

Briefe aus Berlin

Alumni Newsletter

of the KRUPP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR STANFORD STUDENTS IN GERMANY



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Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
und Halbach-Stiftung

Grußwort der Krupp-Stiftung

von Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ursula Gather



Im Newsletter des vergangenen Jahres hatte ich meine Hoffnung auf eine „Normalisierung“ des Krupp Internship Programms in diesem Jahr zum Ausdruck gebracht. Aber die Pandemie beeinflusste weiterhin sämtliche Austauschprogramme der Krupp-Stiftung bis in die zweite Jahreshälfte 2021. Daher musste zum zweiten Mal seit Beginn des „Krupp Internship Programms“ vor 39 Jahren der alljährliche Besuch der Stipendiat*innen in der Villa Hügel in Essen ausfallen. Dennoch hatten sich fünf Stipendiat*innen um ein Praktikum in einem deutschen Unternehmen beworben, obwohl ihnen bewusst war, dass ihnen die Möglichkeit zum direkten betrieblichen und kulturellen Austausch vor Ort in Deutschland fehlen würde. Ich habe mich daher besonders gefreut von Frau Dr. Kramer zu hören, dass diese Stipendiat*innen mit großer Zufriedenheit ihr Fernpraktikum im Sommer absolviert haben und gern von den Erfahrungen ihres besonderen Praktikums hier im Newsletter berichten möchten.

Inzwischen studieren die ersten acht Stanford-Stipendiat*innen am Campus in Berlin wieder in Präsenz und können ihre Praktika hier in Deutschland absolvieren. Ich freue mich schon jetzt darauf, dass wir im nächsten Jahr wieder engagierte und an Deutschland interessierte Stanford-Studierende in Essen zum

persönlichen Austausch begrüßen können. Denn in diesen Gesprächen zeigt sich immer wieder, wie wichtig das Programm für jeden einzelnen, aber auch für eine gute Beziehung zwischen den USA und Deutschland ist.

Gern möchte ich auch erwähnen, dass die Krupp-Stiftung ihr Austauschprogramm mit Stanford um ein neues Stipendienprogramm erweitert hat. Seit drei Jahren erhalten jährlich drei Doktorand*innen der Geisteswissenschaften einer deutschen Universität die Möglichkeit, einen bis zu sechsmonatigen Forschungsaufenthalt in Stanford zu absolvieren. Dank der Öffnung des Campus in Palo Alto kann im Januar 2022 nun die zweite Stipendiatengruppe ihre Forschungen in Stanford aufnehmen. Ich bin der Stanford University dankbar, dass Sie „unsere“ jungen Wissenschaftler*innen aus Deutschland bei ihren Studien mit ihrer exklusiven Expertise und Infrastruktur unterstützt.

Ich würde mich freuen, wenn dieser Newsletter gute Erinnerungen bei allen bisherigen Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern des Praktikantenprogramms wachruft und sie mit Deutschland und Europa über die bloße Information hinaus im besten Sinne verbunden bleiben. ■

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ursula Gather, Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums der Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung



After their visit to Villa Hügel in Essen, some groups of Krupp Interns also got to know Duisburg; not only the steel mill, but also the inland port – one of the largest inland ports in the world and the end point of the One Belt, One Road Initiative. There, not far from the famous Explorado Children's Museum, stands the **Museum Küppersmühle Duisburg** (MKM). The historic warehouse and silo building has now been extended in the brick style of the port buildings by the architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron (Tate Modern, London; Allianz Arena, Munich; Olympic Stadium, Beijing; Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg). In thirty-six bright rooms, a significant collection of German and European post-war art is shown.

© MKM Duisburg / Herzog & de Meuron / © Photo: Simon Menges



What's New in Berlin by Karen Kramer



Our city-state, which is both the nation's capital and a hole surrounded on all sides by the donut of Brandenburg, has been challenged to respond effectively to COVID-19 surges – of which we appear to be experiencing the fourth. This experience is ubiquitous; each of us has been impacted. We hope that the pandemic has not intervened tragically in your own life and those close to you, as it has for some. But Berlin is beginning to “do its thing” again: Many universities, after having gone remote for the past three semesters, have returned to in-person classes, though not all. The majority of people here are dually inoculated, but not all. Many cultural institutions (museums, theaters, concerts, cinemas) have reopened, but not all, and not entirely: some seats are blocked to reduce proximity, masking is prescribed throughout most performances. Most Germans – and most German politicians – have adopted continued control measures (inoculation mandates, masking, distanc-

ing) as means of reopening and stabilizing institutions that depend on presence; there is, to be sure, quibbling about the details, but the responsibility of the state (which, in US parlance, would be called “the government,” though there are historical and current differences between the two) to support the commonweal is recognized here almost without question, which has made for a comparably orderly, and comparably effective, pandemic response. Socio-political pandemic studies would reveal many cultural specificities within the EU and between the EU and other regions. It has been learning by doing all along for all concerned, but we don't all do the same, and we are best served when we learn from each other. And that brings us to the core charge of universities: Learning in its multifarious forms.

You will have heard that Stanford has now welcomed students back to campus after eighteen months of remote learning. We all learned a great deal in that period

In January 2021 we held a “Zoom Reunion” with a few former Berliners and Krupp Interns, l-r: Kim Ngo (Computer Science, German Studies, Human Rights – Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte, Berlin), Karen Kramer (Director), Vinicius Garcia (Economics, German Studies – Computerspielemuseum, Berlin), Merlin MacGillivray (Urban, German and Portuguese Studies – Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum, Berlin), Wolf Jung-hanns (Internship Coordinator), Catherine Wang (Computer Science, Art Practice, Modern Languages – Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik, HUB, Berlin), Michael Figueroa (Chemical Engineering – Sana Klinikum Lichtenberg, Berlin), Anja Seitz (Associate Director).



about communicating over a distance. As outliers of the university, for the Bing Overseas Studies Programs, this was in many ways an old hat: We have always been geographically and socio-communicatively separated from the home campus; for the first time, home-campus colleagues experienced this separation as they tried to stay linked digitally from isolated home environments. Those who suffered most acutely from the closures of the home and overseas campuses were our students; the COVID cohorts' live interactive experience with peers and faculty was curtailed for almost half of their undergraduate education. We proactively designed one innovative program component after another in our attempts to bring students to Berlin despite the continuing pandemic, but finally understood that the pandemic would carry on until the day that widescale inoculation gained

➔ New Chairs



stackable. Of course, for nostalgic reasons, we keep a few of the old ones. Their original design goes back to Hans Luckhardt and the years 1929–30.



After thirty-three years, the classroom chairs were changed since the old ones were worn out and some had started to tilt. The new ones, with and without armrests, were designed by Egon Eiermann in the 1950s, and are lighter and



In October, due to the pandemic, the H.G. Will Trip on European Expansion went to Dresden. Autumn quarter students on the terrace of Schloss Albrechtsberg with, l-r, guest professor Barbara Pitkin, Uli Brückner, vintner Dr. Christian Müller, Karen Kramer, Anja Seitz and guest professor Brent Sockness.

traction. We are grateful that the university sustained our core programs so that we would be able to resume study abroad as soon as the pandemic waned. And we are gratified that BOSP-Berlin and the Krupp Internship Program were able to provide a degree of directly interactive, cross-cultural continuity despite the pandemic. In the following pages, you will read accounts from our second cohort of remote interns. In addition to providing internships in fields that lent themselves to remote collaboration, we offered remote, intensive German language classes and a course in Germany-focused political theory to provide students an alternative route for preparing for on-site internships in 2021. Although the on-site option could not, after all, be offered, the Krupp Foundation generously supported a second cohort of remote internships and five German institutions graciously hosted our students.

We have two pieces of wonderful news. First, that we at Stanford's Berlin campus have again welcomed students on-site. The cohort is smaller than pre-pandemic, largely because most undergraduates, after eighteen months away from The Farm, chose to postpone study abroad until they had reconnected with the home campus. The students who chose to come to Berlin instead are a stellar and intensely interactive group, thrilled to be with other students and mentors *on-site*, exploring the city together and with our instructors, in seminars that meld classroom work with excursions that resonate with themes studied in the cityscape and Berlin's cultural institutions. Almost half of this quarter's students will stay on or return to do Krupp Internships: live, in the German workplace.

Finally: We welcome the 40th cohort of Krupp Interns this academic year! Due to the still unpredictable surges and variants of Covid, however, we have decided, with the Foundation, to postpone until spring of 2023 the festive celebration, when Krupp Interns, Foundation officials, Board of the Stanford Club of Germany, lead-

ership of BOSP and Berlin staff will meet at Villa Hügel to celebrate the wonderful program to whose excellence you, its alumni, have so richly contributed. You developed a special relationship to Germany in your younger years and many of you have testified that the experience significantly or profoundly impacted the trajectory of your lives and many of you have returned to work and live here.

We thank all who have supported BOSP-Berlin and the Krupp Internship Program through this pandemic. We especially and profoundly thank the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Foundation for having initiated this program four decades ago and for generously supporting more than 1300 interns who have immersed themselves in the German world of work to this day. ■

Dr. Karen Kramer, Director, H.G. Will Center of the Bing Overseas Studies Program Berlin



The historic staircase of the Villa.

Creativity, Agency and Joy:

How Designing My Perfect CS Internship Led Me to Product Design by Yvonne Hong

I always knew that my German internship experience would be unique and special, but I have never imagined it to be during a global pandemic. Having spent my last two years of high school in Germany, I came to Stanford knowing that I want to participate in BOSP Berlin and the Krupp Internship Program to return to the beautiful country that felt like a second home. As I stepped closer to my junior year, another compelling reason pushed me to do the Krupp Internship – I have no idea what I want to do professionally and more importantly I have no idea where I want to live and work after graduation. I saw Krupp as the perfect opportunity for me to see Germany outside the lens of my high school. I wanted to experience the work culture and the society better and to find out if I really want to work in Germany or whether I was just in love with the idea of Germany.

The internship placement process was no doubt stressful, especially because of COVID. In the beginning, I



found the placement process very confusing – our internship coordinator Wolf kept asking me to give more detailed and specific answers about what I wanted to do and what I was looking for in my internship. I did not know the answers to those questions because I was at the very start of my career development – I felt like I was open to trying anything. The fact that he kept pushing led me to reflect on my current learning and helped me gain a rough understanding of what might be the most helpful for me at this stage. The result was good since I eventually figured out what I wanted to do, but the process was daunting. The placement process is very different from the application process in the US: when applying for internships, it is like a multiple-choice question because you see all the listings and you pick the ones you like. Yet, with the Krupp placement process, you need to draft your dream internship from the beginning.

Now that I have finished my internship, I am very grateful for the amount of control we have in deciding what kind of project and team we want to be on, which I prefer in comparison with the traditional application process. I ended up doing a remote machine learning internship with Masterplan Engineering in Munich, during which I developed a predictive maintenance algorithm for detecting and identifying future machine faults and learned about the product development cycle in startups. There were four steps to this project: research,

design, implement and integrate. First, I had to research all about the predictive maintenance industry – what are the methods out there and the most effective algorithms used by the current industry leaders. I also had to learn about the specific sensor that our company was currently using – its low sampling rate posed a particular challenge for us. Then, I came up with multiple designs for the algorithm. I implemented different versions of the designs and tried to evaluate them based on their different strengths, such as speed, level of comprehensiveness and adaptability. This practice helped me learn the process of evaluation and pivoting for an ML algorithm.

I enjoyed working with my team, and I appreciated how much agency and trust they gave me to take the project where I wanted. Everything about the internship environment, the company and the support was perfect, but I realized that I was not enjoying the work as much as I thought I would. I got tired from sitting in front of my desk for six hours straight, and I was constantly frustrated by the amount of debugging and parameter testing I needed to do. I realized that my favorite part of the internship was the first couple of weeks, when I was researching this new and exciting industry and when I was doing multiple designs for possible algorithms. I knew the implementation stages were an important part of the development process, but it is a part that I do not enjoy myself. Since I came to that realization, I talked to mentors and friends, and I realized that the career path I

want needs to have more creativity, agency and excitement than what working as a software engineer or machine learning engineer entails. I am still excited by the tech world and the most cutting-edge development, so combining my love for tech and my desire to be involved in more creative work, I decided to try out Product Design as my major at Stanford.

This internship has helped me learn about myself and made me see my career path more clearly. I sketched out what I thought would be the perfect internship for me – in a supportive, innovative and cutting-edge start-up doing machine learning engineering. Yet, it did not feel so perfect, and that was how I realized that the work itself might be the problem. I just assumed I wanted to be in product development because I wanted to be involved in the cutting-edge research but after the internship, I realized product design and maybe project management might fit my personality better. Since I started taking product design classes at Stanford this quarter, I am more and more convinced that product design is what truly sparks joy for me. Taking what I have learned from the past Krupp internship and product design, I hope to do a second internship with Krupp and explore product design in a professional setting *on-site*. ■

Yvonne Hong (Computer Science but soon: Product Design, International Relations) could not study in Berlin because of the pandemic but interned with Masterplan Engineering Munich, in summer 2021.

→ New in Berlin-Kreuzberg



© Stiftung Flucht, Vertreibung, Versöhnung, photo: Markus Grötle (The photo has been cropped.)

After many years of debate and preparation, on June 21, the **Dokumentationszentrum Flucht, Vertreibung, Versöhnung** opened on Stresemannstraße, not far from Potsdamer Platz, and is run by the Federal Foundation for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation. One of the members of its expert advisory board is Stanford historian Norman Naimark. The ever-controversial remembrance and education site goes back to a decision made in 2008: "The federal government is committed to the social and historical reappraisal (Aufarbeitung) of forced migration, escape (Flucht) and expulsion. Documentation, networking and reconciliation will be central aspects of this

visible sign, which is to be housed at an appropriate location in Berlin. It is to become a signal for the outlawing of all expulsion and ethnic cleansing in Europe and worldwide." (Chancellor Angela Merkel, 2008) The permanent exhibition focuses on the displacement and expulsion of about 12,5 million Germans in the European context of World War II and the Nazi policies of expansion, occupation and extermination and their subsequent integration in West and East Germany. The restored landmark building, formerly Deutschlandhaus (1926–1931), contains a library, testimony archive, exhibition and meeting rooms, museum shop and café.

Status Report on the Krupp Internship Program by Wolf-Dietrich Junghanns

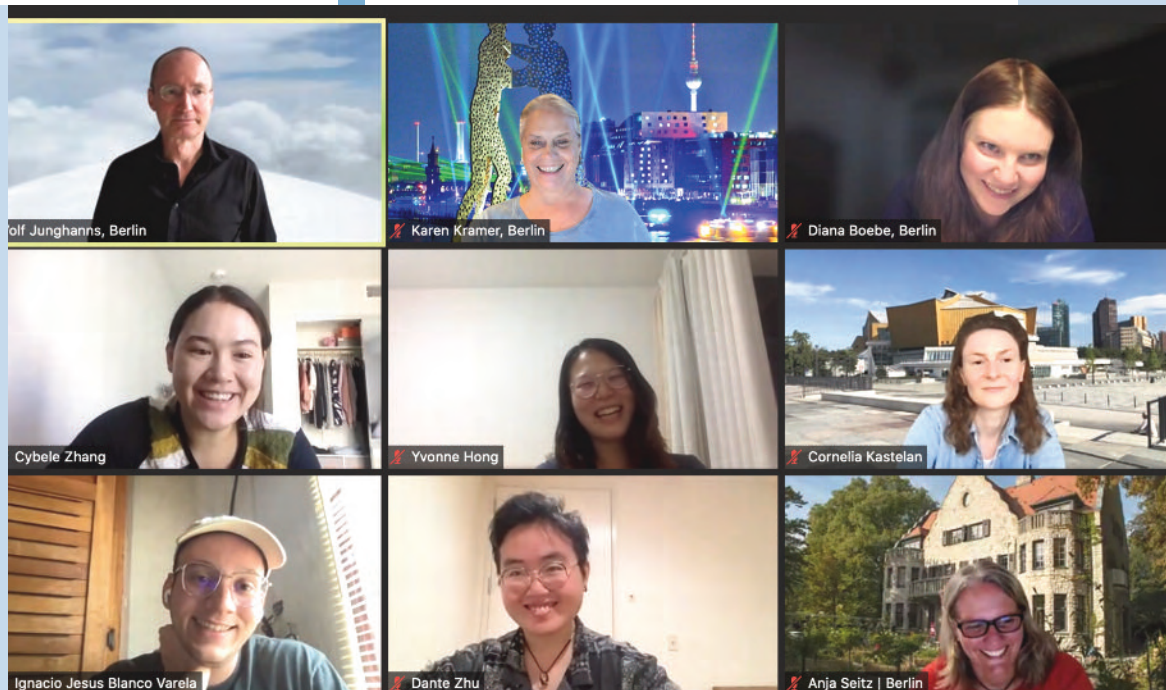


With our usual unshakeable optimism, the will to continue, and the hope for a “new normal,” we planned on-site internships for 2021. But unfortunately, in April, the University decided against on-site internships for all university sponsored programs, both at home and abroad, and some potential German hosts followed suit. As in 2020, these policies hit all financial aid students particularly hard. We again reverted to remote internships, a move that was kindly supported by the Krupp Foundation. As a result, we were able to support five (of

the case with all institutions, and we are fortunate that we were able to secure this year’s five remote internships as most of them depended on intensive computer work. All five took place with new hosts and were successful, as you will read in their reports in this issue of *Briefe*. The hosts of these internships were located in Berlin, Karlsruhe, Munich and Nuremberg: We hope these students will be able to see these places in person one day.

The outlook is much better for the 2021–22 academ-

As usual, at the end of August we held our seminar with summer interns to talk about their experience during their remote internships in 2021, I-r: Wolf Junghanns (Internship Coordinator), Karen Kramer (Director), Diana Boebe (Lecturer in German), Cybele Zhang (English and German Studies – Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum), Yvonne Hong (Computer Science/soon: Product Design, International Relations – Masterplan Engineering, Munich), Cornelia Kastelan (Student and Academic Services Coordinator & Internship Assistant), Ignacio Blanco (Chemical Engineering – Institut für Funktionelle Grenzflächen, KIT, Karlsruhe), Dante Zhu (Art Practice, Symbolic Systems, Classics – Wolkenlenker GmbH, Berlin), Anja Seitz (Associate Director).



the original twenty plus) applicants. Of course, this is a very small number but the general uncertainty of the situation aside, there are understandable reasons. For one, remote internships are obviously not ideal, given that our – and the students’ – goal is deeper immersion in German language and culture. Although remote internships have proven to be rewarding, they do not provide as culturally rich an experience as working side by side with Germans in the workplace. And not all internships lend themselves equally well to remote, temporally displaced arrangements. Krupp interns working from other continents were inhibited by time differences of up to nine hours. We understand applicants’ wanting to postpone their internship until a time when on-site internships will again be possible.

An additional difficulty was posed by the fact that some companies require on-site encrypting-security on all computers used for work. Fortunately, this is not (yet)

ic year. From September, students are again studying at Stanford in Berlin, and the first on-site Krupp internship is now coming to its end: Callum Trainor (Human Biology, German Studies) who studied with us in autumn 2019, returned to open this late (if not post-) pandemic season at the Cardiology Department of the Sana Klinikum Lichtenberg – an ideal place both for German learning and for regular Covid testing. More on-site internships are already in the pipeline. We, Berlin faculty and staff, are looking forward to the fortieth year of the Krupp Internship Program, which we will celebrate (post-covid...) at Villa Hügel in spring of 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank the Krupp Foundation for its uncomplicated readiness to help, our instructors Diana Boebe, Sylvia Klötzer and Matthew Stephen for preparing prospective interns in virtual classes and tutoring sessions, as well as everybody else who supported the program during these unusual times. Thank you! ■

Nuremberg via Zoom: Exploring Human Rights

by Cybele Zhang



Just one week into my remote Krupp internship, my skills were put to the test. Along with the other summer interns at the Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum (NMRZ), I was invited to attend the monthly board meeting over Zoom, in which the chairman and board discussed upcoming programming with contributing members. As I was logging online, the chairman called on me, asking in German, “Cybele, can you explain to us what you’re working on?” I did not expect to be singled out, especially so early into my internship. Taken a little off guard, I pieced together an introduction in German and began to explain the Pride Month campaign I was creating for NMRZ’s social media accounts.

That minute over Zoom tested my spoken German skills, which were admittedly rusty after a mostly solitary year at home and challenged me to succinctly put into words the human rights concepts that I was passionate about. The initial fear but ultimate gratitude and excitement I felt during that Zoom call was representative of my overall experience during my internship.

I initially applied for the program in the winter prior, expecting to spend the spring quarter of my junior year abroad in Berlin. Of course, COVID-19 threw a wrench in those plans, and I instead spent the first half of 2021 bouncing between my home in Los Angeles and limited time on Stanford’s home campus. In the process, I researched human rights organizations in Germany, and with the help of the Krupp Internship Coordinator sent out applications – multiple of which were quickly met with email responses informing me that interns would not be accepted this year due to the on-going pandemic. Ultimately, however, I found my way to an interview

at NMRZ, in which I shared my interest in the history of the Nuremberg Trials and women’s rights more broadly. Speaking to one of the board members on that call, NMRZ felt like a perfect fit. When I got a job offer a week later, I was thrilled at the prospect of doing timely research and returning to Germany – a country I first visited in 2019 on a Bing Overseas Seminar and have continued to study since.

But soon I came to another bump in the road – or, if we’re extending our metaphor, another cold-call over Zoom. In April, I learned that Stanford interns would not be able to travel abroad and work in person due to public health precautions. Initially I was devastated; a large part of why I was drawn to NMRZ and the Krupp internship was the chance to travel to Nuremberg and interact with German culture, language and history first-hand. Thankfully, however, my internship was able to be moved online. Despite it not being precisely what I expected, I found silver linings in the remote format.

My days began at 7:30 a.m. Pacific Time (4:30 p.m. German Time) as my German co-workers were preparing to leave the Nuremberg office. Over Zoom, we would discuss my research assignments, the posts I should prepare for social media, and any other task that arose. Despite the distance, talking to the internship coordinator, Nicole, the office manager, Lea, and other interns created a sense of community and helped me establish international professional resources. Another highlight was working alongside co-workers from around the world (two interns were from Germany, one was from Italy and another was from France). The chairman of the organization, Otto, and other contributors were also

➔ ***New, but No Different:*** The Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin-Tiergarten



After being closed for six years due to refurbishment, the **Neue Nationalgalerie** reopened in the summer. Mies van der Rohe’s iconic

architecture was renewed by David Chipperfield Architects in a very elaborate manner which remained in keeping with the monument, so that the

uninitiated hardly see the few changes. The house displays its own collection in the exhibition “The Art of Society 1900–1945,” including works from

Max Beckmann, Otto Dix, Georg Grosz, Hannah Höch, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Lotte Laserstein and Renée Sintenis.

extremely welcoming, reaching out to me over email and WhatsApp to discuss my interests and share articles – which certainly put my German language skills to the test!

One of my first major assignments for NMRZ was to create a Pride Month social media campaign to explain the history of the celebration and its lasting importance. My research focused specifically on lasting legal inequities for same-sex couples, specifically how same-sex parentage is treated around the world. This research coincidentally coincided with a major cultural reckoning in Europe: UEFA declining to allow Munich to light up Allianz Arena with the rainbow flag. It was interesting to see how my own research at NMRZ linked directly back to current events in Germany, giving me unique insight into how human rights questions are regarded in the public sphere. This debate in the soccer world also prompted further conversation in my NMRZ meetings about the role of performative activism and further steps towards equality yet to be made across Europe, even in Germany. The Euro 2021 headlines also overlapped with the summer Stanford course I was enrolled in, “The Queer 20th Century: German LGBTQ Literature and Film.” The course was another silver lining of a remote internship; since I was not in Nuremberg, I was able to take a Stanford class, which helped inform my internship and larger understanding of German history.

Despite being unable to attend the live programming put on by NMRZ due to my physical distance, I still took an active role in their events. I edited a video featuring a visiting human rights defender from Colombia and put together pamphlets to be distributed at Nuremberg’s annual “Bäume für die Menschenrechte,” in which a human rights defender from Honduras represented NMRZ and discussed ongoing challenges in her home country. Getting to know the work that both women were doing, despite not being there in person, was inspiring and I gained insight into larger human rights work going on beyond the U.S. or Germany’s borders. All the while, I was also improving my German reading and writing skills as I helped plan, listened to and wrote about the events.

Another way I engaged in contemporary human rights work in Bavaria was through the weekly NMRZ calendar that I compiled in German. I researched local events, from museum exhibits to film festivals to political talks, and summarized relevant information to publish and share with the public in order to promote the diverse programming. Again, it was super cool and informative to see how much was going on in the German human rights world and to observe how these events span a wide range of topics – from advocating for environmental justice to

the global fight for racial equality to the right to education during the pandemic. One of the events I researched, wrote about and publicized was the **Queer Film Festival**; among the film screened the year prior was “Futur Drei,” a movie about queer Iranian Germans that I ultimately watched independently of my internship and analyzed for my summer Stanford class!

Another highlight of the summer was my research project – another part of NMRZ’s internship program. I discussed my research interests with NMRZ’s internship coordinator, who then connected me with Professor Dr. Michael Krennerich based on my topic of choice – how social media platforms have become a breeding ground for sexist rhetoric directed at female political candidates. Michael is the Chair of Human Rights and Human Rights Politics and a senior lecturer at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, so he became a valuable resource in my writing and research process. We met over Zoom a few times to discuss my project, and my essay was ultimately published online in advance of the September elections. The paper compares examples from the U.S. and Germany that explore how gendered rhetoric can be a threat to global democracy, freedom and human rights. The independent project also gave me unique insight into the German federal elections (we were then in the midst of the campaigns) and made me more aware of developments in world politics. Additionally, the project gave a window into hot topics in German political discourse, which was interesting to compare to concerns in U.S. politics. Even after the



In 2020 the **BERLIN POLICY JOURNAL** was relaunched as **INTERNATIONALE POLITIK QUARTERLY**.

The journal is published by the German Council on Foreign Relations DGAP which has been one of our recurring internship hosts. These placements were arranged in part by Dr. Sylke Tempel (1963–2017), long-term editor-in-chief of “Internationale Politik” who taught at the Berlin Center and inspired students for political journalism. The new director of the DGAP is the German-American political scientist Cathryn Clöver Ashbrook (previously Harvard Kennedy School). She expects the **Ampelkoalition** (SPD, Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen, FDP) to return to a normative, value-driven German foreign policy.



NMRZ internship drew to a close, I closely followed the German chancellor race and eventual election results, and I still try to keep up with as much German news as possible.

Although the remote internship at NMRZ was not exactly what I expected when I applied for the Krupp grant six months prior, the experience was extremely rewarding and taught me a lot about myself and Germany today. At the end of the summer, I decided to double major in German Studies, bumping up my minor given my expanded interest in German language, current events, politics and literature. Now I'm taking more German classes back on Stanford's campus (I'm currently in German Fairytales) in order to deepen my language skills, expand my academic vocabulary and gain broader perspective on how German and global values are shaped through literature and folklore.

Another takeaway: I found a deep interest in human

rights that I have not had much opportunity to explore through my coursework prior, and I hope to use my writing, research and communication skills to pursue further human rights research and advocacy post-Stanford. I also intend to return to Germany for an extended amount of time in the future and hopefully will meet my co-workers in person one day! Overall, the Krupp experience encouraged me to lean into adversity, just like that moment in the board meeting, when I was not immediately sure what to say. Throughout the summer, things did not always go according to plan, especially with the ongoing pandemic, but my experience was fruitful, engaging and will shape the remainder of my time at Stanford and career path beyond. ■

Cybele Zhang (English and German Studies), so far, was prevented from studying in Berlin by the pandemic but interned remotely with the Nuremberg Human Rights Center (NMRZ) in summer 2021.

Cancer Cells Working for Machine Learning at KIT

by Ignacio Blanco



I completed my internship at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in the department of Advanced Materials and Biomaterials, one of the most prestigious technical universities in Germany. The internship was completed online, and I worked in developing computational models. Overall, the experience was different from

other internships I have previously had. My first day started with a 5am meeting (Costa Rican time) with the principal investigators and other PhD and post-doctoral students in the group. That day I got to learn about the current projects in the group and had the chance to choose the sub-field of research I was interested in pursuing. The group has more than twenty-five graduate students from Material Science, Chemical Engineering and even Macromolecular Engineering. After choosing my area of interest, I immediately began working with a PhD student to leverage her doctoral work into a new project. We used the first day to introduce ourselves to each other, inform me about the project and download all the software needed for me to start working. On the

second day, she had a notion page (a website that is used to track work, assign checklists, give assignments, set deadlines and share that with other users) ready for me with all the expectations and mini projects that I was expected to complete for the next three weeks. I quickly realized that this was going to be an independent and challenging journey, as I was responsible for moving things forward, for consulting on any questions and for making sure that I stayed on target with the project.

My project involved using the RNA sequencing library of cancer cells developed by a doctoral student to understand how cancer cells changed their genetics by growing in different sites. The motivation for this project came from the fact that more than 95% of cancer treatments developed on petri dishes in labs fail when they are translated to an animal (in vivo studies). The group hypothesized that one of the main reasons that this translational inefficiency occurs is due to cancer cell behavior and growth environment. Having a cell grow in a plastic plasma-covered dish is not the same as a cell that grows in an animal body. Henceforth, analyzing cancer cells' genome in different growing conditions opens a new world to discover the differences in their growing process and to find ways to engineer systems that can better mimic the in vivo cancer cell growth. The group developed the RNA sequencing library of cancer cells by using a myriad of well-known in vitro sys-

tems specific for cancer, as well as one of their newly developed in vitro systems, and animal studies cancer cells, which can altogether provide a wide spectrum that serves as a tool for determining how a cancer cell genome and behavior can be environment specific just by looking at their RNA.

Once the three-week mark was completed, I had learned how to leverage basic Machine Learning algorithms to start extracting information on the RNA sequencing library. I also got to learn about the research that was happening in the group, and I was starting to understand the technical background of the project. However, in this third week my mentor was also graduating with her doctoral degree. That meant that I was now responsible for this new project. I had to make sure I conducted general presentations to the group to update them on my process, and I also obtained access to the super computers from the institution to start learning how to do computationally expensive analysis. Overall, this experience has been one of the most challenging experiences I have encountered in my undergraduate degree.

Initially, I felt that I did not know enough about the project, so I started to learn new techniques that could potentially provide me with more information. In the process, I was able to talk to the newly graduated PhD student from time to time, but my main point of help was another PhD student who initially came to talk to me out of interest but ended up becoming a great source of support. I would make sure to write all my updates in the notion page, and that if I ever struggled with anything, I would book appointments with the university's resources to help me debug my code as well as get access to more elaborate features of the supercomputer. Overall, the internship began to feel like a big responsibility, one I was not certain I would be able to handle. I had to

learn to set boundaries. Since there was a significant time difference, it was hard for me to access most of the resources or help from the university or peers directly, so I had to speak up and learn how to ask for help. I had to find ways to make the meetings viable and sustainable to both parties and manage ways to be more outspoken and to recognize if I'd made a mistake. There was one aspect in the internship where I felt my research was stagnant, and I had to bring the topic to the subgroup, talk to the principal investigator and even to some of the other PhD students to find ways to move forward. Despite not having the experience of being in Germany, I did develop the experience of finding a supportive group of hard-working and super smart people that are willing to guide me through this academic process, which resulted in positive and promising results. The results of this internship were quite promising and are yielding a scientific publication that includes the work that I did during the summer, completing the work begun by the recently graduated PhD, which will be submitted in the upcoming weeks. Overall, my experience was filled with challenges, excitement, intellectual growth and an academic cohort that pushed me to give my best and learned valuable skills for graduate study and life, and I am thankful for this opportunity. In Fall 2021 I will enter the PhD program in Chemical Engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where I will work in tissue engineering, biomaterials development for therapeutics and proteomics. I am looking forward to this opportunity, as it will be key to forging the path to my professional career and will add a new perspective to my research. ■

Ignacio Blanco (Chemical Engineering) studied in Berlin in winter 2018 and interned remotely at the Institut für funktionelle Grenzflächen (IFG) of the KIT in Karlsruhe in summer 2021.

→ Farewell in Berlin

In October, the final ten cars of the A3L71 subway series were taken out of service. After around fifty years, the "busiest" cars, according to BVG, will have traveled around 3.8 million kilometers, mainly on the U1 to U4 lines. The "L" in the model name stood for light-weight aluminum that replaced steel, and as such,

the lighter trains could be equipped with smaller and more energy-efficient engines. Eight A3L71 cars will, however, continue to be used internally for repairs and maintenance work. On the last trip, BVG recalled that smoking was still allowed in the cab cars of these trains, and only these cars, until the 1970s – unimaginable today.



Digital Work in the Era of COVID-19 by Lora Supandi

In the summer of 2019, a few weeks before my BOSP Autumn quarter in Berlin, I reunited with a group of Stanford friends on a lovely meeting point called Admiralbrücke. It was golden hour, and they were all heading out from a day of work at their Krupp internships. Sitting on that bridge, legs dangling into the water as we sipped our Club-Mates and munched on döner kebab wraps, I listened to their colorful anecdotes about study-

On the roof of the Reichstag Building, seat of the German Bundestag, in autumn 2020.



ing, living and working in Berlin. In this transitional phase, they had just left their BOSP Spring quarters as students in order to grow professionally as summer interns with up-and-coming companies and start-ups. In Berlin, my friends worked as designers, engineers, project managers and human rights activists. They had the opportunity to shadow architects, artists and scientists. Others worked with refugees and women in recovery homes. I noticed a new sense of confidence in them that could be attributed to their experiences in the city. After our eventful reunion, I knew that the Krupp Internship Program was a pursuit I would take on after studying abroad in Berlin.

During my Autumn quarter as a student in Berlin, I embarked on many adventures that immersed me in Germany's dedication and passion for art, technology and experimental media. My host mom, Karin Pott, was an art gallerist, and we attended many exhibitions that brought light to this unique aspect of Berlin culture. In addition, during my free time, I scoped out every interesting art installation and media event I could find in the city. I loved attending the 3D performance art shows at C/O Berlin and the remarkable contemporary exhibitions at Gropius Bau (*Garden of Earthly Delights*, an ex-

hibition inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's fifteenth-century triptych was one of my favorite shows of all time).

I grew interested in pursuing the up-and-coming opportunities Berlin offered within gallery spaces that engage with a diverse audience. Because of this, I knew that I wanted to work for a start-up with an artistic, collaborative and innovative mindset. However, in 2020, the world was impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Immediately, my plans shifted. The world was forced into isolation, and it felt as if society was undergoing a global transformation in how we think, care and provide for ourselves and others. During this time, I had to reconsider my plans and priorities. COVID-19 brought collective grief and heartache to our world. For much of my quarantine, I was taking care of my family and making sure we were safe and healthy in a period of intense anxiety and fear about public health.

The opportunity to take part in a remote internship was a hopeful endeavor during a difficult year. I worked as a design and communication intern for gamelab.berlin, a research and development platform at Humboldt University. The project explores interdisciplinary research in the ways we explore the fields of game-thinking, multimedia storytelling, experiential design and science. During my internship, I designed digital illustrations for the company, worked on a gender-neutral initiative that focused on linguistics/ communication research and collaborated with Digital Research in the Humanities and Arts for their annual conference, Digital Matters: Designing/Performing Agency for the Anthropocene. Although some projects were cancelled or limited due to the pandemic, gamelab found innovative ways to work with the circumstances of a global pandemic. In addition, the gamelab team is diverse in many ways; researchers come from a range of academic backgrounds and nationalities. It was inspiring to see a work community flourish in its range of various life and learning experiences.

Because of this, I grew in my ability to collaborate across cross-disciplinary fields. Specifically, I found ways to tackle projects in the fields of linguistics, communications, psychology, art and gender studies. I discovered creative and artistic ways to communicate academic research to a general audience in English and German. This will be incredibly useful as I look for more international jobs in the future. ■

Lora Supandi (International Relations, English) studied in Berlin in Autumn 2020 and interned at gamelab.berlin, a research and development platform at Humboldt University in Berlin in summer 2021.

A Spooky Summer: My Internship with Wolkenlenker by Dante Zhu



I am very glad that the Krupp Foundation provided me with the opportunity of working remotely with Wolkenlenker GmbH this summer. As a Symbolic Systems HCI track student, I am happy to have participated in the user interface design of the children's app Spookies, as well as improve various skills (German language skills, translation skills, screen-writing skills, etc.) through involving myself in other parts of the project. The interdisciplinary character of my work in Janosch during my first internship in 2020 already shed light on the conception of my future career in the industry. Through working on the UI and brainstorming on the concept of the App in 2021, I exchanged interesting ideas with other designers on the team. By translating German short films and cataloging German bedtime stories, I became more acquainted with listening to and comprehending German materials, as well as providing translations that are suitable for English and Chinese audience's reading habits. Through writing short "diary" entries for one of the characters of Spookies series, I encountered the difficulties of adopting a unique first-person voice as well as the challenges of writing to an audience that is much younger than me.



Before my internship, I was very confident in my writing skills. I had experiences in writing M-rated screenplays, sci-fi short pieces and longer pieces. I asked myself: how difficult would it be to write for children? I know the "show not tell" principles; I am fun; I understand kids pretty well as I have younger cousins... However, my expectations were challenged when I took up the responsibility of brainstorming and writing for the section "Madame Mimo's Diary" in our app. Madame Mimo is the witch who raises the three Spookies in her castle, and she is very much a parent figure to them. My first attempt immediately hit the rocks. Since diaries are often from a first-person point of view, I wrote in the voice of Madame Mimo, focusing on how she observes and teaches her kids. In my later workshop sessions with Tine, a really good screenwriter and artist in our team, I discovered the problem: though the narratives I wrote fit the style of a diary and matches Madame Mimo's voice, the didactic feeling of an adult alienated our intended audience, who are kids below the age of six, and the last thing they want is something they cannot resonate with or understand. Bearing this in mind, I tried revising my entries into formats like

➔ New in Frankfurt/Main



© Freies Deutsches Hochstift, photo: Alexander Paul Englert

"Wir suchen überall das Unbedingte, und finden immer nur Dinge."

Novalis's sentence (Blüthenstaub-Fragmente, 1798) is the leitmotif of the permanent exhibition at the **German Romanticism Museum**, which was opened in September and is located right next to the birth house of Goethe (who actually declared "what is Classical is healthy; what is Romantic is sick," Maxim 1031). Up to now, Germany has not had a Romanticism museum. Now, in a 1200 m² exhibition space, many light-sensitive original manuscripts from Bettina von Arnim,

the Brentanos, Eichendorff, Novalis, the Schlegels, Tieck and others are on display. In addition, artifacts such as the experiment materials of physicist Johann Wilhelm Ritter, paintings by Carl Gustav Carus, Caspar David Friedrich and Philipp Otto Runge, Robert Schumann's compositions of scenes from Goethe's "Faust" and much more can be viewed. The European Romanticisms in Association's virtual show **RÊVE** "Dreaming Romantic Europe" is also accessible.

How to come back?

Tips for recent alumni

The *Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung* offers fellowships for U.S. scientists and scholars:

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/>

For many years the *Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft (CDS)* has provided internships and practical training opportunities in business, engineering, finance, tourism, IT, media/communications, international relations, the non-profit sector, German studies, economics, and other fields for up to 12 months. After fusing with the Association for International Practical Training, CDS continues its initiatives under the new name “Cultural Vistas.”

<http://culturalvistas.org>

“The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) is a fellowship funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Department of State, that annually provides 75 American and 75 German young professionals, between the ages of 18½–24, the opportunity to spend one year in each other’s countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program. [...] CBYX is open to candidates in all career fields who are interested in a year of academic, professional, and cultural exchange.”

<https://culturalvistas.org>

The *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)* and the German Committee of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IASTE) help individuals find study and research opportunities at all levels as well as internships:

<http://www.daad.de>

<http://www.iaeste.de>

<https://www.daad.org/en/home/contact>

The Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program enables young professionals from the US to spend one year working in their fields in Germany:

<http://www.bosch-stiftung.de>

The “*Bundeskanzler-Stipendium für Führungskräfte von morgen*” scholarship is offered in cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung:

<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/bundeskanzler-stipendium.html>

The Internationales Parlaments-Stipendium (IPS) lasts five months (March 1 to July 31) and includes meetings, seminars, and an internship with a parliamentarian:

<http://www.bundestag.de/ips>

The German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI) in New York is a governmental initiative to internationalize science and research. It is a clearinghouse providing information on research and funding opportunities for researchers (graduate students, post-docs, etc.) all over Germany and logistical help:

<https://www.dwih-newyork.org/en>

The German-American Fulbright Commission has special programs for U.S. citizens, e.g. grants for teaching assistantships at German high schools:

<http://www.fulbright.de>

The International Cooperative Education (ICE) helps arrange summer jobs and internships:

<http://www.icemenlo.com/index.shtml>

The *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS)* provides stipends to German and international graduate students for further education and graduate work, especially for young people who want to become leaders in the fields of politics, business, science, media, and culture:

<http://www.kas.de> (Über uns – Abteilungen – Begabtenförderung)

The platform “*Euer Link zu Deutschland*” provides information about studying and working in Germany:

<https://www.deutschland.de>

counting songs that may be more suitable for a younger audience, but the voice got dissonant with the genre. Tine was very patient with me, guiding and inspiring me in our conversations, and she encouraged me to think outside the box. After several meetings, we decided to revise the section into “Mr. Broom’s Diary,” with Mr. Broom being a character I created in my former entries. Mr. Broom is a magical broom who can talk, dance and play drums. He is a bit grumpy and is especially sensitive on matters of his difference with other non-magical brooms, but he is a good friend of Madame Mimo’s and always looks after the Spookies. Children would enjoy engaging with such a character due to his strong personality, his role as something between a parent and a playmate, as well as the fact that he is magical. Taking this new voice, my writing became much smoother and we eventually came up with several short pieces. Despite not yet being produced into audiobooks, the process was a really great learning experience for me. It has pushed me to look back on my past experiences as a writer and develop a mindset of thinking about the audience as also part of the writing process.

I am truly thankful for my colleagues who have supported me and inspired me during the summer. My project manager Liz was always really responsive and gave me great clarity regarding my tasks. She also helped coordinate a lot of the feedback process from other designers, developers and writers. Daniel had long working sessions with me to help with the technical difficulties I ran into, and I was so grateful that he helped me implement lots of designs that are beyond our current template. This is my second year doing a remote Krupp Internship (“externship” as my colleague calls it). Despite difficulties in adjusting the time difference, with the help of multiple efficiency tools and Liz’s sweet meeting-notification emails, the communication within the team was not hindered. The weekly Kuchen-zoom, where the team meets over zoom and just chats about their life and interesting things they do in the week, brings the team together despite the pandemic. Though my German is not good enough to fully comprehend the conversations, my colleagues are always mindful to include me, allowing me to experience German culture while living on the Stanford campus. I am also grateful for how my teammates have helped me tailor the internship to my academic interests and personal passions, giving me opportunities to explore different kinds of work, not limited only to what my major prescribes. ■

Dante Zhu (Symbolic Systems, Art Practice, Classics) studied in Berlin in winter 2020 and interned remotely with *Wolkenlenker GmbH*, Berlin, in summer 2021.

Filmtipps

Herr Bachmann und seine Klasse

<https://grandfilm.de/herr-bachmann-und-seine-klasse>

„Dreieinhalb Stunden Film, die sich nie wie Nachsitzen anfühlen“, heißt es zu dieser vielfach ausgezeichneten Dokumentation in den „Tagesthemen“, dem spätabendlichen Nachrichtenjournal der ARD. Sie zeigt die Beziehungen der Schülerinnen und Schüler einer 6. Klasse untereinander und zwischen ihnen und ihrem Lehrer. Die Klasse ist wie die kleine, westdeutsche Industriestadt, zu der sie gehört, von Migration geprägt. Herrn Bachmann gelingt es, einen Raum des Vertrauens und des Zusammenhalts herzustellen, in den alle ihre unterschiedlichen sozialen und kulturellen Erfahrungen einbringen und in dem sie sich entfalten können. Musik spielt dabei eine große Rolle. Bei der Berlinale 2021 gewann das Werk Maria Speths („Madonnen“, 2007; „9 Leben“, 2011) den Publikums-Preis, den zweiten Platz belegte der folgende Film.

Ich bin dein Mensch

<http://www.ichbindeinmensch.de>

Die Schauspielerin Maria Schrader führt seit einigen Jahren verstärkt auch Regie (u. a. „Vor der Morgenröte“, 2016, ein Spielfilm über Stefan Zweig im Exil). Der neue Spielfilm ist eine „melancholische Komödie“ über die Zukunft der Liebe, der Techniken und des Menschlichen überhaupt: Weil sie Geld für ihre Forschungen benötigt, nimmt eine Wissenschaftlerin an einem Experiment teil. Sie soll drei Wochen mit einem KI-basierten humanoiden Roboter zusammenleben, dessen Funktion einzig darin besteht, sie restlos glücklich zu machen. – Sollte das erreicht werden, ist es dann noch wichtig, ob der Partner „echt“ ist oder „bloß“ eine Maschine?

Alles ist eins. Ausser der 0.

<https://allesisteins.film>

Der Dokumentarfilm von Klaus Maeck und Tanja Schwerdorf erzählt über Wau Holland, „Deutschlands erstem digitalem Bürgerrechtler“, die aufregende Geschichte des 1981 gegründeten Chaos Computer Clubs, dessen Hamburger und Berliner Sektionen besonders aktiv sind. Die Hacker des CCC sind keine Kriminellen, wie mitunter unterstellt wird, sondern Experimentierer und subversive Aufklärer, die immer wieder den blinden Glauben an die Computersysteme von Wirtschaft und Politik wie auch der „sozialen Netzwerke“ erschüttern und zugleich für den ungehinderten weltweiten Austausch mit Hilfe von Computern streiten.

Aufschrei der Jugend –

Fridays for Future Inside

<https://www.wfilm.de/aufschrei-der-jugend>

Die Fridays-for-Future-Bewegung ist von der Pandemie ausgebremst worden, aber sie ist noch da und der Dokumentarfilm von Kathrin Pitterling über die Berliner Gruppe, ursprünglich für die ARD in 2019 und 2020 gedreht, nun im etwas längeren Director's Cut zugänglich, hilft bei der Reaktivierung. Er zeigt die Ängste der Jugend und ihr Engagement für die Ziele des Pariser Klimaabkommens – das Weitermachen trotz des Widerstandes vieler Regierungen und der Anfeindungen in den Medien. Er gewährt Einsichten in die Organisation der Bewegung und portraitiert einige ihrer Aktivistinnen und Aktivisten.

Wem gehört mein Dorf

<https://jip-film.de/wem-gehoert-mein-dorf>

Der Regisseur Christoph Eder verfolgt eine Bürgerinitiative im beliebten Ostseebad Göhren, seinem Heimatort, auf der Insel Rügen. Diese wendet sich gegen Naturzerstörung durch Massentourismus, Gentrifizierung durch Verwandlung von Mietwohnungen in Ferienwohnungen, die nur in der Sommersaison belegt sind, den Ausverkauf der Kommune infolge intransparenter Allianzen zwischen dem Gemeinderat und Großinvestoren. Rügen gilt schon seit längerem als Beispiel für Fehlentwicklungen in Ostdeutschland seit 1990: Hier wurde sehr viel investiert und die Infrastruktur deutlich verbessert, aber die Gewinne bleiben nicht auf der Insel, sondern fließen zurück zu bayerischen und westdeutschen Investoren. Von der Deutschen Film- und Medienbewertung (FBW) erhielt diese Dokumentation über das Wesen der Demokratie das Prädikat „besonders wertvoll“.

Schocken – Ein deutsches Leben

<http://salzgeber.de/schocken>

Ältere Deutsche erinnern sich noch an die modernen Schocken-Kaufhäuser – 1904 entstand das erste in Zwickau, bis zur Enteignung durch die Nationalsozialisten wuchs die Zahl auf 22 Kaufhäuser mit insgesamt etwa 6000 Angestellten an. In Chemnitz ist eines der drei von Erich Mendelsohn entworfenen erhalten – als archäologisches Museum. Doch im kommunikativen Gedächtnis ist der Name und die Erinnerung an Salman Schocken (1877–1959), eine der großen jüdisch-deutschen Unternehmerpersönlichkeiten des 20. Jahrhunderts, nicht mehr sehr lebendig. Dem wirkt Noemi Schorys Portrait des wirtschaftlich erfolgreichen wie sozial engagierten Geschäftsmannes, Mäzens, Intellektuellen, Liebhabers und Förderers von Literatur und Wissenschaft, Buch- und Zeitungsverlegers anhand von Archivaufnahmen, Zeitzeugen- und Expertengesprächen entgegen.

Schachnovelle

<https://www.filmportal.de>

<https://www.filmstarts.de/kritiken/225684.html>

Die Kritik hält Philipp Stölzls atmosphärisch dichte Verfilmung von Stefan Zweigs Klassiker, seinem letztem Buch (1942), für sehr gelungen. Die Binnenerzählung der Novelle: Nach dem „Anschluss“ Österreichs im Jahr 1938 wird der Wiener Anwalt Josef Bartok von der Gestapo verhaftet, um an den Auslandsbesitz seiner Klienten zu gelangen. Weil er nicht kooperiert, kommt er in Isolationshaft, die ihn psychisch zermüht. Der Fund eines Schachbuchs bedeutet zunächst seine Rettung, doch das Spiel spaltet seine Persönlichkeit in einen „weißen“ und einen „schwarzen“ Spieler. Auch die „Schachvergiftung“ steht für die Verletzung des Menschen durch den Faschismus.

➔ Filmportale

Filme, Filmliteratur, Filmbildung

<http://www.filmportal.de>

<http://www.kinofenster.de>

(ein filmpädagogisches Onlineportal)

<https://www.kinofilmwelt.de>

<http://www.bpb.de> (Mediathek, Shop/Filmhefte)

<https://filmbildung.grandfilm.de>

Kinderfilm

<http://www.kinderfilmwelt.de>

<http://www.kinderfilm-gmbh.de>

Deutsches Fernsehen in den USA:

<http://www.onlinetvrecorder.com>

Berliner Filmfestivals

<http://www.festiwelt-berlin.de>

Fabian oder Der Gang vor die Hunde

<https://dcmstories.com/de/collection/fabian/>

Noch eine Literaturverfilmung: Erich Kästners Roman „Fabian“, der 1931 nur mit dem Untertitel „Die Geschichte eines Moralisten“ und erst 2013 vollständig und mit dem seinerzeit als zu negativ abgelehnten Untertitel „Der Gang vor die Hunde“, mit dem der 1933 im inneren Exil überlebende Autor, dessen Bücher 1933 verbrannt wurden, vor dem Untergang der Weimarer Republik warnen wollte. Auch der Film thematisiert den wirtschaftlichen, politischen und moralischen Niedergang der Weimarer Republik, weicht aber in wesentlichen Punkten von der Vorlage ab.

Grenzland

<https://barnsteiner-film.de/grenzland>

<http://www.andreas-voigt-film.de>

Der Film von Andreas Voigt dokumentiert eine Reise entlang der Oder und der Neiße, vom Stettiner Haff (Zalew Szczeciński) bis zum Dreiländereck von Polen, Deutschland und Tschechien. Er zeigt die

Landschaft und erzählt anhand von Begegnungen mit Menschen und ihrer Schicksale vom Leben an der deutsch-polnischen Grenze und der Geschichte dieser Region in der Mitte Europas. Der Film ist eine Rückkehr, denn 1992 veröffentlichte der Regisseur, der u. a. in Krakau studierte, bereits „Grenzland – Eine Reise“. Bekannt ist er vor allem durch sechs „Leipzig-Filme“ (1986–2015) geworden.

Wunderschön

<https://www.epd-film.de/filme/wunderschoen>

Der Episodenfilm der auch Regie führenden Schauspielerin Karoline Herfurth diskutiert mit Humor die Zwänge der Selbstoptimierung im Spätkapitalismus. Gezeigt werden fünf Frauen verschiedenen Alters und verschiedener Lebenslagen im Spannungsfeld zwischen Selbst- und Fremdwahrnehmung, die damit verbundene Verletzlichkeit und Unsicherheit. Zur prominenten Besetzung gehörten unter anderem außerdem Martina Gedeck, Nora Tschirner und Joachim Król.

WDJ

➔ What Is Christina Stansell Doing Today?



As Stanford in Berlin nears the fortieth anniversary of the Krupp Internship, I am also approaching two personal Berlin milestones – twenty years since my life-changing stay at Stanford in Berlin and ten years since returning to live again in this dynamic city!

After one quarter studying at Stanford in Berlin in 2002, I undertook a Krupp Internship in the Women's Working Group of the SPD, where I had a memorable summer experiencing the

German political and election system firsthand. After finishing my BA in International Relations at Stanford the following year, I spent another year in Germany undertaking various internships, then the next eight years working in international development with the Institute of International Education in San Francisco. Germany was never far from my mind though, and I returned in 2012 to Berlin to earn an MBA at ESMT and a Design Thinking

certification at the HPI D-School. I worked at HPI & the HPI Academy for the next six years, teaching and facilitating design thinking processes with students and professionals. During this time, I met my husband Enrico, and we now have two children, Luca and Liliana. The kids are growing up trilingual and love being at a Berlin "KiTa" that is also bilingual and multicultural.

Earlier this year, I returned to the international development field and now work for the **GIZ**, which is Germany's leading international cooperation agency, in the Digital Transformation Program's #SmartDevelopmentFund (<https://sdf.d4dhub.eu/>). Our focus is leveraging digital innovations and international partnerships currently tackling the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 globally and later expanding thematically to a variety of social and

environmental challenges facing our societies. It's fulfilling to work with these impactful projects and exciting to be wrestling with the question of how digital technologies should – and shouldn't – be built into international cooperation to contribute to progress on the major problems of our day.

I would be happy to connect with other alumni who are interested in these topics – as well as with anyone who is back in Berlin!

IN MEMORIAM



Photo: Kelly Ford

"... und dein Ja." of the world-famous
Jochen in action, "Beer Barrel Polka"
using "Rosamunde," in his German
the German version lesson.

Many of you reading this newsletter studied German in Berlin in the intensive language courses of Jochen Wohlfeil. We are deeply saddened to inform you of Jochen's sudden passing in June 2021.

Jochen joined the Berlin program in 1984 and continued until the pandemic mandated the temporary suspension of our programs in 2020. An estimated 1,000 Stanford students benefited from his innovative pedagogy and his engaged mentoring. He played a defining role in the development of Stanford in Berlin's language program, designing an innovative, fast-paced language pedagogy to facilitate cultural literacy and to prepare students for subsequent Krupp Internships. He replaced the blackboard with the computer early on, freeing his students from notetaking: He entered idioms and vocabulary directly into his laptop while teaching, projected these onto a large screen and emailed the digital file to students each day so that they could review the session.

His profound contributions to our program were recognized in 2009, when he was awarded the Bing Overseas Studies Program Award for Excellence in Teaching. Norman Naimark, the Burke Family Director of the program at the time, praised Jochen's "innovative course design and a legendary classroom culture that at once challenges and sustains, facilitating the linguistic empowerment of hundreds of students at the Bing Overseas Studies Program in Berlin."

Jochen studied at Universität Hamburg and Indiana University, where he received an M.A. in Anglo Studies and German Studies in 1982. He also studied at the Freie Universität Berlin, earning an M.A. in American Studies. In addition to his work with Stanford in Berlin,

Jochen was adjunct associate professor in Duke University's German Department and resident director of Duke in Berlin. Jochen was founding member and deputy chair of the Association of American Study Abroad Programs in Germany (AASAP).

We will remember Jochen, our colleague and friend, as a man intelligent in his kindness, caring in his critique, a natural mentor who melded on-point wit with calm and sage connection.

He is sorely missed. ■ **Karen Kramer**

DU FAHLSCHT Marlon Prantl

ja, Du Fahlscht
olles wie olm – lei du fahlscht
olles wie's sein sellt' – lei du fahlscht
olles sö ondacht' – weil du bischt
numma do olles vergeat –
i woäß olles vergeat
JODLER
kimmt numma zrugge
– dos was gewesen ischt geat olles
weiter- jo sall ischt gewiss
olles gewaltig – lei du bischt numma
do olles so scheane
– es wor soviel scheane
JODLER
und i kannt plearn
– jo i kannt plearn
obr es geat schö weiter
– es geat schö weiter
und es ischt kömisch – und nitt zen
lochn obr mir mochn weiter – mir
moch'n weiter
und i denk an di – jo i denk an di
bin in gedonkn bei dir
– bin in gedonkn bei dir!

"DU FAHLSCHT" aus dem Tonträger DRWEILONG von Marlon Prantl @ TyRoll mit Hans Haid (drweilong.tyroll.com): Musik und Poesie im ÖTZTALER-kulturerbe-DIALEKT (2014). Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von Marlon Prantl.

TyRoll interpretiert selbstkomponierten Songs in Öztaler Mundart, die als älteste Sprache Österreichs gilt und 2010 von der UNESCO zum Weltkulturerbe erklärt wurde. Der Volkskundler und Schriftsteller **Hans Haid** (1938–2019) schrieb außer Sachbüchern über die Kultur und Geschichte des Alpenraums Öztaler Dialektgedichte. Sein umfangreicher Nachlaß wird im **Brenner-Archiv** der Universität Innsbruck (Sammlung Hans Haid) aufbewahrt.

Thank You, Haus Mitteleuropa!

by Maria Biege / M.A. German Studies, 1978, Associate Director and Language Teacher at Stanford in Berlin until 2016

In the course of a complete redesign of undergraduate residential life at Stanford, the theme houses on Mayfield Avenue were closed, including Haus Mitteleuropa. From autumn quarter on, academic themes are combined into Yost house in Governor's Corner, now called the "At Home Abroad House." Because "Haus Mitt" was an important contact and communication hub not only for the Berlin Center but also for the Krupp Internship Program, we invited former Haus Mitt activists and residents to share their memories.

The theme of Haus Mitteleuropa was to be the culture, politics and history of the peoples of Central Europe. Residents were to speak German as much as possible and sponsored activities would be educational as well as recreational. As a self-op, Haus Mitt also presented many practical challenges, as Todd Doersch so well describes in his memoir, below.

Over the years, the program underwent many evaluations by university committees, and for the ones in which I participated, it was always very clear that we demonstrate that the theme was being carried forward with enthusiasm and expertise. Conversation courses, film classes and talks from the faculty were ongoing offerings. Faculty support was very important, and for

At the Stanford Center in Berlin, we always started the quarter off with a welcome dinner for students. At some point during the evening, the faculty would take turns introducing themselves. When my turn came, I would mention, among other things, that I had been Resident Fellow at Haus Mitteleuropa, 620 Mayfield Ave, on the "Row," during the first two years of its existence. Without fail, students would have a reaction – most had heard of Haus Mitt and invariably a number of them had either lived there or intended to upon their return to campus. There was a continuum, a lasting connection between campus and Stanford in Berlin and that the initiative that a group of students had started a relatively long time ago seemed still to be alive and strong. On my business trips to campus, I would always stop by for a chat or a meal with current residents. For several decades, Haus Mitt was a home away from home, and I naively assumed it would be there forever. Thus, it came as a big surprise when I heard that, this year, theme houses would be discontinued.

How lucky and deeply meaningful it became, in view of this news, that residents from the first two years of Haus Mitt had had a virtual reunion in 2020, during the pandemic, providing a chance to reconnect and see and hear one another. What was so valuable about Haus Mitt for us? It probably was the fact that we started something meaningful with high expectations and a lot of dedication. Theme houses were an exciting concept when they started in the 1970s, and they were quite a success.



Photo: Josie Flohr.

several dedicated decades, German Professor Orrin "Rob" Robinson proved to be a prime mentor for Haus Mitt students and also for me, as the first Resident Fellow.

Haus Mitteleuropa was a collaborative project, a cultural theme house situated in a building named "Jordan House," a magnet around which activities clustered. We wanted to make it a welcoming place and an inspiring one. I also envisioned it as a place where students who wanted to attend Stanford in Berlin and/or do an internship via the Krupp Internship Program, as well as students returning from those programs, could meet informally with ease and exchange thoughts and concerns. Haus Mitteleuropa now has become a virtual place, one that exists only in memory. Students and Krupp Interns who looked forward to reconnecting in Haus Mitt upon their return to campus will now have to find a new hub. ■

Reflections on Haus Mitteleuropa

by Todd Doersch / B.A. German Studies, B.A. Economics, 1979

In the spring of 1978, I was designated to be Haus Mitteleuropa's founding House Manager. Having just returned from two quarters of full immersion at the university in Bonn, I longed to pull Stanford closer to Germany. To my delight, students returning from the Vienna program and from the Berlin center were equally enthusiastic about importing their experiences back to campus. With a core set of engaged students and under the charismatic leadership of Professor Rob Robinson, we formalized our application to the Office of Residential Education for a Central European theme house. Timing is everything: the one-year experiment of an androgyny theme had run its course, so our theme was selected to replace theirs in the Jordan House on the Row, *if* we could attract enough residents in the Spring housing draw.

Word spread quickly in the hallways of the German Studies Department and among returning students from Overseas Studies that a physical focal point would exist on campus for German-speaking cultural activities, a natural counterpoint to La Maison Française and La Casa Italiana. Unlike those themes, however, our theme needed to span far beyond one country's borders, given the geopolitics of Central Europe in 1978. It also needed to confront and critically examine complex historical chapters – including the horrors of the holocaust. With such a broad charter our theme needed a broad name, so "Haus Mitteleuropa" it was, Central Europe, to em-

in order to survive: offer a vibrant program of residential education, gain a reputation for great food, and mutually assist our most natural allies – the Overseas Studies Office and the German Department.

Without a precedent to refer to, we arranged a very full calendar of residential education activities. We invited guest speakers from the consulates in San Francisco and from other European institutions in the Bay Area, highlighted musical and cultural events on and off campus, showed foreign films and coordinated a wide range of mini seminars at Haus Mitt. We regularly held well-attended house meetings and issued an internal newsletter (the "Zeitgeist") to keep residents informed on the packed array of activities.

Haus Mitt's first year was the Viennese Ball's second year. It is no coincidence that both initiatives shared heavy overlap in their leadership crews. The two initiatives symbiotically propelled each other's visibility on campus and reinforced each other's entrepreneurial spirit to build something awesome.

Residents of the house during the 1980-81 academic year.

Photo: Quad Staff. Courtesy of Steven Jackson (holding a campaign sign of his father in the front row).

The French and Italian houses had made clear that a reputation for great food must be a priority. Managing the kitchen was new to all of us. At first our independence from the university food service was exhilarating, but that novelty quickly gave way to the unrelenting challenges of running a restaurant-scale kitchen ourselves. On the

side, we full-time students had to hire a cook, prepare menus, order the food from numerous outside sources, maintain high sanitary standards, then start the cycle again for the next meal! Behind the scenes it was chaotic and exhausting, and to avoid disasters, several of us occasionally had to make an emergency run by car to buy a key ingredient that we had failed to pre-order. The cuisine was underwhelming at first, and regrettably it went downhill from there. In a momentous Haus meeting we decided we had no choice but to fire our first cook and look for another. As I reflect on that drama, I really appreciate the solidarity, resilience and patience of all my fellow residents. Happy ending: our second cook was wonderful and talented, with a particular specialty of excellent desserts. The pivot in the kitchen put Haus Mitt back on track as a place known for its delicious food.

In addition to a strong theme and good food, our third strategy was to serve as a landing pad for students returning from the German-speaking overseas programs and, therefore, also to be an excellent resource for stu-



brace explicitly the cultural differences among Switzerland, Austria, West Germany, and even the enigmatic East Germany beyond the Iron Curtain.

Haus Mitt was a start-up. We were inventing the theme as we went along. There was no playbook to follow, but we understood we had to do three things particularly well

dents considering their options to go overseas. Haus Mitt was a natural ally with Overseas Studies because returnees from all three overseas programs (Vienna, Berlin, Bonn) could answer students' questions first-hand about curriculum, language proficiency expectations, living quarters and social and cultural differences. Haus Mitt was a gigantic advertisement for the programs in Berlin, Vienna and Bonn, and thus indirectly for the German Studies Department. All parties benefited, so they all supported each other in a myriad of ways.

Stanford's undergraduate Bonn program was phased out in 1980, and the Vienna program ended in 1987.

With Stanford's German-speaking overseas options down to one, Haus Mitt's role as the main informal counseling resource for overseas options became somewhat superfluous. While the annual Viennese Ball has continued to be wildly popular at Stanford, it has morphed into an American debutante ball with little connection to its namesake Vienna.

On the bright side: Haus Mitteleuropa provided an enriching set of opportunities to over 1,400 students from 1978 until 2021, lasting longer than East Germany did (forty-three years versus forty-one years)! It was a very good run. ■



Germany's Special Relationship to Change: On Autopilot to Success

Germany's fixation on stability leads foreign observers to despair, even in this election.

But Berlin is doing it successfully. By John Kornblum, translated by Joann Skrypzak-Davidsmeyer

For someone like me, who's lived or worked in Germany for over fifty years, the weeks before the federal elections are more frustrating than exciting. I keep pinching myself to remember that I'm watching Germany in autopilot mode, which is nonetheless set for success.

At least this time a new chancellor will be elected – for just the third time in forty years. And entertainment is provided by a linguistic invention, the “triell,” which obviously is a duel between three instead of two political opponents.

But even such innovations won't prevent the winning team, once in office, from continuing the previous government's policies in broad strokes. Take a look at the election programs: because of immense challenges, such as climate protection and COVID-19, even the Greens are promising to only strengthen existing goals. And all the candidates have the same lack of interest in the tumultuous world beyond Germany – they're sticking to their commitment to Europe and NATO as well as the obligatory criticism of the USA.

Angela Merkel knows the formula. She's had sixteen years of success with the simple slogan “no experiments,” which she copied from Konrad Adenauer. Criticism of her so-called inflexibility from abroad missed the point. Merkel led Germany to exactly where it wanted to be.

No Experiments: Adenauer's Election Slogan

It will be the same even in this federal election. For all the media excitement about the Greens, the most popu-

lar candidate to succeed Merkel is her clone, the sixty-three-year-old SPD minister of finance, Olaf Scholz.

Confused foreign observers could easily conclude that Germany is stagnating and going downhill. Or that the frustration must be so great that it's now exploding with creative initiatives. I'm afraid both conclusions are wrong. Even in 2021 the new government will implement only very limited changes, in both domestic and foreign policy.

And why? Because the Germans have greatly profited from what I call dynamic inflexibility. Of course, Germany is changing, sometimes dramatically, but it almost never happens in broad daylight at the ballot box. A society that just barely escaped self-extinction seventy-five years ago has a hard time with any sort of change.

Hence, elections in Germany don't signify change, but serve to elect leaders who create the space for changes – by confirming public consensus rather than replacing it.

Younger People Also Instinctively Sense That Germany's Autopilot Is Successful

Even discontented younger generations, once they've let off a bit of steam, instinctively sense that Germany's autopilot is its secret to success.

As Lenin once put it in a nutshell: “Revolution in Germany? That'll never amount to anything. If the Germans ever wanted to storm a train station, they'd buy a platform ticket first.”

Still, Lenin wasn't quite right. Germany might be overly orderly, but there's hardly another country in Eu-

rope that has experienced as many upheavals in the last hundred years as it has. Just not on election day.

The reunification is a good example. It seems just to have happened, without warning or planning. West German politicians tried, for instance, to prevent Ronald Reagan's talk at Brandenburg Gate in 1987, arguing that it was too destabilizing. Most of the country was truly surprised when the Wall came down two years later.

Or what about the fate of politicians who really try to sell change? Like the coalition of Social Democrats and Greens that Merkel chased out of office in 2005. Gerhard Schröder outdid even himself and pushed through exactly the kind of neoliberal economic reforms that Merkel's CDU always pretends to support. That was sixteen years ago, and neither the SPD nor the Greens have come anywhere near as close to voting the CDU or Merkel out of office.

A Prime Example of Dynamic Inflexibility

If the CDU were to be voted out, after thirty-two out of the past forty years in government, that would be a decisive break. But with a politician like Olaf Scholz at the helm it would hardly be a radical change.



Photo: Shisma
(Own work, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia):
"Five different types of ballots being sorted and counted in the federal elections in 2021 in Berlin," September 26, 2021, Messe Berlin.

In other words: after its fatal flirtation with world power in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Germany has become a prime example of dynamic inflexibility. The Europe of Reagan, we could say. Autopilot seems to be the standard mechanism for a country that still doesn't know where it belongs. Voters are still fixed on the three traditional bases of the postwar period: stability, respectability and peace.

If we keep this triad in mind, a number of things become clear – Nord Stream 2, for instance. Those who criticize the Germans for their lack of compassion and solidarity haven't cracked the code. Slowly and without much fuss, Germany has been reshaping the Atlantic world according to its own ideas for more than sixty years. But even this success was overlooked because Germany knew how to hide behind the United States to build up an image of selflessness. In reality, Germany pursued its goals as single-mindedly as Charles de Gaulle did for France.

➔ New in Berlin-Dahlem

In November, **Gallery Bastian** opened a new exhibition building in Taylorstraße, next to the Allied Museum, behind a Steuben monument, with a show of recent paintings by Anselm Kiefer entitled "Le Dormeur du Val" (a poem by Arthur Rimbaud of 1870). The building, with two 5.60m high exhibition rooms, was designed by architect John Pawson in his characteristic minimalist, reductionist style. The gallery complements the well-known art institutions in the southwest of the city: **Brücke-Museum**, **Fluentum** (contemporary time-based media) and **Haus am Waldsee** – a counterweight to the concentration of art in Mitte. In addition to exhibitions, a program of events including readings, lectures and concerts is planned.



Germany Pretends to be Modest but is in Fact Self-Confident and Even Intolerant

Germany might think it's modest, but when it comes to its holy triad, it behaves self-confidently and often intolerantly, take the recurring euro debates for example. That's the way postwar Germany has exercised its power. It adapts to the circumstances and develops its strength by imposing its internal consensus on others. The goals will be more like Switzerland's or perhaps even Belgium's than those of Silicon Valley or the Elysée Palace. But Germany will insist that they be accepted.

Just how important the Atlantic community is for maintaining the European balance with Germany was something Richard Holbrooke anticipated twenty-five years ago when he argued in the magazine *Foreign Affairs* that America has become a European power.

In other words, the United States have become Europe's Germany, the central balance of the continent. In the words of Merkel, by contrast, Germany is Europe's America, that is, a "motor for change." What has been missing so far is a European Europe, and we'll have to wait a long time for that.

Together with North America, Europeans will have to ensure that Western values make up the foundation of a globally connected world in which values and value creation replace traditional definitions of power.

The prospects for that are not so bad. It is a future for which Germany, with its unique perseverance, is well prepared. But the results will have to be achieved over the long term. Real change can't be imposed by law.

Governments tend to follow public opinion instead of creating it. Reagan didn't initiate change in America in the 1980s. He sensed a mood and then convinced the American people in a brilliant way that change would improve their lives. The same goes for Donald Trump.

The same sort of mood is forming in Germany. We are reaching a point where the dangers of inaction can no longer be ignored. This suggests that change, when it comes, will be rapid. But hoping that Germany will lead Europe to new greatness by finally shutting autopilot off will get us nowhere. ■

John Kornblum was US ambassador to Germany from 1997 to 2001 and is a founding member of the American Academy in Berlin.

Source: "Auf Autopilot zum Erfolg." In *Der Tagesspiegel*, Berlin, September 21, 2021, p. 6. Courtesy of the author.

Photo John Kornblum: Stephan Röhl/Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (CC Creative Commons Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 DE; first publication: Flickr; the original photo has been cropped).

The Dangers of Sexist Rhetoric on Social Media

2016–2021: Attacks against Female Politicians and Candidates in the U.S. and Germany Pose a Threat to Democratic Freedom and Human Rights by Cybele Zhang



The following is an edited excerpt from an article published at the conclusion of my internship with Nürnberger Menschenrechtszentrum in September. The essay summarizes research conducted ahead of the 2021 German federal elections. The full article, which breaks down examples in both the German and U.S. contexts, can be accessed on the website of the NMRZ.

This year, Angela Merkel's term as chancellor comes to an end, concluding a historic period in German politics. Although Merkel broke numerous barriers as Germany's first female chancellor, great inequality between the sexes still endures worldwide and women are still underrepresented in global politics. Importantly, Merkel's time at the nation's helm has seen the rise of Facebook and the founding of social media giants Twitter and Instagram, among others. The inception of these sites has

been a double-edged sword for women in politics. On the one hand, these online forums have allowed politicians to speak directly to their constituents, elevating female voices that are often not covered equally in mainstream media; now, female politicians can choose what they say online and when they say it. But on the other hand, social media has become an echo chamber of sexist rhetoric directed at female candidates and politicians, amplifying existing discriminatory language as well as encouraging additional misogynistic attacks. To make things worse, most social media sites allow the veil of anonymity. Users can post under aliases or through anonymous accounts, creating a perfect opportunity for uncredited chauvinism and hatred, often without repercussions. Of course, sexism is not a novel phenomenon, but new social media channels have essentially created a twenty-four-hour news cycle for sexist commentary.



"German Elections: Annalena Baerbock" by [harry_nl](#) at [Wunderstock](#) (CC Creative Commons Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 DE)

Election poster for the 2021 Bundestag election of the party Bündnis 90/Die Grünen with the lead candidate Annalena Baerbock.

While social media platforms are also a forum for critiquing male candidates, women are significantly more often the targets of extreme rhetoric such as online abuse, harassment and gendered defamation. In fact, a 2016 Inter-Parliamentary Union study surveyed female parliamentarians worldwide and found that 42% of respondents had seen "extremely humiliating or sexually charged" images of themselves shared on the internet. The study also found that social media is the number one place in which psychological violence is perpetrated against women parliamentarians, particularly in the form of threats, misogynistic remarks and humiliating images. Sexism on social media is even more commonly directed against female candidates that are from minority groups (racially, religiously, etc.), are under forty years old, are highly visible in the media and advocate for progressive policies and/or women's rights.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in-person channels for discourse have been limited. Thus, social media and other online channels have taken on a new significance in the past year and a half, filling a void in the public sphere, especially in conversations around politics. Many people have turned to social media to both voice their opinions and seek answers to their political quandaries, but online channels are rife with misinformation and sexist rhetoric, so social media, despite its many benefits, holds the power to erode democracy. Earlier this year, German Justice Minister Christine Lambrecht described this phenomenon at the Safer Internet Day Conference; she cited a YouGov survey conducted on behalf of her ministry that found that almost one third

of social media users have already come into contact with fake news, incitement, hate postings or threats – a larger percentage of which is likely related to politics and/or gender. Because social media companies profit from the amount of time users spend on their sites, their algorithms arguably favor eye-catching content, often inflammatory, that attracts and holds users.

The harm of sexist rhetoric on social media are especially apparent in the U.S. and Germany, where for the time women have been elected to the positions of Vice President and Chancellor. Kamala Harris, filling the highest political position of any American woman to date, has faced relentless, often misogynistic, scrutiny on social media. In Germany, Annalena Baerbock, the only female candidate in the 2021 race to succeed Merkel, has faced numerous challenges to her character and questions surrounding her qualifications. Many of the allegations directed at her on the campaign trail were so blatantly gendered that even her male competitors – the CDU/CSU's Armin Laschet and the SPD's Olaf Scholz – have called the attacks inappropriate and unfair.

Human Rights Implications of Sexism on Social Media

Gendered disinformation campaigns often manifest in fake stories, threats and humiliating, often altered, images in an attempt to frame female candidates as inherently untrustworthy, unintelligent, or too emotional or sexual to hold office. These sexist narratives online have the potential to distort public understanding of female politicians' track records and policies, possibly influencing voters' decision at the ballot box. Additionally, misinformation and extraneous critiques on can also discourage women from seeking political careers and can negatively skew social perception of all women. The deliberate degradation of female candidates violates core tenets of universal human rights: the worth of the human person and the equal rights of men and women.

To borrow from the United Nations Human Rights Council, the erosion of women's human rights "is a litmus test for the human rights standards of the whole of society." Once women's rights begin to crumble, especially in the political sphere and in popular discourse, other rights are also in jeopardy.

Among the gendered remarks levied at female candidates are often threats of abduction, rape, or murder of the women and/or their families. Such attacks intend to deter female candidates from entering politics. One anonymous European parliamentarian recalled in the Inter-Parliamentary Union study, "Once, over a period of four days, I received more than 500 threats of rape on Twitter." While most of the messages on social media are

empty threats intending to intimidate, such rhetoric has sometimes led to real-life violence. One notable example is when right-wing militias coordinated the intended kidnapping of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2020. The militia's Facebook pages did not contain the remarks of just a few extremists but of hundreds of thousands of users, fostering an echo chamber of sexism and violence against Whitmer and other female leaders. Instead of expressing opposition through formal channels, evoking a recall election or petitioning the government for example, people chose violence and intimidation. Malachi Barrett, a reporter that infiltrated these radical Facebook groups, noted, "it's more common to see misogynist comments than substantive criticism of policy."

Around the globe, private actors and state-sponsored organizations have utilized malicious, misogynistic tactics to silence women and further inequality. Russia has notably interfered with and spread disinformation in both the U.S. and Germany's elections. Their attacks inherently pose a national security threat and violate human rights. In one such display of aggression online following Harris' Vice-Presidential nomination in 2020, disinformation posts were shared at least 3,000 times per hour, according to the Carnegie Endowment for National Peace. Similarly, Germany has been the target of 700 Russian disinformation cases since 2015 – more than any other country in the European Union, according to Reuters. Some experts believe Baerbock, who has been an outspoken critic of the controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Germany and Russia has been the victim of Russian disinformation campaigns.

What Next?

Women are already underrepresented in politics worldwide, and gender-based online attacks (whether focused on character, identity, appearance, sexuality or any other sexist topic) have the dangerous potential to push women out of politics or lead them to disengage from online political discourse in ways that harm their political effectiveness. As social media becomes an increasingly entrenched part of twenty-first century life and new forums for charged rhetoric emerge, the danger increases. Many extremist groups and those trapped in disinformation bubbles are now migrating to new online sites to avoid regulation beyond the mainstream Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Unregulated conspiracy sites such as QAnon or private messaging apps, namely WhatsApp and Telegram, are the new front in this war against sexist rhetoric on social media. According to Joachim Allgaier, a professor of communication and dig-

ital society at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, "We have no idea what's happening [on these new social media sites], and the tone there is perhaps a bit sharper and more aggressive than in the more broadly-used platforms."

So, what can politicians and the public do to protect global democracy and women's rights?

Women who are the subjects of social media attacks are often encouraged to "take the high road" and ignore their dissenters, but new research shows that female candidates actually see an uptick in their popularity when they instead call out such rhetoric. When a female candidate responds to and asserts that these sexist attacks are unacceptable, it can both recover her perceived credibility and improve her favorable image among voters. It is unfair, however, to place the burden solely on the female candidates and politicians. As Susan Douglas, a feminist cultural critic and professor at the University of Michigan, notes of women's experiences: "You don't want to make charges of sexism because it makes you look like you're whining. It makes you look like you're complaining. It makes you look like you're pulling the gender card...She doesn't want to be seen as a victim." We cannot rely on self-defense and social media counter attacks alone.

Larger societal and legal change needs to be made to both prevent further sexist rhetoric and remove existing misinformation and gendered criticisms. Some legal efforts have been made across the globe to hold social media companies more accountable for regulating harmful speech, including sexist rhetoric, on their sites, but such patchwork measures are insufficient. Governments should pressure social media companies to take a tougher stance against all forms of harassment, including that against women and other marginalized groups, on their platforms and to work towards greater transparency and accountability. While transparency has improved in recent years with the emergence of self-reported statistics on content moderation efforts and associated policy decision, these incremental changes still ignore the larger question of how algorithmic systems and design decisions affect outcomes relating to abuse and encourage sexist harassment. In order to encourage the positive aspects of social media and mitigate the negatives, it is integral that the public, campaigns and governments understand how to minimize sexist posts, algorithmic decision-making, content moderation and the redress available. ■

Cybele Zhang (English and German Studies) was prevented so far from studying in Berlin by the pandemic, but interned remotely with the Nuremberg Human Rights Center (NMRZ) in summer 2021.



The rose garden of the Villa with the new plants brought in 2020 replacing the diseased box hedges.

Impressum

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