

Press Release

Postdoc researcher of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science receives generous research grant

Society in Science – The Branco Weiss Fellowship, the fellowship for outstanding postdoctoral researchers awarded by the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), has selected Dr. Lara Keuck for one of its prestigious award. The fellowship grant is giving Dr. Keuck up to five years of complete academic freedom to do interdisciplinary research at any institution in the world.

Zurich/Switzerland, July 15, 2015. – *Society in Science – The Branco Weiss Fellowship* has selected Dr. Lara Keuck of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin as one of six new fellows after an extended global recruitment campaign.

As a Branco Weiss fellow, Dr. Keuck will investigate the epistemologies of biomedical research into Alzheimer's disease in the long 20th century. Her project aims at a historical reconstruction and philosophical characterization of the ways in which Alzheimer's disease has been used as an exemplar to learn from and reason about the opportunities, challenges, and limitations of biomedical approaches to mental illness. In doing so she also contextualizes our current understanding of Alzheimer's disease.

Society in Science – The Branco Weiss Fellowship is a unique postdoc program for scientists with a proven track record who are willing to engage in a dialogue on relevant social, cultural, political or economic issues across the frontiers of their particular discipline. It awards young researchers around the world with a generous personal research grant, giving them the freedom to work on whatever topic they choose anywhere in the world, for up to five years. The program aims to award up to ten fellowships each year. The number of recipients depends on the number of applications satisfying the stringent requirements of the strategy committee not only taking into account the scientific abilities of the candidates but also personal qualities and the relevance of their projects.

This year's new fellows come from a large variety of fields including neuroscience, behavioral ecology and conservation science, history and philosophy of medicine and the life sciences, evolutionary biology, and observational astrophysics. They come from Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA, and are currently at institutions and universities in Australia, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

"There were altogether 411 applications from which we had to choose this year's new Branco Weiss fellows," says Society in Science's member of the directorate Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach. "In a rigorous evaluation process involving internal and external researchers the field of applications was narrowed down to the candidates with truly exceptional project ideas and personalities. Out of twelve candidates who were invited to present their research proposals in person, ultimately six were chosen. We believe that these new fellows will be an excellent addition to the existing fellowship."

About Society in Science

Society in Science – The Branco Weiss Fellowship was founded in 2002 to provide a platform for researchers in the natural sciences and engineering who are aiming to extend their scientific work to cover specific social and cultural questions and perspectives. The fellowship was initiated and financed by the Swiss entrepreneur Dr. Branco Weiss, who died in 2010. It belongs to ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich). Professor Angelika Steger, Professor Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach and Professor Josef Zeyer direct the fellowship program, and are supported by ETH Zurich's strategy committee, consisting of prominent international scholars from a wide array of disciplines. To qualify for the prestigious grant, candidates must hold a PhD and provide evidence of outstanding scientific achievement.

For more information on Society in Science, please visit www.society-in-science.org

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