká krajní pravice v době krize [People’s Association – Golden Dawn: Greek Far-Right in Times of Crisis] (Neograeca Bohemica 16, 2016)

Lea Kuhar

Postdoctoral Researcher (Philosophy)



Lea Kuhar is a philosopher. Between 2016 and 2020 she worked as a young researcher at the Institute of Philosophy ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana. During this time, she received a DAAD grant to realize a part of her research at the Universität der Künste, Berlin. Her research interests are related to Marxism, epistemology, and contemporary political philosophy. In 2020, she defended her doctoral dissertation at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU on the topic of objects in Marx’s critique of political economy. She is a former member of the Programme Committee of the Institute for Labour Studies, editor of several scientific monographs, and author of several scientific articles published in national and international journals. Currently, she is working as an independent researcher.

Publication(s)

- Materialism of Suffering and Left-Wing Melancholia (Filozofski Vestnik, Vol. 40, No. 1, 2019)
- Towards an Object-Oriented Critique of Political Economy (Filozofski Vestnik, Vol. 40, No. 3, 2019)
- The riddle of the revolution: between truth and totality (Historical materialism, April 13, 2018)

Richard Mole

Professor (Political Sociology)



Richard C. M. Mole is Professor of Political Sociology and Deputy Director at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. He earned his MPhil from the University of Cambridge and his PhD from the London School of Economics, both in International Relations. His research focuses on the relationship between identity and power, with particular reference to nationalism, populism, sexuality and migration/asylum. His recent publications include *Soviet and Post-Soviet Sexualities* (2019) and *Queer Migration and Asylum in Europe* (2021). He is Principal Investigator of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network and Co-Investigator of a Horizon 2020 research programme, both of which analyse the rise of right-wing populism in Central and Eastern Europe.

Publication(s)

- Homophobia and national collective narcissism in populist Poland (*European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 62, No. 1, 2021)
- *Queer Migration and Asylum in Europe* (UCL Press, 2021)
- *Soviet and Post-Soviet Sexualities* (Routledge, 2019)

Mala Pandurang

Professor (Postcolonial Studies, Diaspora, and Gender Studies)



Mala Pandurang is Principal at Dr. BMN College, Mumbai. She was a postdoctoral fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Otto-von-Guericke Universität, Magdeburg. She is currently the Foundation's Ambassador Scientist to India. Her research grants include Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, recipient of Charles Wallace Research grant to the UK, major research grant from the University Grants Commission (New Delhi), Dr Tikekar Research Fellowship from the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, and Inlaks Fellowship in Social Sciences from the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. She is series editor of the *Postcolonial Lives* and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of South Asian Diaspora*. Her training is in literary and culture studies.

Publication(s)

- *Gandhian values and Everyday living: Life Skills Education in a classroom in Mumbai* (*Good Governance Africa*, 2020)
- *Diasporic Subjectivity: Of Loss, Memory, Being and Becoming* (*Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora*, Routledge, 2018)
- *Unmapping Maps: Borders, Territories and the Crisis of Identity* (*Risks and New Regionalism in Europe. Emergency Diasporas and Borderlands*, WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier Crisis, 2017)

Gayatri Parameswaran

New Media Journalist and Documentary Maker



Gayatri Parameswaran is a multi-awarded new media journalist and documentary maker. She grew up in India and is currently based in Berlin, where she co-founded NowHere Media - a creative studio that works at the intersection of storytelling, technology and social change. Her work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, Cannes, United Nations and beyond. She has been a Sundance New Frontier fellow, has won accolades including the Tribeca Award for Best Immersive, SXSW Award Best Immersive Arts and Lumiere Award for Best VR documentary. Gayatri is a guest lecturer at several European universities, an Erasmus Mundus scholar in War & Conflict Reporting, and an alumnus of the German Chancellor Fellowship awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Twitter: @pgaya3

Publication(s)

- Kusunda, Speak to Awaken (Virtual Reality Experience, 2021)

Christa Rautenbach

Professor (Law)



Christa Rautenbach was formerly a state prosecutor and currently a law scholar with the degrees B Iuris (cum laude), LLB (cum laude), LLM and LLD, and is currently the honorary treasurer of the Society of Law Teachers of South Africa, board member of the Commission on Legal Pluralism and the African-German Network of Excellence in Science, secretary of Juris Diversitas and former Ambassador Scientist of the Alexander von Humboldt foundation. Her fields of interests include legal pluralism, customary law, mixed jurisdictions, cultural diversity, judicial comparativism and the law of succession. She is the editor of the Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal and chairperson of the advisory committee of the South African Law Reform Commission: Project 144 (Single Marriage Statute). She is also a former fellow of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg “Recht als Kultur” in Bonn.

Publication(s)

- Introduction to Legal Pluralism in South Africa (LexisNexis South Africa, 2021)
- South Africa’s Family Laws: A Potpourri of Some Sort? (Normativity and Diversity in Family Law: Lessons from Comparative Law, Springer, 2021)
- Key Judgments on the Accommodation of Muslim Family Law in South Africa (Litigating the Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Domestic and International Courts, Brill / Nijhoff, 2021)

Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser

Professor (Sociology and Political Science)



Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser is Professor of Political Science at Universidad Diego Portales (UDP) in Santiago de Chile and Associate Researcher at the Centre for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES). He received his PhD from the Humboldt-University of Berlin, and has held visiting appointments at Nuffield College, Sussex University, Sciences Po in Paris, the Social Science Research Centre Berlin (WZB), and Uppsala University in Sweden. He specializes in comparative politics and his research agenda is focused on the ambivalent relationship between populism and democracy. Together with Cas Mudde, he is the author of “Populism. A Very Short Introduction” (Oxford 2017), which has been translated into more than ten languages.

Publication(s)

- Riding the Populist Wave: Europe’s Mainstream Right in Crisis (Cambridge University Press, 2021)
- Populism: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2017)
- Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy? (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Angela Saini

Journalist and Author



Angela Saini is an award-winning British science journalist, broadcaster and author. She presents science programmes on the BBC, and her writing has appeared in New Scientist, The Sunday Times, National Geographic, and Wired. Her latest book “Superior: The Return of Race Science” was a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize and named a book of the year by The Telegraph, Nature, and Financial Times. Her previous book “Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong” has been translated into fourteen languages. Angela has a Master’s degree in engineering from the University of Oxford and was a Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2020 she was named one of the world’s top 50 thinkers by Prospect magazine.

Publication(s)

- Superior: The Return of Race Science (Beacon Press, 2019)
- Inferior: How Science Got Women Wrong (Beacon Press, 2017)

Alexander Stagnell

Postdoctoral Researcher (Rhetoric)



Alexander Stagnell has a PhD in Rhetoric from Uppsala University and is currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow funded by the Swedish Research Council. His project “The Return of the Sophists? Democracy, Rhetoric, and Post-Truth in the Populist Moment” is cohosted by Södertörn University and Université libre de Bruxelles and focuses on the figure of the sophist in political thought as a way of investigating the relationship between truth, rhetoric, and populism in contemporary democracy. His research has mainly been focused on rhetorical aspects of politics and the political, including the ideology of war and diplomacy, the role of the notion of the people in democracy, and the theory of populism. Twitter: @Stagnella.

Publication(s)

- Populism and the People in Contemporary Critical Thought: Politics, Philosophy, and Aesthetics (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023, forthcoming)
- Diplomacy and Ideology: From the French Revolution to the Digital Age (Routledge, 2020)

Ronen Steinke

Journalist and Author



Ronen Steinke is a political editor with Germany’s leading newspaper, Sueddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), where he spends his days commenting on the work of politicians, mostly in the field of civil rights and anti-terrorism. By night he writes books which, to his joy, have hit the bestseller lists and sparked a number of political debates in Germany in recent years, centering on German history, antisemitism and criminal justice. Ronen went to university in Germany and Japan and holds degrees in law and criminology. He occasionally teaches legal history to judges and is currently working on a history of the German secret service. He moved to Berlin in 2017 and still thinks it’s lovely. Twitter: @RonenSteinke

Publication(s)

- Anna and Dr Helmy: How an Arab Doctor Saved a Jewish Girl in Hitler’s Berlin (Oxford University Press, 2022)
- Fritz Bauer: The Jewish Prosecutor Who Brought Eichmann and Auschwitz to Trial (Indiana University Press, 2020)
- The Politics of International Criminal Justice: German Perspectives from Nuremberg to The Hague (Hart/Oxford, 2012)