

THE HUMAN CONDITION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

FELLOWSHIP CALL – CONCEPTIONS OF HUMAN FLOURISHING – REFORMULATING THE SDGs

RESEARCH QUESTION

How does a non-materialist conception of human flourishing inform the reformulation of the SDGs in 2030?

PROJECT FOR WHICH WE ARE SEEKING FELLOWS

Starting in 2025, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will undergo a 5-year renewal and renegotiation process. Towards that end, the question of the nature of what constitutes the “human” in human development and, by extension, what “human flourishing” is requires a renewed inquiry inclusive of non-materialist philosophies and non-western cultures.

In contemporary politics, modern scientism has emerged as the dominant scientific doctrine informing policy frameworks of human flourishing. This perspective focuses on the material conditions of survival and its ontology and methodology has informed the design and formulation of the SDGs. This perspective on the human condition and its role and place in nature, however, hardly captures the complexity of human experience across the world and in different cultures.

Alternative conceptions, such as Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness, the modern idealist turn in the sciences, or conceptions of a New Enlightenment, signal a change in the contemporary scientific world view. This shift posits a transition towards an ontology that is more inclusive of different cultures and philosophical world views as well as one that is more attuned to a holistic view of human nature as a subset of nature itself.

The program on the Human Condition in the 21st Century brings together a diverse team to develop a non-materialist and inter-cultural conception of human flourishing that can inform the policy agenda of the reformulation of the SDGs starting in 2025. The team will work on sub-questions such as (but not exclusive to):

- What are enduring and cross-culturally shared non-materialist conceptions of human flourishing across cultures?

- How do the reductively materialist conceptions that have so far informed the SDGs limit human flourishing?
- How to reformulate the overarching concept of human flourishing as well as the individual SDGs considering an inter-cultural, non-materialist conception of human flourishing?

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM CHAIR

Prof. Dr. Andrej Zwitter (invited)

FACTS & FIGURES

Location:	Hamburg, Germany
Deadline:	16 February 2023
Selection meeting:	15 and 16 March 2023 (in Hamburg)
Decisions:	22 March 2023
Funding period:	Fellows can apply for either one, two, or three terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fall term: Sep 18 – Dec 15, 2023- Winter term: Jan 15 – March 29, 2024- Spring term: May 2 – June 28, 2024

ABOUT THE NEW INSTITUTE

On the basis of humanistic and social-scientific reflection on human becoming in the 21st century, THE NEW INSTITUTE develops concrete visions of future socio-economic and political realities. We gather thinkers and practitioners with interdisciplinary and intercultural backgrounds in academia, politics, business, media, the arts, and technology around projects that effect positive social change.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Scholars from the humanities and social sciences or practitioners in politics, business, art, media, or journalism with a commitment to the mission of THE NEW INSTITUTE, expertise in a field related to one of our projects, and interest in collaborating across our programs.

WHAT DO FELLOWS DO?

Actively participate in the collaborative fellow work on the questions of our projects.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Letter of motivation (3 pages max.); CV, including current address, nationality, gender; statement of career level; proposal for a project in accordance with the call (3-5 pages max.). More details are available on our [Fellowship](#) page. Please send your application as a single pdf to programs@thenew.institute.