



Call for Applications

In association with the Udo Keller Stiftung Forum Humanum, the TRA 4 – Individuals, Institutions and Societies (University of Bonn) is offering up to 10 *Forum Humanum fellowships* to qualified doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers from any department in the social sciences or humanities at the University of Bonn to participate in an event to be held at the recently founded *Institute for Philosophy and the New Humanities* at the New School for Social Research (NYC).

Researchers within the *TRA 4 – Individuals, Institutions and Societies* investigate how institutions mediate complex relationships between individuals and society and from there develop a new view of micro-phenomena (development of personality, agency, individualization) as well as macro-phenomena (world society, globalization). Sharing this research objective, the *Institute for Philosophy and the New Humanities* is founded on the premise that genuine knowledge acquisition, truth and objectivity are not the exclusive preserve of any single discipline or method. The concepts we deploy to understand and evaluate human cultural and scientific achievements also have to be placed within their broader social, political and intellectual context and therefore have to be approached from a truly interdisciplinary perspective. The Institute thus aims to bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines and draw on the resources of the social sciences, philosophy, and the humanities more generally, in order to pursue a collaborative understanding of the nature and goals of the humanistic and social scientific disciplines and to grapple with the challenges they face in light of the increasing prevalence of intellectual models imported from other disciplines.

This year's event will take place on *September 26-30, 2022* and will consist in a week-long series of seminars, guest lectures and workshops on the topic of "*A.I. – The Art of Interpretation*". Practices of interpretation are central to both the humanities and social sciences, whose typical objects of interpretive activity range from artworks, texts and musical scores to rituals, economic behaviour and all manner of "data". Yet the phenomenon of interpretation is no less puzzling than it is familiar and raises a host of fundamental questions: Can there be a science as well as an art of interpretation? Is interpretation an essentially human activity? Is there a difference between interpretive activity and programmable forms of data processing? Is interpretation by its nature a creative enterprise? Is it possible to develop something like an algorithm for interpretation? Do practices of interpretation as practiced by different disciplines share an essential common core? These and a host of related questions will occupy us at this year's event. The seminars will be led by *Prof. Dr. Markus Gabriel (Bonn)*, *Prof. Dr. Zed Adams*

(New School) and *Prof. Dr. Paul Kottmann (New School)*, and will be supplemented by various keynotes by leading external speakers from philosophy, computer science, art history, and literary studies. Invited speakers include:

James Elkins (Art Institute of Chicago)

Elisabeth Camp (Rutgers)

Yasmin Green (Jigsaw)

Jeffrey Sorensen (Jigsaw)

Homi Bhabha (Harvard University)

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, (Stanford University)

Noel Carroll (CUNY)

Stephen Neale (CUNY)

Agnel Callard (University of Chicago)

The Forum Humanum scholarship will cover travel and accommodation costs, as well as provide a small stipend for daily expenses. Applicants must therefore confirm that they are committed both to traveling to New York in September and to being fully vaccinated before then. Access to the New School campus without full vaccination is not permitted.

To submit an application, please send a) an up-to-date CV and b) a brief statement outlining your interest in the event in light of your current research projects (max. 1 page), combined into a **single document**, by *15.06.2022* to *Dr. Alex Englander* (E-Mail: alexeng@uni-bonn.de)