



Building Bridges

The Marsilius-Kolleg of Heidelberg University





Many of the pressing issues of our time can no longer be solved solely with discipline-specific approaches. These urgent problems increasingly demand the cooperation of experts from many different scholarly cultures including the natural, life, social and cultural sciences as well as the humanities. The Marsilius Kolleg constitutes an institutional answer to this dilemma. Its goal is to bring together scholars from all areas of the university and related research institutions in an interdisciplinary dialogue. Through this communication and collaboration, interdisciplinary research networks are created. The Marsilius Kolleg, founded in November 2007, is a *Center for Advanced Study* and a cornerstone of Heidelberg's institutional strategy in the framework of the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments. The work of the Marsilius Kolleg enhances the University's profile as a top comprehensive research university surrounded by strong non-university institutions.

The Fellowship Program

Scholars from the University and surrounding research institutions can apply with an interdisciplinary project for a year-long fellowship. Fellows are released from a substantial part of their academic and teaching duties. They meet once a week for lectures and intensive discussions during which ideas for new interdisciplinary activities emerge.

Marsilius Projects

During their regular discussions, fellows develop proposals for new projects dealing with interdisciplinary topics. These projects integrate junior scholars and typically run for three years.

Current projects:

- The Marsilius project "Embodiment as a Paradigm of Evolutionary Cultural Anthropology" explores how man's ability to be cultivated and his evolved physical nature mutually justify and shape one another. The goal is a new interdisciplinary anthropology beyond dualism and reductionism.
- The project "Early Childhood in Transition. Challenges for Parents, Children and Society" discusses how change in early childhood is being shaped, a process involving parents, educational professionals and politicians alike.

Completed Projects:

- "Equality and Inequality in Liver Allocation" (2013 – 2015)
- "Ethical and Legal Aspects of Whole Genome Sequencing" (2011 – 2014)
- "The Global Governance of Climate Engineering" (2009 – 2012)
- "Human Dignity" (2008 – 2011)
- "Perspectives of Ageing in the Process of Social and Cultural Change" (2008 – 2011)

Marsilius-Academies

Marsilius Kolleg scholars regularly organise interdisciplinary summer and winter schools for doctoral and postdoctoral students from Germany and abroad.

Workshops since 2014:

- "Synthetic biology – promises and perils of modern biotechnology" (September 2014)
- "Optimization of Life in Childhood and Old Age" (March 2015)
- "Anthropology of Perception. Science and Humanities in Dialogue" (September 2015)
- "Early Childhood in Transition. Interdisciplinary perspectives" (October 2016)
- "Innovation in Chronic Disease Intervention" (September 2017, together with EIT Health)
- "Humans in Motion – Der Mensch in Bewegung" (September 2018)
- "Global Governance of Human Germline Editing" (November 2018, together with DKFZ, HAW)

Marsilius Lecture

The Marsilius Kolleg's lecture series features renowned scholars from many different disciplines and is aimed at the academically interested general public. Previous speakers include Günter Blobel (Biomedicine, Nobel Prize 1999), Wolfgang Frühwald (German Literature), Christiane Nüsslein-Volhardt (Biology, Nobel Prize 1995), Douglas Price (Archaeometry), Jörg Widmann (Musician), Edna B. Foa (Psychiatry), Alvin Roth (Economics, Nobel Prize 2013), Onur Güntürkün (Neuroscience), Hans-Jörg Rheinberger (Wissenschaftsgeschichte), Felix Schürmann (Physics), Melanie Wald-Fuhrmann (Musicology), Elio Riboli (Public Health), Jutta Allmendinger (Sociology), Joachim von Braun (Agricultural Economics) and Kevin Esvelt (Biotechnology).

Marsilius Study Program

At the initiative of students, the Marsilius Kolleg established a supplementary program of study for which students can earn a certificate. Central to the program are the "Bridge Seminars", each with an interdisciplinary topic (ex. "Evolution" or "Neurobiology of the Mind") and conducted by at least two lecturers from different scholarly cultures.

Marsilius Kolleg Team

Directors

Prof. Dr. Thomas Rausch (Biology)

Prof. Dr. Bernd Schneidmüller (History)

Administration

Daniel Steimer, M.A. (Office Administration)

Lina Girdziute, M.A. (Public Relations and Events)

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Student Assistants

Contact

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