

## Research at the Institute for Advanced Study

The Institute for Advanced Study Konstanz brings together German and international scholars in the humanities and social sciences who deal with the cultural dimensions of integration. The broad research spectrum of the Center of Excellence covers four central fields: "Identification and the Politics of Identity", "Practices of Knowledge and Non-Knowledge", "Cultural Modeling of Hierarchy and Violence", and "Cultural Dynamics of Religion". Invitations to the Institute are distributed across these areas of focus.

Research projects deal with periods ranging from antiquity to present day, but particular attention is paid to contemporary developments such as processes of migration, European integration, and the position of Europe in a globalized world.

As a center of cultural scientific research and international networking, the Institute for Advanced Study collects different strands of research from the Center of Excellence together in one place.

After the ten years from 2007 to 2017, the results speak for themselves: three hundred fellows and guests have furthered their research at the Institute for Advanced Study Konstanz, with around two hundred book publications and countless essays and articles emerging from their work here.



## Contact

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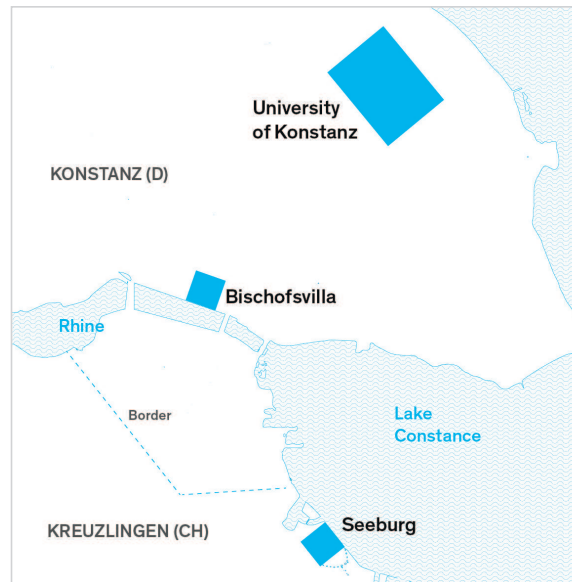
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Universität  
Konstanz



Institute for  
Advanced Study  
Konstanz

## Idea

The idea of the Institute for Advanced Study Konstanz was inspired by a model that has become increasingly established in Europe since the 1970s: a model whose basic outline can be generally understood as originating in 1930 with the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Founded in 2007 in the framework of the “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” Center of Excellence, the Konstanz Institute defines itself within that American and European research tradition, while also emphasizing a unique profile that it has shaped and developed over recent years.

A central purpose of the Institute is to allow its fellows — scholars from both Konstanz and other universities in Germany and throughout the world — to pursue research free of teaching and administrative duties. Such a research framework has become increasingly attractive as a result of higher numbers of students in many universities and time-consuming administrative and evaluative responsibilities.

Since October 2007, both well-established and younger scholars have been invited to the Institute to either significantly advance their work or bring it to the stage where it can be published. Every second IAS fellowship is reserved for junior faculty members.

Fellows normally receive a stipend for one semester or for a full academic year. If they are required to take a leave of absence from their home university to participate in the program, the Institute also covers the costs of a temporary replacement. Additionally, the Institute’s Artist/Writer-in-Residence program also facilitates exchange between science, art, and media.

## Profile

The Institute for Advanced Study Konstanz is a central hub for research activities done within the Center of Excellence and is also deliberately integrated into the teaching and research activities at the University of Konstanz more broadly. Not only does this help stimulate productive dialog between both sides, it also helps integrate fellows and guests into the broader scholarly life in Konstanz.



The size of the Institute for Advanced Study— roughly 20 to 25 fellows per year — has remained constant over the past few years, and is large enough to facilitate lively intellectual exchange while retaining flexibility due to its streamlined structures.

Annual invitations focused on specialized guiding topics (for instance “Non-Knowledge” in 2011/2012 and “Religious Minorities” in 2015/2016) further encourage interdisciplinary exchange between fellows.

Numerous events organized by both the Center and the Institute — including guest lectures, short-term guest invitations, workshops, and international conferences — increase the scholarly benefits of a fellowship stay.

## Ambience



The Institute for Advanced Study offers fellows a quiet working atmosphere based in two historical buildings equipped with modern technology. The Institute is headquartered in an 18th century building known as the “Bischofsvilla” located on the banks of the Rhine river. Other offices are located in the “Seeburg”, a prestigious 19th century building built directly on the banks of Lake Constance and located in the neighboring (Swiss) town of Kreuzlingen.

The high recreational value of the city on the lake is combined with the attractiveness of Konstanz as a center of research: in 2012, the university was again awarded a “seal of excellence” within the framework of the German Federal “Excellence Initiative”. The “Cultural Foundations of Social Integration” Center of Excellence, first honored in 2006, has earned widespread recognition and was extended in 2012.