



**PiCAIS**

Passau International  
Centre for Advanced  
Interdisciplinary Studies



# PICAIIS REPORT 2021-2023

Dear PICAIS Fellows, Alumni, and Event Organizers,  
Dear PICAIS supporters,

It is time to look back and reflect on what we have achieved to date. It has been years of progress and success for PICAIS and its community, characterized by exciting events, stimulating conversations and innovative projects.

In this report, we want to update you on everything that has happened over the past three years, from the researchers we hosted to the events that took place and the projects our fellows worked on.

## Contents

- 2 Greeting**
- 3 Research-in-Residence Fellowship**
- 19 After the fellowships...**
- 20 Events**
- 27 Team**
- 30 Support a Fellow or Event**

## Greeting

Reflecting on the dynamic journey we have embarked upon, it is with a sense of gratitude and accomplishment that we present this report. As directors, we have witnessed the impact of collaboration and dedication firsthand.

Over the past three years, PICAIS has had the privilege of hosting twelve Research-in-Residence Fellows from diverse regions around the world. Their research spanned the spectrum of disciplines crucial to our University's mission, enriching our academic landscape immeasurably. Moreover, our commitment to fostering academic discourse is reflected in the support of various events at the University of Passau, facilitated by PICAIS funding. These gatherings have attracted a diverse array of scholars, both domestic and international, to our campus.

One of the distinct characteristics of PICAIS has been the convivial atmosphere, showcased by our coffee talks, which provide a casual yet invaluable setting for fellows and faculty to connect and collaborate. These interactions have seeded new ideas and forged lasting partnerships, fostering a sense of community that is at the heart of PICAIS' ethos.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all PICAIS fellows, hosts, event organizers, and supporters, past and present, for their unwavering dedication and contributions. Your efforts have played a vital role in shaping the dynamic landscape of our center.

**As we move forward into the next phase of our journey, we warmly welcome your participation in fostering and growing our vibrant research community. Together, let's explore new horizons, spark creativity, and contribute to the evolution of PICAIS. We deeply appreciate your continued support, and we look forward to the opportunities that await us.**



Prof Dr Michael Grimm and  
Prof Dr Daniela Wawra  
Directors of PICAIS



# Research-in-Residence Fellowship

COLOURBOX5733478

## Overview



The PICAIS hosted twelve Fellows from ten countries in 2022 and 2023:

Edward Asiedu	University of Ghana Business School, Accra, Ghana
Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova	National Aviation University, Kyiv, Ukraine
Nwet Kay Khine	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
Ingrid Piller	Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
Daniel J. Henderson	University of Alabama, U.S.A.
Diana Mistreanu	University of Szeged, Hungary
Normann Witzleb	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
Claudia Sadowski-Smith	Arizona State University, U.S.A.
Alina Kasinska	Pylyp Orlyk International Classical University, Mykolaiv, Ukraine
Germano Glufke Reis	Federal University of Parana, Brazil
Hoda Zobeiri	University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran
Oxana Karnaukhova	Southern Federal University, Rostov Oblast, Russia

## Dr Edward Asiedu

Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana Business School (Development Finance Unit) and Affiliate Faculty at the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS)



**Period of stay:** 01.04. - 30.09.2022

**Project title:**

The Effect of Poverty on Children's Behaviour.  
Field Experiments in Ghanaian Villages

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Michael Grimm (Chair of Development  
Economics)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Edward Asiedu's](#) research interests include Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Inter-generational Transmission of Poverty, Sustainable Development and Economic Impact of Migration, and the role digital platforms can play for private sector development in the Global South.

His research project focuses on measures that are needed to ensure that poor children do not become poor parents. In Passau, he engaged with experimental methods to establish whether children in African countries who grow up in poor households do not only start out from a place of disadvantage but also make decisions that will have long-term negative consequences for them.

While staying in Passau, he participated in a [symposium](#) on "Digitalization of Africa" and delivered a talk on enhancing digitalization interventions. Furthermore, he helped to set up a working group within the DFG Research Training Group "DPE" to explore the impact of digital platforms for private sector development, engaging with the Ghanaian platform WamiAgro. Edward Asiedu has also become a Research Affiliate to the Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems which will further strengthen his links with the University.

In May 2022, he published a [study](#) titled "Economic Recovery but Stagnating Mental Health During a Global Pandemic? Evidence from Ghana and South Africa" in the *Review of Income and Wealth*. Dr Asiedu furthermore contributed to the symposium "Digitalization of Africa - Can digitalization address development bottlenecks?" held in July 2022, where he presented some of his research. He also gave an [interview](#) in the Digital Research Magazine of the University of Passau.

Future plans include potential student and staff exchanges between the Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems of the University of Passau and the Business School of the University of Ghana, Legon.

## Prof Dr Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova

Associate Professor of Journalism Chair at the National Aviation University,  
Kyiv (Ukraine)



**Period of stay:** 01.10.2022 - 31.03.2023 and  
01.10.2023 - 31.03.2024

**Project title:** Public Communication in a City under  
Attack: Russia's Informational Influence on the Citizens of  
Mariupol

**Host at the University of Passau:** Prof Dr Florian Töpfl  
(Chair of Political Communication with a Focus on  
Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet Region)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova's](#) research interests include public and social communication, social media, fact-checking, media literacy, journalistic genres, speechwriting, information wars, (political) journalism, alternative media, strategic communication, human rights journalism, ethics of journalism and gender in mass media.

Besides lecturing and developing several courses, she has published regularly in these areas in recent years as well as participated in various conferences, congresses and projects. She was awarded several certificates of appreciation for significant achievements in research work, a high level of student training as well as her pedagogical skills and effective work with gifted students. Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova also serves as a media coach and is a member of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.

Her research project at the University of Passau focused on analyzing and structuring the transition of the information situation and, in particular, the access options on information before and during the war in Ukraine. Therefore, scientific publications, media reports, social media posts and photos on the research topic were analyzed. In addition, an application for the ethical review of the project and a draft research article were prepared, and 22 citizens of Mariupol were interviewed. The project creates a typology and structure of mass media and public communication during the war, which makes it possible to assess the extent of Russian propaganda. Moreover, the study promotes the understanding how digital technologies help to gather information under such repressive conditions.

Professor Melnykova-Kurhanova was vividly engaged in publicly communicating her research, e.g. by attending a [conference in Bratislava, Slovakia](#), by organizing scientific events in Passau ([research colloquium](#), [panel discussion](#), [public lecture](#)) discussing her research results with peer academics and the public, and by sharing her story in the University's [Digital Research Magazine](#).

## Dr Nwet Kay Khine

Post-doctoral Researcher at the Centre for Social and Development Studies at the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (Thailand)



**Period of stay:** 01.11.2022 - 30.04.2023

**Project title:** The emergence of digital authoritarianism – Myanmar between Chinese and Russian influence as a laboratory for a new regime type

**Host at the University of Passau:**  
Prof Dr Wolfram Schaffar (Chair of Development Politics)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Nwet Kay Khine's](#) research interests include authoritarianism, media system transformation and environmental politics and policies in transitional democracies.

Dr. Khine is a postdoctoral researcher at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok (Thailand) and is affiliated with the Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development at Chiang Mai University in Thailand. She has published continually, including research publications (monographs as well as joint publications), books (in Burmese), peer-reviewed analyses, and chapters of edited volumes. Moreover, she also wrote short articles and papers regarding recent developments in Myanmar.

During her time at the University of Passau, she served as a guest lecturer and participated as a speaker in academic conferences, roundtables, and panels. She conducted research for her project proposal titled "*The Emergence of Digital Authoritarianism in Myanmar: A Study of Chinese and Russian Influences as a Laboratory for a New Regime Type*" under the guidance of Prof Dr Wolfram Schaffar at the Chair of Development Politics. By examining the rise of global digital authoritarianism, she analyzed the rules, regulations, and practices of internet use adopted by the military regime and its predecessor governments.

In 2024, Dr Khine published the results of her research in a paper titled "[Digital Rights in Post-Coup Myanmar: Enabling Factors for Digital Authoritarianism](#)" in the Journal of Human Rights and Peace Studies.



## Prof Dr Ingrid Piller

Distinguished Professor of Applied Linguistics at the  
Macquarie University, Sydney (Australia)



**Period of stay:** May 2023

**Project title:**  
Linguistic Diversity and Social Participation

**Host at the University of Passau:**  
Prof Dr Daniela Wawra (Chair of English Language and  
Culture)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Ingrid Piller's](#) research interests include Epistemology, Globalization, Linguistic Diversity, Migration, and Social Justice. She previously served as Executive Director of the Adult Migrant English Program Research Centre (AMEP RC) at the Macquarie University, Australia. Over the course of her international career, she has also held appointments at universities in Germany, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and USA. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and recipient of a 2018 Anneliese Maier Research Award.

Ingrid Piller is the author of [Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice](#) (Oxford University Press, 2016), which won the 2017 Prose Award in the Language and Linguistics category and the 2017 BAAL Book Prize. She is also the author of the bestselling [Intercultural Communication](#) (Edinburgh University Press, 2nd ed., 2017) and over 400 other publications. Furthermore, she edits the sociolinguistics portal [Language on the Move](#), through which many of her publications and those of her team, including their [research blog](#), can be accessed. She tweets about linguistic diversity [@lg\\_on\\_the\\_move](#).

Her stay at the University of Passau aimed to explore fruitful collaboration opportunities along with her research on how language serves to produce and reproduce the social order in contexts characterised by high levels of diversity due to migration and globalisation. During her stay, she also participated in project activities and events of the bidt project ["Vectors of Data Disclosure"](#). Moreover, she gave a [public lecture](#) titled "English in Australia" which delved into Australian language and cultural history, to provoke thought on broader themes: the embedding of intercultural communication and language learning within power dynamics, the concept of linguistic justice, and strategies for efficient communication in diverse contexts.

## Prof Dr Daniel J. Henderson

Professor of Economics and the J. Weldon and Delores Cole Faculty Fellow in the Department of Economics, Finance and Legal Studies in the Culverhouse College of Business at the University of Alabama (USA)



**Period of stay:** 31.05.2023 - 31.07.2023

**Project title:**

Dynamic nonparametric multidimensional panel data models with application to migration flows across Europe

**Hosts at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Harry Haupt (Chair of Statistics and Data Analytics)

Dr Joachim Schnurbus (Computational Statistics and Mathematics Teaching Unit)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Daniel J. Henderson's](#) research focus is on Nonparametric Econometrics and Statistics, Panel Data Econometrics, Applied Microeconometrics, and Economics of Education. However, his research encompasses various fields, including child health determinants, economic growth and development, environmental economics and international trade. His extensive publication record includes prestigious journals.

Notably, his work has been cited not only within economics but also across a diverse range of disciplines. Professor Henderson has been appointed as a European Science Foundation Expert, serving in the College of Expert Reviewers for Science Connect. Furthermore, he holds memberships at various universities in Asia and Europe, contributing to international research collaborations. Since 2008, he has been a research fellow at IZA in Bonn.

While staying at the University of Passau, his research focused on migration flows to European nations. Using dynamic nonparametric multidimensional panel data models, he developed new statistical and econometric tools applicable to immigration. The goal of his work is to forecast migration flows and identify their determinants.

In December 2022, Daniel Henderson gave a [Brown Bag Seminar](#) on Recent Developments in Data Science on model-free difference-in-differences. In July 2023, he held a [research colloquium](#) titled "Semiparametric Varying Coefficient Dynamic Fixed-Effects Panel Data Models with application to migration patterns into Europe" which focused on labor market conditions among European nations over time.

Additionally, he was interviewed by the University's [Digital Research Magazine](#) about his research topic and scientific stay in Passau.

## Dr Diana Mistreanu

Guest postdoctoral lecturer and researcher at the University of Szeged (Hungary)



**Period of stay:** 01.05. - 31.07.2023 and  
01.01. - 31.03.2024

**Project title:**

What is it Like to Be a Migrant? Emotion and Inner Experience in Shumona Sinha's Migrant and Refugee Narratives

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Marina Ortrud Hertrampf (Professorship of Romance Literature and Culture with a focus on France)

**Further Details:** [Academia](#), [Orcid](#)

[Diana Mistreanu's](#) research interests include cognitive literary studies, cognitive narratology, medical humanities, French and Francophone contemporary literature and indigenous Canadian literatures.

Over the years, Dr Mistreanu has consistently published a wide array of scholarly works, including contributions to collective volumes, articles in peer-reviewed journals and book reviews. She has also played an active role in organizing various academic events, teaching courses on academic writing and literature, and presenting her research at numerous international conferences.

Dr Mistreanu has been recognized for her impressive language skills and has served as a guest lecturer at several institutions, including the University of Passau.

In addition, she has founded the University of Luxembourg's reading club, "Lecteurs d'hiver," which she moderated for five years, organizing regular literary evenings and reading sessions focused on different literatures from around the world.

During her first stay at the University of Passau, Diana Mistreanu gave a [public lecture](#) addressing "Cognitive literature studies – an interdisciplinary framework for research on fiction and mental activity". Moreover, she helped organizing the [first international conference](#) on the French-Indian migrant and translingual writer Shumona Sinha. The conference provided an opportunity to discuss various aspects of Sinha's work and facilitated the formation of new professional connections. Several female professors were invited to give lectures or conduct research at the University of Passau as visiting academics. As a result, several participants are now collaborating on various projects or considering future collaborations.

Subsequently, Dr Mistreanu will publish the first critical volume on Shumona Sinha's work in 2024. The volume consists of the conference presentations and further contributions by authors who did not take part in the conference. The compilation and editing were planned for the second part of Diana Mistreanu's stay (January-March 2024).

## Prof Dr Normann Witzleb

Associate Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (China) & Adjunct Associate Professor, Monash University (Australia)



**Period of stay:** 07.06.2023 - 28.07.2023

**Project title:**

Privacy and data protection in relation to artificial intelligence technologies: Evaluating the potential and effect of EU legislative initiatives for the Asia-Pacific region

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Kai von Lewinski (Chair of Public Law, Media Law and Information Law)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Normann Witzleb](#) has extensive experience in common law and civil law, specializing in privacy law, data protection law, law and technology, comparative law, torts law and remedies.

During his academic career, he has held various significant positions, both as a professor and in administrative roles. Professor Witzleb has published books, book chapters, articles and reports, covering a broad range of topics related to privacy, data protection and civil law.

Professor Witzleb's expertise extends beyond theoretical research and practice. He works as a consultant and has been actively engaged in the policy and regulatory landscape surrounding privacy and data protection. He has collaborated with government bodies, providing submissions and advice on privacy-related matters. In addition to being a qualified German lawyer, he is a Barrister of the High Court and Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

While at the University of Passau, he conducted an in-depth examination of the EU's legislative approach to data protection and AI governance, exploring how this regulatory model can inform lawmakers and reformers abroad. The project highlights available policy options, enhances understanding of legislative drivers and regulatory preferences, and potentially contribute to the harmonization of laws across different regions. Additionally, it will investigate the necessary modifications to accommodate local cultural and economic specificities. His work is particularly relevant to Australia and Hong Kong, jurisdictions with which he has strong familiarity and institutional ties.

Normann Witzleb was interviewed by the [Digital Research Magazine](#) during his stay in Passau.

## Prof Dr Claudia Sadowski-Smith

Professor of English and American Studies at Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (USA)



**Period of stay:** 26.06. - 26.07.2023 and  
01.06. - 31.07.2024

**Project title:**

Inequality, the Welfare State, and the Racialization of Post-Soviet Migrants in Germany and the United States

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Karsten Fitz (Chair of American Studies/Cultural and Media Studies)

**Further Details:** [Website](#)

[Claudia Sadowski-Smith's](#) research focus is on Migration Studies, Border Studies, Whiteness Studies, Mass Media, and Climate Migration.

She has published books, edited special journal issues and a collection of essays, and contributed to academic publications. Additionally, she reviews manuscripts and proposals for academic journals and publishers. She has received numerous invitations to present at conferences and institutions.

With a strong commitment to mentorship and teaching, Professor Sadowski-Smith has taught diverse courses at prestigious universities and participated in professional development programs. She actively serves in service roles at Arizona State University and has made significant contributions to the academic community through her professional service.

Throughout her career, Professor Sadowski-Smith has received numerous grants, awards and fellowships. She was also a member of the International Committee of the American Studies Association and actively contributes to community service initiatives.

During the first stay at the University of Passau in 2023, Claudia Sadowski-Smith delivered a keynote titled "Critical Race Theory, the Welfare State, and Inequities in US Migration" at the symposium "[A Critical Race Perspective on US Welfare Regimes](#)", organized by Dr Grit Grigoleit-Richter (American Studies). Additionally, she began writing a grant application with Dr Grigoleit-Richter to the Foundation of German American Economic Relations to organize an interdisciplinary workshop on "[Ukrainian Refugees in Germany and the United States After Russia's Invasion: Implications for Global Refugee Policy](#)". Following the approval of the grant, the workshop will be held on June 28 and 29, 2024 at the University of Passau.

Professor Sadowski-Smith also initiated a joint comparative research project with Prof Dr Julia Ricart Brede (Chair of German as Second/Foreign Language), based on interviews with Ukrainian migrants in Germany and the USA. A preliminary paper on this topic will be presented during the workshop.

## Prof Dr Alina Kasinska

Professor at the Department of Engineering, Technology and Economics at Pylp Orlyk International Classical University, Mykolaiv (Ukraine)



**Period of stay:** 01.07. - 31.12.2023

**Project title:**

Organizational Adaptation to sustained cosmological Crisis – Extension of a longitudinal study of Nature Parks in Ukraine during the Russian invasion and the (de)occupation since February 2022

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Andreas König (Chair of Strategic Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship)

**Further Details:** [Google Scholar](#), [Orcid](#)

[Alina Kasinska's](#) research focus is on Regional Economy, Natural reserve fund, Developed productive forces, Organizational mechanism for managing protected areas, organizational adaptation and the role of territories and objects of the nature reserve fund in ensuring the integrated development of the region.

Her contributions to academia are reflected in her significant publications. In her research, she developed a methodology for determining the value of land of protected and recreational areas. Throughout her career, Alina Kasinska has received notable recognitions and engaged in professional activities and academic services.

Professor Kasinska joined the chair of Professor König in March 2023, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation Program co-leading the interdisciplinary research project "Organizational Sensemaking, Innovation, and Adaptation in Response to Extreme Exogenous Jolts - The Responses of Natural Parks in Ukraine to the Russian Onslaught in 2022", which was nominated for the *Strategic Management Society Annual Conference Responsible Research Paper Prize*.

During her stay at the University of Passau, Professor Kasinska conducted in-depth interviews to enhance the case study of Ukrainian national parks and expanded the analysis to other parks. She successfully established the groundwork for further collaboration with representatives of Ukrainian national parks and continued work on ongoing research projects.

Together with leading experts, scholars and practitioners, she held a workshop titled "Organizational Adaptation of Nature Parks in Ukraine Affected by Military Aggression" in Passau. Alina Kasinska also hosted together with her host Professor Andreas König a [quest lecture](#) by Professor Iryna Honcharenko from Mykolaiv National Agrarian University (Ukraine) in December 2023. Furthermore, Alina Kasinska presented her findings at the Academy of Management conference in Boston and the Academic Network Eastern Europe conference in Regensburg, among other venues.

An interview on her research was published in the [Digital Research Magazine](#).

## Prof Dr Germano Glufke Reis

Professor and Coordinator of the Sustainable Food Value Chains Laboratory at the Federal University of Parana, School of Management (Brazil)



**Period of stay:** 28.09. - 28.10.2023 and  
01.03. - 01.04.2024

**Project Proposal:**

Disruptive innovation and “hybrid” products: an economic perspective of the disruptive potential of different forms of cultivated (cell-based) meats

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Terese Venus (Research Group Bioeconomy Economics)

**Further Details:** [LinkedIn](#), [Research Gate](#), [Orcid](#)

Germano Glufke Reis' research interests are in sustainable global value chains, with a particular focus on the meat industry, value chains of cultivated meats (cell-based meats) from a business management perspective and the impact of alternative proteins as disruptive innovations within the meat market. His contributions to academia are significant, encompassing various publications and the facilitation of workshops and roundtables.

His academic journey has been enriched by international experiences, including being a visiting PhD at the University of Cambridge's Judge Business School, and a visiting scholar at the International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam), and the University of Helsinki. His dedication to international collaboration is further evident through his participation and leadership in various global research initiatives, projects and studies.

Professor Reis is extensively engaged in teaching and mentoring across undergraduate, postgraduate, MBA, continuing education, and in-company programs. He has developed several courses and is coordinating and lecturing such. In addition, he serves as a member of the editorial board of SN Business & Economics.

The initial aim of the residency was to analyze the disruptive potential of cultured meat and its hybrid forms in Brazil and Germany. Cultured meat is edible and produced in special facilities and from different substrates without the need to raise and slaughter animals. During his first visit, he spoke both in the research forum of the [Sustainability Hub](#) at the University of Passau and during a [public lecture](#) about cultured meat, the reasons and motivation, but also the challenges of production. Professor Reis also took part in various conferences and meetings on this topic, e.g. he organized a [round table](#), in which he also participated, to talk likewise about the opportunities and challenges of cultured meat.

## Prof Dr Hoda Zobeiri

Associate Professor of Economics, The University of Mazandaran, Babolsar (Iran)

**Period of stay:** 23.10. – 23.12.2023

**Project title:** Macroeconomic Conditions and Population Health in Iran

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Michael Grimm (Chair of Development Economics)

**Further Details:** [Google Scholar](#)

[Hoda Zobeiri's](#) research interests encompass a wide array of areas including Development Economics, Health Economics, Institutional Economics, and the Economy of Iran.

In recent years, Hoda Zobeiri has conducted research and published continually on these topics. This research led to articles and features in a variety of journals; furthermore, she authored a book on research methods in economics and contributed to a translation project on public work. Hoda Zobeiri also volunteers as a reviewer for both national and international scientific journals and served on the scientific committee of the National Conference on Iran Economy.

Within the realm of teaching, she has led various courses at the Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels. Notably, Hoda Zobeiri shows a strong dedication to supervision of MSc and PhD candidates. Since 2021, Hoda Zobeiri has been serving as Executive Director of the Macroeconomic Research Letter at the University of Mazandaran.

As part of the PICAIS scholarship, Professor Zobeiri investigated the topic of "Macroeconomic Conditions and Population Health in Iran" in order to ideally create a basis for further research in the field of public health in the Middle East.

During her stay, she gave a [public lecture](#) entitled: "Trends in population health in Iran - The role of internal reforms and international sanctions". The lecture gave an overview of the most important health policy measures and reforms in the health system as well as the development of population health in Iran in recent decades.



## Dr Oxana Karnaukhova

Affiliated Researcher and Lecturer, University of Passau; Southern Federal University, Rostov Oblast, Russia

**Period of stay:** 18.12.2023 - 17.05.2024; November 2024

**Project title:** Problematizing the Strategic Sovereignty Narratives in EU Foreign Policy: between the Real and the Imagined

**Host at the University of Passau:**

Prof Dr Daniel Göler (Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics)

**Further Details:** [LinkedIn](#), [Research Gate](#), [Orcid](#), [Scopus](#)

[Oxana Karnaukhova's](#) research interests encompass international relations, the anthropology of geopolitics, and comparative regionalism.

Her remarkable academic journey and extensive research experience have resulted in significant contributions to the realms of European politics and international relations. With a strong background in research, Oxana Karnaukhova has actively engaged in and led numerous research projects and international collaborations and has been deeply involved in scientific cooperation networks.

Notably, she serves as the editor-in-chief for the *International Journal of Project Management and Productivity Assessment* (USA) and contributes to the journals *The New Past/Novoe Proshloe* (Russia) and the *Journal of Liberty and International Affairs* (North Macedonia). Her teaching experience also covers a variety of courses in these fields.

Oxana Karnaukhova is affiliated with the Council of European Studies (CES) and the Centre for Citizenship, Identities, and Governance (CCIG) at the Open University in Milton Keynes, UK. Furthermore, she holds an associate membership with the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies (BASEES).

During her research stay in Passau, Dr Karnaukhova investigates the EU's narratives of strategic autonomy in foreign policy and international security policy, in particular. Furthermore, she plans to transfer the results into workshops, to further discuss them in the course of public events including those organized at the University of Passau, and finally to publish her results in high-ranked journals such as the *Journal of Eurasian Studies* and *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*.



# After the fellowships...

Adobe Stock: 58039229

## Impressions of our PICAIS Fellows



**Dr Diana Mistreanu, University of Szeged, Hungary**

*“The PICAIS provided welcoming and stimulating conditions for creating and sharing knowledge. The support I received during the programme helped me carry out my current research goals, and design new ones in collaboration with other colleagues. [...]”*



**Prof Dr Germano Glufke Reis, School of Management, UFPR Brazil**

*“The existing infrastructure and knowledge exchange with fellow researchers [...] greatly contributed to the successful outcomes of my activities and the achievement of my research objectives. Collaboration, openness, and an innovative and creative atmosphere were also standout features. Additionally, the University and the city of Passau provided a conducive environment for my work. I strongly recommend the PICAIS program; it was a truly enriching experience.”*



**Dr Nwet Kay-Khine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand**

*„The University has a vibrant research community that is suited for researchers at any career stage. [...] PICAIS gave me opportunities for future collaborative research in digital humanities linking with some areas of Social and Political Science. This fellowship illustrates Passau University’s commitment to strengthen new links between the other parts of the world and Germany.“*



**Prof Dr Normann Witzleb, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China**

*„The PICAIS fellowship allowed me to undertake research in the heart of Europe, work with congenial colleagues and expand my networks.“*



**Prof Dr Daniel Henderson, University of Alabama, USA**

*“The PICAIS program made it possible for me and my family to spend a summer in a beautiful part of the world. I was able to work on a project that would not have been possible without a long-term visit and my family was able to experience a new culture.”*

## Establishment of sustainable collaborations

As the PICAIS programmes aim to encourage and facilitate the establishment of mid- to long-term collaborations, it is of great interest for us to see to what extent the PICAIS fellowships contribute to this goal. Therefore, one year after the fellowship has ended, we ask the university hosts how their professional relationship with the fellows has developed ever since and whether a (sustainable) collaboration beyond the fellowship has been established.

First feedback from our hosts show that joint data is to be presented at international conferences (Henderson/Schnurbus, Haupt; Reis/Venus), joint publications are in the making (Asiedu/Grimm; Witzleb/von Lewinski; Henderson/Schnurbus, Haupt) or have already been published (Khine/Schaffar). Furthermore, former fellows sustain their connection by supporting the supervision of doctoral students in Passau (Asiedu/DPE); some even have come to work at the University of Passau as research associates (Kasinska/König) or to complete their habilitation at their host's chair (Mistreanu/Hertrampf).



# Events

## Events from our Fellows

- **Symposium: “Digitalization of Africa – Can digitalization address development bottlenecks?”**  
13 July 2022  
Dr Edward Asiedu  
<https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/en/events/events-from-our-fellows>
- **Brown Bag Seminar: “A Complete Framework for Model-Free Difference-in-Differences”**  
15 December 2022  
Prof Dr Daniel J. Henderson  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Announcement\\_Daniel\\_Henderson\\_2022-12-15.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Announcement_Daniel_Henderson_2022-12-15.pdf)
- **Research Colloquium: “Public Communication in Ukrainian Mariupol under Attack”**  
21 February 2023  
Prof Dr Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Research-Colloquium\\_Melnykova-Kurhanova.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Research-Colloquium_Melnykova-Kurhanova.pdf)
- **Public Lecture: “English in Australia”**  
8 May 2023  
Prof Dr Ingrid Piller  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Gastvortrag\\_Piller.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Gastvortrag_Piller.pdf)
- **Public Lecture: “Cognitive Literary Studies - An Interdisciplinary Framework for Research on Fiction and Mental Activity”**  
21 July 2023  
Dr Diana Mistreanu  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Public-Lecture\\_Mistreanu.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Public-Lecture_Mistreanu.pdf)
- **Research Colloquium: “Semiparametric varying coefficient dynamic fixed-effects panel data models - With application to migration patterns into Europe”**  
26 July 2023  
Prof Dr Daniel J. Henderson  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/ResearchColloquium\\_Henderson.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/ResearchColloquium_Henderson.pdf)
- **Research Colloquium: “TransFARMing the meat value chain with animal-free substitutes”**  
23 October 2023  
Prof Dr Germano Glufke Reis  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Reis\\_Lecture\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Reis_Lecture_flyer.pdf)

- **Roundtable: “Cultivated Meat: Opportunities and Challenges”**  
26 October 2023  
Prof Dr Germano Glufke Reis  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Reis\\_Roundtable\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Reis_Roundtable_flyer.pdf)
- **Workshop: “Organizational Adaptation of Nature Parks in Ukraine Affected by Military Aggression”**  
From 1 to 2 December 2023  
Prof Dr Alina Kasinska  
[www.picais.uni-passau.de/en/events/events-from-our-fellows](http://www.picais.uni-passau.de/en/events/events-from-our-fellows)
- **Public Lecture: “Trends in Population Health in Iran - The role of internal reforms and international sanctions”**  
6 December 2023  
Prof Dr Hoda Zobeiri  
[https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Flyer\\_Event-Zobeiri.pdf](https://www.picais.uni-passau.de/fileadmin/dokumente/einrichtungen/PICAIS/Veranstaltungen/Flyer_Event-Zobeiri.pdf)
- **Guest Lecture: “Trade in Agri-Food Products between Ukraine and the EU”**  
8 December 2023  
Prof Dr Iryna Honcharenko with Prof Dr Alina Kasinska  
<https://www.wiwi.uni-passau.de/en/strategy-innovation/news/news/picais-gastvortrag-von-professor-iryna-honcharenko-mykolaiv-national-agrarian-university-am-8122023>

## Event Funding

- **Symposium “Interventions and instruments to enhance sustainable farming practices - Lessons from Indonesia and beyond”**

September 29-30, 2022 | Hosted by: [Prof Dr Michael Grimm, Chair of Development Economics](#)

This two-day symposium addressed the realm of Sustainable Agriculture with a primary focus on Indonesia, building upon two research projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) under Professor Grimm's leadership.

Participants from various universities and research institutions in both Indonesia and Germany engaged in enlightening discussions across several sessions. Topics explored included training for small-scale farmers, the role of digital tools in sustainable agriculture, and sustainable palm oil production. The highlight was the public talk on "Sustainable Palm Oil Production in Indonesia." The symposium wrapped up with conversations about future research and teaching collaborations, with an emphasis on strengthening the sustainability hub at the University of Passau.

- **Symposium “A Critical Race Perspective on U.S. Welfare Regimes”**

June 28, 2023 | Hosted by: [Prof Dr Grit Grigoleit-Richter, Principal Investigator for the BMBF funded project "'Welfare Queens' and 'Losers': a Critical Race and Intersectional Perspective on the U.S. American Welfare State" at the Professorship for American Studies/Cultural and Media Studies, University of Passau](#)

The interdisciplinary symposium explored the integration of refugees and immigrants into U.S.- society at a time that is marked by increasing right-wing populism, an unregulated neoliberal economic system, a diminishing welfare state, and declining public support for immigration.

Karsten Fitz and Grit Grigoleit-Richter provided in the introduction a critical race framework for the symposium by shifting the traditional discussion from how immigrants are incorporated into the host society to questions of how immigrants and their communities are racialized and thus integrated into a racialized society. Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Arizona State University (USA), shared in her opening lecture insights from her latest research on how Ukrainian refugees are perceived and incorporated in the U.S. This introduction was followed by three lectures from researchers from Universities of the USA as well as the University of Passau serving as impulses for the following interactive workshop, on which students as well as pupils engaged around the main topics from the symposium, immigration, settler colonialism, Civil-Rights Movement, and welfare state.

The final roundtable discussion on racism in the U.S. and Germany highlighted both commonalities and differences in migration and anti-racism efforts in the two countries.



- **International Conference on Shumona Sinha’s Oeuvre in the presence of the author**

July 27-29, 2023 | Hosted by: [Dr Diana Mistreanu and Prof Dr Marina Ortrud Hertrampf, Professorship of Romance Literature and Culture with a focus on France](#)

The first international conference on the literary creation of the contemporary Franco-Indian writer Shumona Sinha brought together academics from four continents and fourteen different countries who share an interest for translingual fiction, migrant and refugee narratives, and the interplay between literature and transcontinental migration in the contemporary world.

The event started with a conversation with Shumona Sinha who was present as a guest author and discussed her work with the participants and the public, engaging with them in a lively exchange and answering their questions about her writing. The next two conference days included panels on Sinha’s refugee and migration narratives, as well as on reconceptualizing frameworks and methodologies for understanding topics such as womanhood, feminism and migration. The diversity of approaches to Sinha’s work hailed from geocriticism, narratology and stylistics, to interculturality, intermediality, intertextuality, the medical humanities, and didactics.

A collective volume of the conference is planned to be published in 2024.

- **German-Taiwanese Symposium “State and Crisis”**

September 18-19, 2023 | Hosted by: [Prof Dr Meinhard Schröder, Chair of Public Law, European law and IT Law](#)

The 6th comparative Symposium of the German-Taiwanese Public Law Discussion Group was centered on the theme of “State and Crisis” marking the first time the group had convened in Passau. This symposium facilitated not only a comparative analysis between Germany and Taiwan but also an interdisciplinary exchange, exploring the transferability of legal solutions across different areas of law. It featured presentations on various crises and the corresponding legal responses with active discussions among the attendees, including public law professors from universities in Germany and Taiwan.

- **International Conference “À la recherche d’une patrie européenne: cent ans de représentation de l’Europe dans la revue Europe”**

*In Search of the European Homeland: One Hundred Years of Images of Europe in Europe, revue littéraire mensuelle*

November 10-11, 2023 | Hosted by: [Prof Dr Marina Ortrud Hertrampf, Professorship of Romance Literature and Culture with a focus on France](#)

In collaboration with the Sorbonne Université (Paris), the conference united over twenty scholars from six countries with the goal of amplifying the strong voices for Europe (again). Centered around the centenary of the French literary journal *Europe*, the event delved into the ideas, images and visions depicted by the authors since its inception as well as the journal’s role in shaping visions of a peacefully united Europe by connecting past perspectives with contemporary notions of European identity. Discussions highlighted key figures from the first decades like Romain Rolland and addressed historical discourses on

nationhood, homeland, and Europe, revealing new parallels, cross-references and references.

Proceedings will be published in the "Romain Rolland Studien" series, edited by Professor Hertrampf, in 2024.

- **Building Cyber Resilience Together: A German-Ukrainian Round Table**  
November 30 - December 1, 2023 | Hosted by: Prof Dr Oksana Kiriak, Yuriy Fedlovych Chernivtsi National University Ukraine and [Prof Dr Meinhard Schröder, Chair of Public Law, European law and IT Law](#)

The German-Ukrainian symposium took place on the occasion of the International Cyber Security Day. The international symposium brought together researchers from various fields and aimed to discuss challenges and solutions for digital security. There was a lively exchange and intriguing discussions on the latest research findings, best practices and practical experiences in the field of digital security.

The event was jointly organized by the University of Passau and the Faculty of Law of the National Yuriy Fedkovych University of Chernivtsi (Ukraine). The successful cooperation reflects the commitment of both institutions to advancing research in the field of digital security and promoting international cooperation. The participation of Ukrainian scientists as co-organizers of the event also underlines the importance of academic support for researchers in war zones and the promotion of peace through international cooperation.

### Events supported by PICAIS

*(in cooperation with partners)*

- Lecture Series: Digital Platform Ecosystems (DPE) (Summer Semester 2021)
- Passauer 10 Minuten Soziologie: Stress | Rechtswissenschaft: Digitalisierung (Summer Semester 2021)
- Lecture Series: Passauer 10 Minuten zum Thema Gewalt (Winter Semester 2021/22)
- Lecture Series: Passauer 10 Minuten zum Thema Land (Summer Semester 2022)
- Lecture Series: Passauer 10 Minuten zum Thema Schweigen (Winter Semester 2022/23)
- Lecture Series: Sustainability and Digitalization (Winter Semester 2021/22)
- Panel Discussion: Gender Relations in a Changing Environment (Collaboration Welcome Centre, Graduate Centre, PICAIS) (Winter Semester 2022/23)

## PICAIS Coffee Talks

### *Fostering Research Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Exchange*

Initiated in 2023, the PICAIS Coffee Talk has swiftly evolved into a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange.

In each session, PICAIS Fellows share their diverse research pursuits through short engaging presentations, offering a glimpse into the varied and impactful work being conducted under the PICAIS programme. These captivating insights open the door to an interdisciplinary dialogue, stimulating discussions and an open exchange of ideas among representatives from various fields.



These connections not only showcase the breadth of research at the University of Passau but also demonstrate the advantages derived from collaborative thinking and interdisciplinary cooperation.

The Coffee Talk format actively nurtures an atmosphere conducive to collaboration, allowing participants to gain insights into a wide spectrum of research areas and facilitating interaction between the academic community.

The success of the PICAIS Coffee Talk is reflected in the broad participation of members of the University of Passau. Attendees actively contribute to the discussions, bringing diverse perspectives to the table and forging connections that transcend their respective fields.

The international dimension of the Coffee Talk further amplifies its impact. Hosting researchers from around the globe provides a unique opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and widens the scope of collaborative possibilities. The global perspectives shared during these sessions contribute to the University of Passau's commitment to academic excellence and a truly international environment.

In conclusion, the PICAIS Coffee Talk has emerged as a significant platform for fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and creating a vibrant academic community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the PICAIS Fellows for their invaluable contributions and express our delight in the entire academic community for their enthusiastic participation. As we look forward to future editions, we anticipate the continued growth of this event as a catalyst for innovation, knowledge dissemination, and the cultivation of meaningful academic connections.





# Team

COLOURBOX15015478

## PICAIS directors

By the end of 2021, Professors Jan Krämer and Andreas König concluded their two-year term of office as PICAIS Directors. We are deeply grateful for their dedicated service and invaluable contributions.

In January 2022, PICAIS welcomed Professors Michael Grimm and Daniela Wawra as the new Directors. Their expertise and vision continue to guide PICAIS towards excellence and innovation.



**Prof Dr Michael Grimm**  
Chair of Development  
Economics



**Prof Dr Daniela Wawra**  
Chair of English Language and  
Culture

## PICAIS board members

### 2021 - 2023:

Faculty	Main appointee	Deputy
Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics	Prof Dr Hermann de Meer	Prof Dr Fabian Wirth
Faculty of Law	Prof Dr Moritz Hennemann	Prof Sebastian Martens
Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems	Prof Dr Andreas König	Prof Dr Jan Krämer
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Prof Dr Malte Steinbrink	Prof Dr Sandra Huebenthal

### 2023 - 2024:

Faculty	Main appointee	Deputy
Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics	Prof Dr Hermann de Meer	Prof Dr Fabian Wirth
Faculty of Law	Prof Dr Brian Valerius	Prof Sebastian Martens
Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems	Prof Dr Andreas König	Prof Dr Jan Krämer
Faculty of Humanities and Cultural Studies	Prof Dr Sandra Huebenthal	Prof Dr Christoph Barmeyer
Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences	Prof Dr Malte Steinbrink	Prof Dr Christine Schmitt

Following the tragic passing of Professor Steinbrink in 2023, Professor Christine Schmitt was appointed as the main representative of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences, with Professor Andreas Eberth as deputy.

We would like to thank all PICAIS board members for their invaluable contributions, dedication and support advancing PICAIS' mission.

In April 2023, **three new external board members** were appointed. They will advise on the strategic development of PICAIS:

- **Prof Dr Tilman Brück** is Professor for Economic Development and Food Security at the Humboldt-University of Berlin. Additionally, he serves as a Team Leader at the IGZ (Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops) and is Founder and Director of the ISDC – International Security and Development Center.
- **Dr Annette Meyer** is an Assistant Professor in the History Department of the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) in Munich as well as Executive Director of the well-established and extensively networked Center for Advanced Studies at LMU (CAS LMU).
- **Prof Dr Birgit Neumann** is Professor of English Literature/Anglophone Studies at the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf. She also holds the position of Managing Director of the Department of English and American Studies and serves as the Director of the Centre for Translation Studies. She has held various visiting professorships at international universities and is an elected member of several international academies and research centres (e.g. member of the Advisory Board of the "Centre for Comparative Studies" at the University of Lisbon and elected member of the Academia Europaea; Literary and Theatrical Studies).

We would like to express our gratitude to the PICAIS board members for their invaluable contributions, dedication and support advancing PICAIS' mission.

Moreover, we would also like to thank the former, esteemed external members who played a crucial role in shaping the PICAIS during their tenure from April 2021 to March 2023. **Prof Dr Ulrike Beisiegel**, **Prof Dr Horst Bischof**, and **Prof Dr Herfried Münkler** brought invaluable insights and expertise to our Centre.

## Management

In 2022, PICAIS bids farewell to **Dr Kerstin Theis** who has played an essential role in paving the way for PICAIS' mission and in establishing our Centre in its current form. We thank Dr Theis for her invaluable commitment!

Since the beginning of 2022, **Dr Stefanie Meister** has taken over the PICAIS management and is responsible for the daily business of the Centre.

We would also like to thank **Ms Regine Fahn**, who served as Interim Managing Director (mid 2022 to mid 2023), for her excellent support in the day-to-day business at PICAIS. Ms Fahn will continue to work at the University of Passau as Diversity Management Officer in the Office for Diversity and Equality.

A row of five lightbulbs hanging from above, with the first one on the left glowing and emitting rays of light. The background is a solid orange color.

# Support a Fellow or Event

Adobe Stock: 204050122

## Why support a Fellow or an Event

You would like to...

- increase your own visibility,
- contribute to overcoming social challenges,
- promote cutting-edge research on a specific topic such as sustainability, artificial intelligence, digitalization, cultural understanding or migration and benefit from this research,
- support researchers in a specific region,
- contribute to the exchange between science and practice.

You are an Alumni of the University of Passau, feel connected to the University, are part of the city or the surrounding area of Passau or you simply want to support the mission of PICAIS. There are many ways to do this: **You can make a one-time donation, a recurring donation, or simply support a particular area of research, a fellow from a certain region or a specific event.**

If you would like to organize an event with us or have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to talking to you and hearing your ideas.

### *HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!*

We look forward to receiving your donation:

*Universität Passau*

*IBAN: DE52 7405 0000 0240 2512 49*

*BIC / SWIFT code: BYLADEM1PAS*

*Sparkasse Passau*

*Purpose: PICAIS, xxx*

If you only wish to support a specific subject area, please also indicate one of our following university focus topics under "Purpose":

- Europe
- Sustainability
- Digitalization

If you would like to support researchers from a specific region, please also indicate in the "Purpose":

- Africa
- Asia and Oceania
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America

**All donors and sponsors are listed on our website  
and in the PICAIS annual report or recognized in press releases.**