

NEWSLETTER

October 2025



Dear colleagues and friends,

We are delighted to bring you an update on FIW's current projects, publications, and events in this newsletter. In addition to the launch of innovative projects and the arrival of new employees, there is also news to report about FIW as a whole.

The second half of this year is marked by change. The FIW is now a unit of the Faculty of Arts, serving as an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary innovation space where new forms and formats of research and teaching in the social sciences and humanities are developed. At the same time, the newly founded Institute of Sociology (IfS) began operations on April 1 of this year, incorporating parts of the former FIW. The institute will be officially inaugurated with an opening ceremony on October 8. The process of filling a W3 professorship for general sociology is underway, a W2 professorship for methods of empirical social research has just been advertised, and another advertisement for a professorship in subject didactics will follow.

The University of Bonn's Excellence Strategy has shaped our daily work in recent months with the decision on the clusters of excellence and the inspection as part of the application as a University of Excellence. At the same time, we are in the midst of preparing for a move: both the FIW and the IfS are expected to move into a shared building on Poppelsdorfer Allee before the end of this year. This will create new synergies, not only between sociology and the transdisciplinary FIW, but also with other institutes and centers within the Faculty of Arts.

We wish you a pleasant and eventful fall.

With best regards,

Adrian Hermann
(Managing Director of the FIW)

David Kaldewey
(Managing Director of the IfS)

Events

Discussion of current research topics at the IMPULSE Café • (Collaborative) workshops

The FIW organizes exciting events on current topics. You can find more information about this [here](#).

New projects and prices

Award for the best research environment for the Lise Meitner Research Group • New project "New Horizons"

The scientists at FIW are delighted about these and other recognitions. Read [more](#).

Publications

3 new FIW Working Papers • Books on participation of Refugees and on the "African University" • The (post-)apocalypse as a game mode in tabletop role-playing games

You can find our publications on these and other topics [here](#).

External events

Criminalization of civil sea rescue • Threat to democracy • The Rise and Fall of Fact Checking • Interfaces: Disability, Accessibility, and Gaming

FIW members are active in many scientific events in Germany and abroad. You can find more information about their contributions [here](#).

News

New colleagues at FIW • Funding for a doctoral scholarship • Consulting for the KIWIIT research group • Election as Vice Dean and Chairman of the DVRW

You can find this and other news [here](#).

Documentation

Scientific symposia on TTRPGs • Playing for the future • Uni Bonn Game Week

[Here](#) you will find documentation of past events and research activities.

Events

The FIW organizes lectures, conferences, and workshops to present its research topics to a broad audience. You are cordially invited to attend the following events:



Programm des FIW-Kolloquium im Wintersemester 2025/2026

Das Kolloquium dient den FIW-Mitgliedern sowie interessierten Kolleg*innen zur Präsentation eigener Forschungsergebnisse und zum fachlichen Austausch. Die Sitzungen finden jeweils dienstags von 12:30 bis 14:00 Uhr statt.

Interessierte sind herzlich zur Teilnahme und Diskussion eingeladen. Den Link zur Teilnahme erhalten Sie nach vorheriger Anmeldung per Mail an stefan.priester@uni-bonn.de.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 4. November 2025 | Julia Schubert (SoWi/Uni Konstanz) | Die Komplexierung der Klimawissenschaften. Oder wie die Attributionstechnik beginnt, um für das Wetter zu interessieren |
| 2. Dezember 2025 | Kathrin Fischer (SWP) | Analytische Reflexion als Bildungsmethode |
| 15. Dezember 2025 | Stefan Priester (FIW) | Partizipation als Schlüssel kultureller Differenzierung |
| 13. Januar 2026 | Susanne Böcker (SWP) | Profit und Profit-Risiko: Warum schaffen Schulen volkswirtschaftliche Verluste für geringere Löhne? |
| 20. Januar 2026 | Lena Lohse / Maria Völkel (SWP) | Textproduktion zur Produktion von Wissen |
| 27. Januar 2026 | Franz Dreier (Medienstudien für Wirtschaft und Recht/Berlin) | Intermedialität und neue Audioformierung |
| 3. Februar 2026 | Rudolf Stöckmann (SWP) | Background of Hyperauthorship |

Organisator:
Dr. Stefan Priester
Forum Internationale Wissenschaft
November 2025 bis 2026
stefan.priester@uni-bonn.de

Our **FIW-Kolloquium** takes place on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Interested parties are welcome to participate in the discussions. You will receive the link for virtual participation after registering in advance by emailing stefan.priester@uni-bonn.de. You can find the current program [here](#).

FIW researchers will once again be offering interesting courses in the 2025/2026 winter semester, to which interested parties are cordially invited. The current overview of courses can be found [here](#).

In order to strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue among colleagues and those interested in (forced) migration research, the **Bonn Platform for (Forced) Migration Studies** hosts a monthly **IMPULSE Café**. During the lecture period, this takes place on the third Tuesday of every month at IMPULSE – House for Intellectual Innovation and Creativity. Over a cup of coffee or tea, we discuss current research topics in an open, focused setting. Further information can be found [here](#).

On November 6, 2025, the **Bonn Platform for (Forced) Migration Studies** will host its next **transdisciplinary roundtable** at MIGRApolis in Bonn. The detailed program will be available [here](#) in October.

The research group "**Navigating the Mediterranean: Search and Rescue Missions and the Dissensus on Democracy**" (ZivDem) is hosting a **collaborative workshop with researchers and actors from outside academia** at IMPULSE – House for Intellectual Innovation and Creativity on November 28, 2025.

Publications

In this section, you will find publications by FIW members that have been published since the last newsletter was sent out (March 2025).

We are delighted to present three publications from the **FIW Working Paper** series that appeared in 2025:





Working Paper No. 21

2025

Rudolf Stichweh

SLAVERY AND STRONG ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES

Working Paper No. 22

2025

Barbara Haas

ASYMMETRISCHE ABHÄNGIGKEIT, EXKLUDIERENDE INKLUSION, SKALENFREIE
NETZWERKE

Working Paper No. 23

2025

Karan Sharma & David Kaldewey

HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA: BEYOND INSTITUTES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

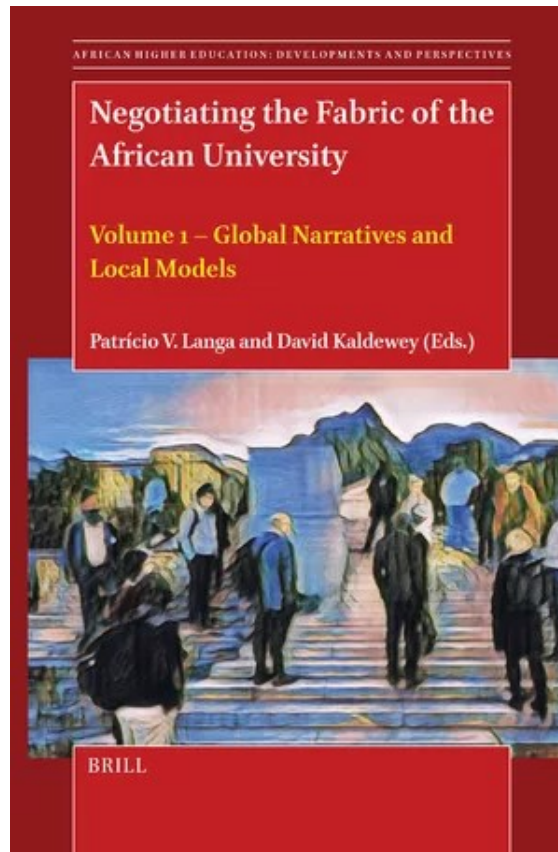
We are also delighted that two books by FIW members **Maria Ullrich**, **Patricio Langa**, and **David Kaldewey** have recently been published:



2025

Ullrich, Maria

PARTIZIPATION NACH DER FLUCHT. AUSHANDLUNGEN VON CITIZENSHIP IM
AUFNAHMEKONTEXT



2025

Langa, Patrício V./ Kaldewey, David NEGOTIATING THE FABRIC OF THE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY, VOLUME 1 – GLOBAL NARRATIVES AND LOCAL MODELS

Ahlers, Anna L. (2025): Trilaterale Perspektive: Trumps Angriff auf die Wissenschaft, Chinas Gelegenheit und Europas Aufgabe. In: Forschung & Lehre 8, pp. 36-39. [Link](#)

Bakilapadavu, Geetha/ Cheruvalath, Reena/ **Kaldewey, David**/ Hareesh A.G./ Schauz, Désirée/ Siess, Andreas/ Subramanian, Lakshmi/ Tober, Sarah (2025): The Sciences and the Humanities: Two Cultures? A Module for an International and Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum. (Open Educational Resource). [Link](#)

Berger, Pascal (2025): Grauzone – 'Boundary Work' zwischen organisiertem Skeptizismus und Wissenschaftsskepsis während der Corona-Pandemie. In: Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie 50 (1), pp. 1-27. [Link](#)

Berger, Pascal/ Kaldewey, David (2025): Werturteilsfreiheit und Wissenschaftskommunikation. Max Weber im Horizont der Corona-Pandemie. In: Hirsch, Philipp-Alexander/ Klinge, Hendrik (Ed.): Zur Wertfreiheit verpflichtet? Gegenwärtige Berechtigung und Bedeutung des Postulats einer wertfreien Wissenschaft. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, pp. 47-74. [Link](#)

Burgold, Julia/ **Goeke, Pascal** (2025): Die Stiftung als Institution, formale Organisation und agile Plattform. Eine medien- und gesellschaftstheoretische Betrachtung philanthropischer Formen des Organisierens. In: Zeitschrift für Theoretische Soziologie 14(1), pp. 29-55. [Link](#)

Domgörgen, Frauke/ Vujadinovic, Aleksandra/ Ruf, Oliver (2025): Politik des Memes. Aspekte einer digitalen Medienästhetik. In: Denker, Kai/ Nestler, Nick (Ed.), Digitale Bilderkämpfe. Zur politisch-strategischen Kommunikation mit Memen. Bielefeld: transcript, pp. 157-167. [Link](#)

Gebhardt, Mareike/ **Laube, Lena**/ **Spasiano, Sarah**/ **Ullrich, Maria** (2025): Selektive Rettung: die Migrantisierung der Seenot und die Politik des Sterbenlassens im zentralen Mittelmeer. In: FluchtforschungsBlog (July 27, 2025). [Link](#)

Hermann, Adrian (2025): Ein experimentelles kulturwissenschaftliches Labor für das analoge imaginative Spiel: Konzept, Aufbau und Praxis des Bonn Lab for Analog Games and Imaginative Play. In: *Spiel|Formen* 5/4, pp. 183-215. [Link](#)

Hermann, Adrian (2025): Globale Religionsgeschichte: Zeitschriften als Medium von 'Religion' um 1900. In: Stausberg, Michael/Wilkens, Katharina (Ed.): Religionswissenschaft: Aktuelle Annäherungen. Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 353-364. [Link](#)

Hermann, Adrian (2025). Adventures from the Rubble: The (Post-)Apocalypse as a Mode of Play in Tabletop Role-Playing Games. In: Meier, Thomas/Peters, Michael A. (Ed.): Civilizational Collapse and Post-Apocalyptic Survival. Berlin: Peter Lang, pp. 239-269.

Hermann, Adrian (2025): World Society: Upended? In: Griffin, Lauren H. (Ed.): Discourses of Crisis and the Study of Religion. Sheffield: Equinox, pp. 179-189.

Kaldewey, David (2025): Wie teuer ist eigentlich die Exzellenz? (ExStra-Blatt: Notizen zur Exzellenzstrategie, Folge 5), May 11, 2025. [Link](#)

Kaldewey, David/ Engel, Moritz (2025): Wie werden Exzellenzuniversitäten gemanagt? (ExStra-Blatt: Notizen zur Exzellenzstrategie, Folge 6), September 4, 2025. [Link](#)

Kaldewey, David (2025): Die Krise der Faktizität, revisited: Wissenschaftsskepsis und Wissenschaftskommunikation im Kontext der COVID-19-Pandemie. In: Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie 50, 22. [Link](#)

Kohlenberger, Judith/ Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, Paula/ **Laube, Lena**/ Parusel, Bernd/ Saracino, Daniele (2025): Instrumentalisation of migration: Europe needs a strong and lawful response. Policy Brief, Jacques Delors Centre. [Link](#)

Kreutzer, Tobias/ **Domgörgen, Frauke**/ **Kaldewey, David**/ **Berger, Pascal**/ Wormer, Holger (2025): The journalistic understanding of science as process and social system: A qualitative exploration in the German science journalism community. In: Public Understanding of Science. [Link](#)

Langa, Patrício V./ **Kaldewey, David** (Ed.) (2025): Negotiating the Fabric of the African University, Volume 1 – Global Narratives and Local Models. (African Higher Education: Developments and Perspectives, 19). Leiden: Brill. [Link](#)

Morgner, Christian/ **Morikawa, Takemitsu** (2025 [2020]): Meaning-Making and Sociocultural Change from the Perspective of Niklas Luhmann's Sociological Theory: A Case Study of the Semantics of Love in Japan. In: Sociologia Internationalis 58 (2), pp. 233-254. [Link](#)

Morikawa, Takemitsu (2025): Constitution and legal culture in Japan. A Systems

Theoretical Interpretation of the Japanese Constitutional Crisis of 2015. In: Deflem, Mathieu et al (Ed.), Law and Culture in Japan. Institutions, Justice, and Media. Leeds: Emerald Publishing, pp. 11-26. [Link](#)

Moser, Evelyn/ Schubert, Julia (2025): Making Expert Bodies: A Sociological Analysis of the Formation of Regulatory Agencies in U.S. Politics. In: Minerva (2025). [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Fremde, der/das. In: Brehl, Medardus/ Dabag, Miran/ Eckl, Andreas/ Platt, Kristin (Ed.), Lexikon nicht-staatlicher Gruppen und Gemeinschaften im Mittelmeerraum. Bochum: Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 4 pages. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Klimawandel in einer funktional differenzierten Gesellschaft. Zu den Überlegungen von Helmut Willke. In: Baecker, Dirk (Ed.)/ Bette, Karl-Heinrich (Ed.)/ Lehmann, Maren (Ed.): Die Rettung des Planeten. Wie reagiert die Gesellschaft auf die Klimakatastrophe? Frankfurt/New York: Campus, pp. 53-62. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Gelingt es den Unis nicht, sich zu wehren, müssen sie mit massivem Bedeutungsverlust rechnen. In: Die Welt, June 12, 2025, pp. 14-15. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Demokratie in einer funktional differenzierten Gesellschaft. Gefährdungen demokratischer Ordnung und die Rolle des Militärs. In: Stratos. Militärwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift der Schweizer Armee 1, pp. 51-56. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Zum Start von Kiwit. Die Multifunktionalität der Interdisziplinarität. In: Kiwit Spezial. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Wissenschaft ist keine Meinung. Über das Verhältnis von Wissenschaft und Wahrheit und warum der Weg zur Welterkenntnis nur in Freiheit gelingen kann. Ein Gespräch mit der Philosophin Corina Ströbner und dem Soziologen Rudolf Stichweh. In: Good Impact 15, pp. 54-57. [Link](#)

Stichweh, Rudolf (2025): Warum gibt es Fremde in menschlichen Gesellschaften? In: Altenkirchener Hefte, No. 11, 18 pages. [Link](#)

External events

Here we would like to draw your attention to the current activities of FIW members at events and conferences:

Die große Transformation. Zum Verhältnis von Wissenschaft, Politik und Gesellschaft. Participation of Rudolf Stichweh in a panel discussion with Patrizia Nanz and Martin Hartmann following the **Presidential Lecture**, University of Luzern, Oktober 9, 2025.

Verherrlichung – Kriminalisierung – Dämonisierung: Stationen der zivilen Seenotrettung im Mittelmeer. Lecture by Mareike Gebhardt in the lecture series **Politische Kippunkte. Feministische Perspektiven auf gegenwärtige Autoritarisierung und Faschisierung** by Prof. Gundula Ludwig, Center for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Innsbruck, University of Innsbruck, October 14, 2025.

Praktiken des Popularisierens in der Wissenschaftskommunikation: Vom Aufstieg und Fall des Factchecking. Lecture by David Kaldewey at the SFB Annual Conference 2025 **Doing Popularity**, University of Siegen, October 16, 2025.

Krise der Wahrheit, Krise der Expertise, Krise der Faktizität etc.: Versuch einer soziologischen Sortierung. Lecture by David Kaldewey at the conference **In der Wissenskrise?**, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin, October 23, 2025.

Exhibition booth at the SPIEL25 trade fair. The FIW's **Bonn Lab for Analog Games and Imaginative Play** presents itself as part of the "**Uni Bonn spielt**"-Community. Essen, October 23-26, 2025.

Die Gerechtigkeitsfrage im Steuersystem. Debate between Rudolf Stichweh and Philippa Sigl-Glöckner as part of the Bayreuth Dialogues 2025 on the topic of **Systemgerechtigkeit, gerechte Transformation und fairändern**, Bayreuth, October 26, 2025.

Gesellschaftliche Konflikte und die Gefährdung von Demokratie. Lecture by Rudolf Stichweh followed by a discussion at the **Demokratieforum** of the Green Party Council Group and other organizations in the city of Andernach, Andernach, November 2, 2025.

On Waves and Wakes: Navigating the Mediterranean Deathscape Towards More Democratic Futures. Lecture by Mareike Gebhardt at the conference **Das Mittelmeer zwischen Fantasie und Realität – Konträre Welten? The Mediterranean between Fantasy and Reality – Contrasting Worlds?**, University of Graz, November 8, 2025.

Zukunftskonferenz NRW. Adrian Hermann is participating in the Future Workshop as part of the **Zukunftskonferenz NRW**, organized by the sustainability initiative of universities in NRW, University of Duisburg-Essen, November 13, 2025.

Conversation with the IAHR: Reports from Krakow. Panel discussion led by Adrian Hermann at the NAASR 2025 Annual Meeting as part of the virtual program (with Amarjiva Lochan, University of Delhi / Milda Ališauskienė, Vytautas Magnus University / Denzil Chetty, University of South Africa), November 15, 2025.

Exhibition booth at the DreieichCon trade fair. The **Bonn Lab for Analog Games and Imaginative Play** is participating in the role-playing convention, Dreieich, November 15-16, 2025.

The Harnack Principle. Lecture by Rudolf Stichweh at the symposium **Vision 2025. Shape our Vision for the Future!**, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Harnack-Haus, Berlin, November 18, 2025.

Contextualizing Crisis without Universalism. Panel discussion led by Adrian Hermann at the **NAASR 2025 Annual Meeting**. Boston, November 22, 2025.

Barcamp eduRPG 2025. Discussion led by Kathrin Fischer on the topic **eduRPG experimental kit** and support for the organization of the [Online-Barcamp](#), November 21-23, 2025.

Popularisierung, die Öffentlichkeiten der Wissenschaft und die wissenschaftliche Bestimmtheit moderner Politik. Lecture by Rudolf Stichweh at the class symposium of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina on the topic of **Wissenschaft, Meinung und Öffentlichkeit**, Halle/Saale, November 27, 2025.

Interfaces: Disability, Accessibility, and Gaming. Lecture by Adrian Hermann at the invitation of the **Disability Studies Program**, Georgetown University, Washington DC, December 2, 2025.

Following the Threads of China's New Science Silk Road. Online lecture by Anna L. Ahlers in the **China Studies Center's** international webinar series, University of Sydney,

Dezember 9, 2025.

Sociology of Hyperauthorship. Lecture by Rudolf Stichweh at the research colloquium **China and the Global System of Science** of the Lise Meitner Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, February 12, 2026.

Grenzräume von Funktionssystemen. Lecture by Rudolf Stichweh at the section event **Kultursoziologie zu Grenzsoziologie** at the Institute for Cultural Studies in Essen, Essen, February 26-27, 2026.

New Projects and prices

Here you will find newly approved third-party funded projects by FIW members, prizes, and awards for individual employees:

The Lise Meitner Research Group **China in the Global System of Science** at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (Chair: Anna L. Ahlers, Member: Rudolf Stichweh) received the award for **Best Research Environment 2024** in June 2025, presented by the Young Academy and the Volkswagen Foundation. [Link to the press release](#)

The project **NewHorizons: Ein universitätsübergreifendes, inter- und transdisziplinäres Simulations- und Rollenspiel für die Universität Bonn** is funded for 3 years as part of the **University of Bonn's Strategy Fund for Studies and Teaching** (Project line: vielfältig.nachhaltig.digital). [Link to the project](#)

Anna L. Ahlers (MPIWG/FIW), Han Cheng (National University of Singapore), and Hang Zhou (Université Laval) receive €1 million in funding from the Volkswagen Foundation for the project **China's Science Silk Road and the New Geopolitics of Knowledge Production**. The project is expected to start in January 2026 and will run for 4 years. [Link to the press release](#)

News

Here you can read announcements from the FIW departments:

Sarah Spasiano has received a graduation scholarship from the **FAZIT Foundation** from July 2025 to January 2026 to support her doctoral studies.

Adrian Hermann was elected **Vice Dean for Research, Digitalization, and Transfer** at the Faculty of Philosophy in July 2025 and will be supporting Dean Stephan Conermann's team until summer 2027.

The **Administrative Office** and the **Department for Democracy Research** are delighted to welcome **Hiroataka Sugiura**, intern at FIW, from July to December 2025.

Since summer 2025, **Rudolf Stichweh** has been Scientific Advisor to the **KIWIT Research Group** on the Functions and Consequences of Artificial Intelligence in Science and Higher Education Organization (BMFTR joint program).

Rebekka Åsnes Sagild (former visiting scholar in the **Department of Democracy**

Research and co-author of the [FIW Working Paper Nr. 10](#)) of the **Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies** in Oslo was appointed associate professor in the summer of 2025..

Beatrix Livesey-Stephens joined the v.n.d. project **Lehr-Lern-Labor Barrierefreiheit** on October 1, 2025, where she will be supporting Ramona Jelinek-Menke's team.

Harald Eckmüller, Laura Lewald-Romahn, and Luca Voges have been working on the v.n.d. project **NewHorizons: Ein universitätsübergreifendes, inter- und transdisziplinäres Simulations- und Rollenspiel für die Universität Bonn** at the FIW since October 1, 2025.

Robin Kather, Adrian Dilg, and Alea Leibelt joined the team of student employees at FIW on October 1, 2025.

Adrian Hermann was elected chairman of the **German Association for Religious Studies (DVRW)** on September 25, 2025. The FIW and the **Department of Religious Studies** at the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies will jointly host the **Association's Annual Conference** in Bonn from September 6 to 10, 2027.

Documentation

Here you will find documentation of past events and research activities:

On June 15, 2025, **Adrian Hermann** and **Kathrin Fischer** organized the second edition of the **Scientific Symposium on Research into Tabletop Role-playing Games** as part of NordCon in Hamburg.

Rafaela Eulberg and **Kathrin Fischer** conducted workshops on educational role-playing with experts from the education sector on June 7, 2025, in Bergisch Gladbach and on July 5, 2025, in Bonn Beuel as part of the project **Zukunft Erspielen** (Playing for the Future).

From September 1 to 6, 2025, the first **Uni Bonn Game Week**, organized by the **Bonn Lab for Analog Games and Imaginative Play** and **EnaCom**, took place. Various events were held here on the topic of games in research, teaching, and as cultural assets ([Interview as part of the program WDR 3 Resonanzen](#)). The week started with a **big game night** in the **Campo cafeteria** ([Report as part of the WDR Lokalzeit program](#)).

Kontakt:
Forum Internationale Wissenschaft
Dr. Lena Laube, Geschäftsführerin
Heussallee 18-24
53113 Bonn
Deutschland

+49 228 73 62993
fiwbonn@uni-bonn.de
www.fiw-uni.bonn.de