

Architectures
of Order

Ausstellung Exhibition

1. OG
1st Floor

Workshops

2. OG
2nd Floor

PRO LOEWE NEWS

The LOEWE research initiatives report

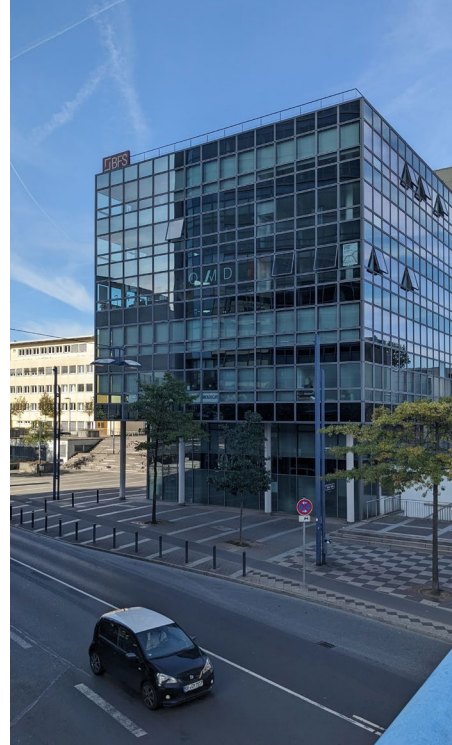
FURTHER TOPICS, NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE
LOEWE RESEARCH NETWORK IN THIS EDITION OF PRO LOEWE-NEWS,
AVAILABLE AT PROLOEWE.DE, ON X, LINKEDIN AND BLUESKY.

SHAPING FUTURE MOBILITY: LOEWE-IDG HAS GIVEN RISE TO THE INSTITUTE OF MOBILITY DESIGN AT THE OFFENBACH UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN

In view of climate change, but also to regain quality of life, it is essential to develop new solutions for environmentally friendly and people-friendly mobility. However, this is not only a political, organizational and planning task, but also represents a special challenge for the design disciplines, for architecture and design, because design decisions mediate between people and the mobility system and thus influence user experiences.

The aim of the Offenbach Institute for Mobility Design (OIMD) is therefore to develop innovative methods and strategies for mobility design through research in order to make sustainable mobility a positive experience - more accessible, more efficient, more pleasant and more visible. Since January 2023, the institute at the Offenbach University of Art and Design (HfG) has bundled the research and teaching focus on mobility of the teaching areas Integrative Design and Urban Design and was officially opened on 26.10.2023 in almost 400 square meters of new premises. It builds on many years of profiling mobility design at the HfG. In particular, the **LOEWE Cluster „Infrastructure – Design – Society“** (project-mo.de), an interdisciplinary research network of HfG Offenbach (lead), Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Technical University of Darmstadt and Goethe University Frankfurt, funded by the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art from 2018 to 2022, provided the impetus for institutionalization.

Under the direction of Prof. Peter Eckart and Prof. Dr Kai Vöckler, designers are developing methods and concepts for human-



The new rooms of the OIMD in the „Kubus“ in the immediate vicinity to the university in Offenbach.

Photo: Annika Storch

tered and sustainable mobility design, in research and application projects as well as in academic teaching. The topics range from cycle streets to cargo bikes, from suburban train stations to cable cars, from wayfinding to waiting situations – always with a view to the mobility system as a whole, to a flowing way of being on the move. For example, virtual reality simulations are used to investigate how design affects travelers' orientation processes and emotions. The institute cooperates with researchers from other disciplines and universities, with local authorities (in particular the city of Offenbach), with transport companies, associations and clubs.

Further information can be found at <https://oimd.de>

„Bandbreite“, one of four student designs for a sports and cultural park under the motorway bridge in Offenbach-Kaiserlei, a project by the Urban Design teaching area in collaboration with VAIR e.V.

Photo: Amelie Mattas, David Wellen, Daniel Wolff-Franke, Ron Behringer



REVIEW: FINISSAGE OF THE LOEWE CLUSTER „ARCHITECTURES OF ORDER“

To mark the end of main funding period from the Hessian LOEWE program, the **LOEWE Cluster „Architectures of Order (AO)“** held a finissage at the project's central locations in Frankfurt am Main and Darmstadt from 2 to 10 October 2023. Researchers from the fields of architecture, legal history, sociology, history and media studies presented their research results in the form of a diverse program of exhibitions and events. The finissage was opened in the Department of Architecture at the TU Darmstadt, where some of the sub-projects presented the diverse results of their four years of research, ranging from the relationship between the profession of architecture and gender to the changing mediation of architecture in books.

The central themes of the exhibition were explored in greater depth in workshops and lectures. Interested parties were able to explore utopian border spaces in the 20th century or the reciprocal effects of digital and analog drawing machines in architectural design.

One of the highlights was the book presentation of three publications published as part of the project: Sarah Borrees and Stephanie Knuth's „*Metaphorical Practices in Architecture*“, Carsten Ruhl's „*Kracauer's Architecture*“ and Szilvia Gellai's „*Glass Scenographies*“.

The finissage ended with a screening of *Prospettiva Olivetti*, a research trip through the architectural development of the famous Italian company Olivetti.

The **LOEWE Cluster „Architectures of Order“** was launched in 2020 as an interdisciplinary research project involving the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main and the Technical University of Darmstadt as well as the German Architecture Museum and the Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory. The research of the LOEWE project AO focuses on the investigation of architecture as a cultural technique that organises social, cultural and scientific practices as well as the influence that society, culture and science exert on architecture and its organisation itself.



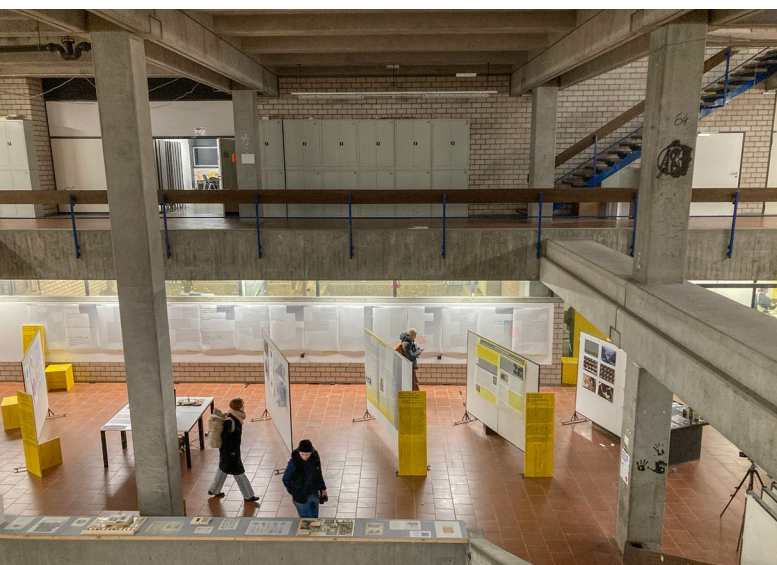
Under the guidance of Prof. Dr Miklós Bálint (left in the photo above), co-spokesperson of the LOEWE[1]Centre TBG, students isolate DNA from *Schistosoma* larvae (cercariae), carry out a PCR reaction and confirm the presence of the parasite using the analytical method of gel electrophoresis. Photos: Miklós Bálint

„FIELD SCHOOL MALAWI“ – LEARNING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE: PROF MIKLÓS BÁLINT FROM LOEWE-TBG TRAINS STUDENTS IN THE DETECTION OF DANGEROUS PATHOGENS IN WATER BODIES

Lake Malawi in East Africa is the ninth largest lake in the world. Its enormous wealth of fish species characterises both its ecological and economic importance. However, as with many freshwaters around the world, the ecosystem here is also under threat, partly due to population growth and increasing industrialisation. To jointly test interdisciplinary approaches and methods for sustainable resource and nature conservation management, students and teachers from several countries came together on the western shore of Lake Malawi, near Nkhata Bay and Chilumba, between 5 and 25 October 2023 for the second „Field School Malawi“. Under the motto „Learning from the past to shape the future“, the topics of nature conservation, sustainable resource use and human health were on the agenda. This followed the so-called „One Health approach“, which is based on the understanding that the health of humans, animals and the environment is closely interlinked. The teaching programme included theory, practical exercises, experiments, and citizen science components. Students from seven countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Germany) took part in three modules led by a team of international lecturers.

Among them was Miklós Bálint, Professor of Functional Environmental Genomics at Justus Liebig University Giessen and the Senckenberg Society for Nature Research in Frankfurt am Main. He

Exhibition of LOEWE Cluster „Architectures of Orders“ in the Department for History of Architecture and Art, TU Darmstadt. Photo: Daniela Grotz



LOEWE-VeWA: CREATING – AND DISCUSSING – CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY IN DIALOG

For three years, the **LOEWE Cluster VeWA** (past warm periods as natural analogs of our „high CO₂“ climate future) was all about paleoclimate research. In addition to eleven scientific projects, the sub-project „*Science communication and outreach*“ explicitly focused on using the example of VeWA research to explain how science „works“ and how reliable climate knowledge is created.

As part of the special exhibition „*Understanding Climate – Lessons from the Past*“ at the Senckenberg Naturmuseum in Frankfurt am Main, with around 340,000 museum visitors/visitors in the museum during its nine-month run (Oct. 2022-Jul. 2023), numerous outreach formats were used to enter into dialog with society. The VeWA junior researchers in particular were involved in this. They answered questions about their research, authentically conveyed the day-to-day work of a paleoclimate scientist and held numerous conversations and discussions on the topic of climate.

For example, at „*Meet the Scientist*“, when young scientists – surrounded by curious families – were delighted to provide information about their projects in the exhibition. At „*Science After Work*“, where participants were able to delve deeper into the topic of climate modeling with a scientist and try out simple climate models themselves. Or at the three evening events under the heading „*Science Garden*“, which provided plenty of space for personal conversations and discussions with VeWA scientists over a cool drink in the summery Senckenberg garden after thematic lectures.

Incidentally, these were enriching experiences not only for the different visitors, but also for the (young) scientists themselves: While the researchers were a little unsure at first about how to communicate their complex scientific questions to the public in a simple and understandable way, they were always very positively surprised by the positive feedback. Some of them also discovered the joy of science communication for themselves in this way, also as a further career opportunity.

Conclusion: Including science education as an equal sub-project in the LOEWE Cluster right from the start was extremely important and successful – a win-win situation for scientists and society.

AND: Anyone who has not had the opportunity to visit the exhibition at the Senckenberg Naturmuseum can still see part of the exhibition until February 2024 in the visitor center of the Unesco World Heritage Site of the Messel Pit!!

<https://www.grube-messel.de/projekte-aktivitaeten/klimawissen-schaffen.html> (German)

Lively discussions between VeWA scientists and participants at the „Science Garden“. Photo GU/Peter Kiefer



is also co-speaker of the Hessian **LOEWE Centre for Translational Biodiversity Genomics**, where the genomic basis of biodiversity is being researched. In his module, Bálint demonstrated the identification of dangerous pathogens, the *Schistosoma* blood flukes, using molecular methods in a mobile field laboratory. Schistosomiasis, caused by the parasitic worms, is considered a neglected tropical disease that has the greatest economic impact after malaria and affects more than 200 million people in tropical countries every year. There is no vaccination against this trematode disease. The DNA analyses help to detect the pathogen in the various regions of large bodies of water, allow conclusions to be drawn about the health of the ecosystem and provide a data basis for nature conservation measures.

The field school was organised by Dr Annett Junginger (University of Tübingen), Prof. Dr Christian Albrecht (Justus Liebig University Giessen) and Prof. Dr Friedemann Schrenk (Cultural & Museum Centre Karonga, Malawi). During an excavation in Malawi in 1991, the Frankfurt palaeoanthropologist Schrenk discovered a 2.4-million-year-old, toothed lower jaw, one of the oldest known fossils assigned to the genus *Homo*.

Funding for the Field School was provided by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Information: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/230075>

LEGAL NOTICE

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FROM BASIC RESEARCH TO APPLICATION: LOEWE-DRUID DEVELOPS RAPID TEST FOR DIAGNOSING LEISHMANIASIS THAT IS NOW GOING INTO PRODUCTION

Visceral leishmaniasis is one of the neglected tropical diseases that the **LOEWE Centre DRUID** is dedicated to researching. Humans and dogs can be infected by the Leishmania parasites and become seriously ill. A reliable diagnosis is essential for infection control and treatment of those affected.

At the University of Marburg, Prof. Steinhoff's working group, together with the company Gold Standard Diagnostics, has developed a rapid test that can be used to reliably diagnose the infection in humans and dogs.

On the photo from left: Prof. Dr Ulrich Steinhoff, dog Frida, who is infected with Leishmania but can live well with it thanks to treatment, and Dr Rouzbeh Mahdavi, who was instrumental in the development of the rapid test.

A small drop of blood is enough for the diagnosis – the rapid test works very similarly to the rapid test for Sars-Cov-2 used in the corona pandemic.

Photos: Rolf Wegst





Elisabeth Hollender, spokesperson for the LOEWE Research Cluster „Minority Studies: Language and Identity“, is Professor of Jewish Studies at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She researches the cultural history of medieval Judaism and its interaction with the surrounding culture. Photo: Britta Hüning

Prof. Dr Elisabeth Hollender Researcher on the connection between language and identity

Prof. Hollender, you are the spokesperson for the LOEWE Cluster “Minority Studies: Language and Identity”, which has been funded since 2020: how did the project come about and what makes it special? *In February 2020, I took over from my predecessor Jost Gippert as spokesperson for the LOEWE project, which was set up at the Institute of Empirical Linguistics which has been researching linguistic minorities for a very long time.*

As a result of the wave of refugees since 2015, it became abundantly clear that (linguistic) minorities live in a special situation in their respective home countries and in Germany. Partners from various disciplines were sought and found to research the current issues of linguistic integration, the legal situation, but also the preservation of their own cultural heritage, as well as looking at historical examples. The variety of languages and cultures researched – from Aramaic to Zaza, a Kurdish language – is just as broad as the variety of methodological approaches, which also include educational science and computer science. But we also bring together the humanities and social sciences to explore a social challenge of the present. This is only possible in combination, with a view both to the countries of origin and to Germany, with the question of self-perception and perception by others.

How did you come up with the idea of studying Jewish Studies and what fascinates you about it to this day? *It all started with my interest in Hebrew, which I heard for the first time on a trip to Israel when I was in high school. It was a language that sounded familiar, but I didn't understand it. During my studies, I then discovered the Middle*

Agas as a subject for me and had the opportunity to work with a manuscript from the 13th century for the first time. The fascination for the written word, for a Jewish culture that, as a minority, constantly engages with its environment, is still the focus of my research today. As a professor, I am in the enviable position of being able to introduce my students to the diversity of Jewish history and culture, which gives me new insights every day: the Talmud says “I have learned much from my teachers, I have learned more from my colleagues, I have learned most from my students.”

On October 7, Israel became the focus of public attention in an alarming way. Has this had an impact on your work and how are you dealing with it? *Apart from the pain over the murdered and kidnapped people and the admiration for my colleagues in Israel, who are there for their students and doctoral students despite the constant rocket fire, but who are also the driving force behind the civil movement that looks after internally displaced persons in Israel and steps in where the government is lacking – it is above all the obvious anti-Semitism in Germany that is now influencing our work. I am worried about the safety of Jewish students and colleagues and wonder how we can support them so that they have the strength to stand up to prejudice and hatred every day. At this time, I am very pleased with the good relationships we have with our colleagues from Islamic Studies, who are working with us on how to deal with the effects on campus, but also in society. It is very unsettling when posters commemorating the hostages are torn down within a very short space of time, even at the university. As a place of education, the entire university must have an impact on social discourse, must stand up for humanity and respect, but also against anti-Semitism and racism.*

LOEWE research funding is a Hessian specialty. Why do you think it is so important – even beyond our federal state? *Especially in the humanities, LOEWE is a unique opportunity to start interdisciplinary research and thus ask questions that cannot be answered by a single discipline. As a researcher, I am always building my network and looking for those who are asking similar questions from other perspectives. The LOEWE program encourages us to find partners beyond our immediate surroundings at our own university; it helps us to turn ideas into real projects. The LOEWE Cluster gives us the time to compile, compare and evaluate our results. Our doctoral students and postdocs get to know and appreciate the methods of other disciplines. They build their first interdisciplinary networks and prepare themselves for their own scientific careers.*

The entire interview is available online at proloewe.de