



**Dear Readers,**

We are excited to introduce the first edition of our Research Newsletter, which will be published quarterly. This newsletter brings together updates from all faculties and the Research Support Center, keeping you informed about ongoing research projects, awards, publications, and conferences.

We also provide details on current funding opportunities, including third-party funding calls, mobility programs, and science communication initiatives. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce the new Research Intranet, where you can find even more funding calls, training opportunities, and proposal writing resources.

Your feedback is always welcome—please contact the Research Support Center ([research@sfu.ac.at](mailto:research@sfu.ac.at)) or contact me directly with suggestions.

Enjoy reading!

**Univ.-Prof. Dr. Marion Garaus, Ph.D.**  
Vice-Rector for Research

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**News from the Research Support Center**



## **ZFS Launches New Research Intranet to Empower Researchers**

The Research Support Center (ZFS) at SFU is excited to launch the new [Research Intranet](#)—a centralized hub designed to enhance research across all faculties and branches. This platform provides easy access to funding opportunities, grant application guidance, training resources, and expert support.

Researchers can explore funding calls, receive assistance for third-party projects, and stay updated on workshops and events from national and EU agencies. The Research Intranet reflects SFU's commitment to strengthening research excellence and international presence.

We invite all SFU researchers to log in and explore how this tool can support their work and enhance SFU's research impact. Please note: You need an Office365 account for the login. Please contact IT ([it@sfu.ac.at](mailto:it@sfu.ac.at)) if you do not have an account.

[More informations!](#)

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## **Third-party funding**

## ERC Advanced Grants

SFU encourages its faculty members to explore ERC grant opportunities. To determine the most suitable grant for your career stage, please contact the Research Support Center (ZFS). For more details, visit [European Research Council](#)

The next call is for the ERC Advanced Grant. This grant is open to leading researchers with a strong track record, allowing proposals from any field of research without predefined priorities. ERC-2025-ADG call should open **22 May 2025**.

[To the National Contact Point](#)



## MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships support PhD holders in advancing their skills through training and international mobility. Open to all nationalities, they foster excellence in academic and non-academic sectors, including reintegration and career restarts.

Fellows develop personalized research projects, tackle global challenges, and engage with society by making research visible and involving citizens in co-creation where relevant.

The [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025](#) call should open **9 April 2025**.



## **Life Sciences 2025 - Precision Medicine**

The WWTF Life Sciences 2025 Call "Precision Medicine" launched on March 4, 2025, offering funding for researchers in Vienna to conduct projects (2-4 years) utilizing precision medicine to improve disease prevention, diagnosis, or treatment. A total of €7.5 million is available, with project funding between €500,000 and €1 million. Joint projects with researchers from Vienna and Lower Austria can apply for up to €1.1 million.

For more details, visit: [WWTF Life Sciences 2025](#)



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## **Mobility programs**



## **Max Kade Fellowship**

Applications for a [MAX KADE Fellowship](#) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences are invited from young scholars from all fields of research who:

- have completed their doctoral studies (Dr., PhD or MD, Dr.med.univ., Dr.med.dent.) within the last ten years in an academic discipline connected to their proposed project,
- can demonstrate their research experience in scholarly publications (corresponding to the stage in their career),
- are Austrian citizens or have been resident in Austria for at least three of the last ten years,
- present a detailed description of the research projects including reasons for the stay abroad and
- an invitation from their chosen research institution in the USA.

It is expected that the candidates are residing in Austria at the time of application and will return to Austria following the research stay.

## EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowships

EMBO promotes excellence in **life sciences** through various programs, supporting researchers at all career stages. EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded for up to two years, with a minimum duration of one year. The fellowship fosters scientific exchange and helps create a research environment for optimal scientific achievement.

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must hold a doctorate or equivalent at the start of the fellowship.
- Applicants who already hold a PhD at the time of application are eligible to apply only if they obtained it during the two years prior to the date the application is submitted.
- Applicants must have at least one first-author publication in an international peer-reviewed journal or a first-author preprint with verified independent peer reviews.



**Rates of EMBO!**

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**Research news from the faculties**

**News from the Faculty of Psychotherapy Science**



## **“DÄMONEN” is science book of the year 2025**

The book “DÄMONEN. Besessenheit und Exorzismus in der Geschichte Österreichs” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dr. Carlos Watzka (SFU) et al. was voted Science Book of the Year 2025 in the Humanities/Social Sciences/Cultural Studies category. The prestigious annual award recognizes academic publications that make complex topics accessible to a wide audience.

[To the book!](#)

## **Research Grant: QOLIBRI-KIDDY/KID/ADO multicenter study at the PTS SFU!**

Professor Marina Zeldovich has brought her research project on measuring quality of life after traumatic brain injury in children and adolescents (QOLIBRI-KIDDY/KID/ADO) to the PTS Faculty at SFU. Funded by the Dr. Senckenbergische Stiftung, the project has led to several publications, including studies on headache post-injury and health-related quality of life. Future projects will focus on outcome assessment in psychotherapy for all ages, involving SFU outpatient clinics and collaborations with institutions in Austria and Germany.

Funding: Dr. Senckenbergische Stiftung, 25,000 EUR.



[Discover the book!](#)



### **Successful psychotherapy research: Two VÖPP awards for projects with SFU participation**

In 2024, the Association of Austrian Psychotherapists (VÖPP) presented the “Best Paper Award” for the first time, recognizing three publications after a rigorous review. Two of the three awards went to projects involving the Faculty of Psychotherapy Science at Sigmund Freud University (SFU):

Schaffler Y, et al. "Process and outcome of outpatient psychotherapies under clinically representative conditions in Austria." *Front Psychiatry*, 2024.

Humer E, et al. "Effect of a group logotherapeutic program for older adults on mental health indicators." *The Journal of Humanistic Counseling*, 2024.

Yvonne Schaffler and Elke Humer received the awards for their network project publications.

[Read the abstract!](#)

## Research Grants: Psychoanalysis in Austria - in the shadow of the Shoah

Dr. Birgani recently completed a third-party-funded research project (12,840 EUR) examining the impact of the Shoah on the development of psychoanalysis in Austria. The project explored the forced exile of Jewish psychoanalysts and its consequences, as well as the post-war state of psychoanalysis in Austria.

This work also earned Dr. Birgani a teaching grant from the Holocaust Educational Foundation to develop a course on the aftermath of the Holocaust on psychoanalysis in Austria for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Funding: Zukunftsfonds Austria and Nationalfonds.  
Contact: Dr. Sarah Birgani, [sarah.birgani@sfu.ac.at](mailto:sarah.birgani@sfu.ac.at).



[Learn more!](#)

**News from the Faculty of Psychology**



### **Research Project in Focus Area 1: “Psychology and History”**

In the summer of 2024, a third-party funded project supported by the FWF and led by Dr. Luciano Nicolás García (Faculty of Psychology, SFU Vienna) was launched. Titled *“The Power Within. A Transnational History of Alfred Adler’s Clinical and Social Ideas about Power and Psychological Development in France, the United States of America, and Argentina, 1929-1967”*, the project explores the international reception and further development of psychoanalyst Alfred Adler’s theories on power and psychological development.

More information:

Dr. Luciano Nicolás García ([luciano.garcia@mail.sfu.ac.at](mailto:luciano.garcia@mail.sfu.ac.at))

### **Research Project in Focus Area 2: “Psychology of Social, Cultural, and Organizational Dynamics”**

Led by Dr. Markus Brunner (SFU Vienna) and an international research team, this project (DFG/FWF-funded) investigates the social and communicative construction of conspiracy theories. Using a mixed-methods approach, it combines surveys, ethnographic observations, biographical interviews, and group discussions within conspiracy-affiliated milieus.

**Contact:** Dr. Markus Brunner ([markus.brunner@sfu.ac.at](mailto:markus.brunner@sfu.ac.at))

### **Research Project in Focus Area 3: “Psychology of Clinically Specific Populations”**

Supported by DEBRA Austria (*Aid for Butterfly Children*), the research project “*BUR-EB: The Socioeconomic Impact of Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) in Europe*”, led by DDr. Gudrun Salamon (Faculty of Psychology, SFU Vienna), investigates the socioeconomic impact of Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) in Europe. The study focuses on the quality of life of affected individuals and their caregivers, as well as the development and evaluation of interventional approaches.

For more information:

DDr. Gudrun Salamon ([gudrun.salamon@sfu.ac.at](mailto:gudrun.salamon@sfu.ac.at))

**Learn more!**

**To the project!**



## Research Projects in Focus Area 4: “Psychology of Sustainable and Responsible Coexistence”

Funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, these research projects explore psychological factors affecting both the well-being of pets and their owners. Led by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Birgit U. Stetina (Faculty of Psychology, SFU Vienna) and coordinated by Christine Smetaczek, MSc. PhD, the projects focus on both conceptual and clinical studies. They examine the interaction between human and animal well-being during critical life events, as well as the possibilities and limitations of analyzing the well-being of other species in the context of responsible and respectful coexistence.

For more information:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Birgit U. Stetina ([birgit.u.stetina@sfu.ac.at](mailto:birgit.u.stetina@sfu.ac.at))

Christine Smetaczek, MSc. PhD ([christine.smetaczek@sfu.ac.at](mailto:christine.smetaczek@sfu.ac.at))

## Podcast Series “Geist & Geschichte”

Initiated by PD Ass.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Wieser (Department of Psychology, SFU Berlin) and financially supported by the Faculty of Psychology’s research budget, the podcast series “*Geist & Geschichte*” (*Mind & History*) serves as an innovative knowledge transfer project. Dedicated to the history of psychology, the podcast presents current research projects and findings through expert interviews. Inspired by well-known formats such as *Eine Stunde History* and *111 Kilometer Akten*, ten one-hour episodes offer fascinating insights into psychology’s history. The podcast is available at: [Spotify](#).

For more information:

PD Ass.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Wieser ([martin.wieser@sfu-berlin.de](mailto:martin.wieser@sfu-berlin.de))

[Listen to it!](#)

**News from Faculty of Law**



## **Freedom of Information: Bridging Theory and Practice**

Starting September 1, 2025, Austria will replace official secrecy with freedom of information, increasing transparency and accountability. However, municipalities face challenges such as managing high request volumes and handling confidentiality issues.

Our research project, led by Prof. Dr. Teresa Weber, addresses key legal questions at the municipal level through a participatory approach. We collect municipality-specific inquiries via an online form, compile an FAQ, and publish legal analyses in specialist journals.

To foster dialogue, we organized a conference with 150 municipal and state officials and launched the SFU Law Faculty's first Law Clinic, where students tackle real-world legal issues. This initiative bridges academia and local governance while equipping students with practical experience.

**Contact:** Prof. Dr. Teresa Weber, MSc ([teresa.weber@jus.sfu.ac.at](mailto:teresa.weber@jus.sfu.ac.at))

[More about it!](#)

## Collective redress: Interaction between theory and practice

The EU's **Representative Actions Directive (RAD)** led to Austria's delayed implementation via the **VRUN statute on July 17, 2024**. Our research examines its compliance with EU requirements, in particular, in regard of the goals of procedural economy and effectiveness, and to what extent it differs from the existing collective redress system. Also existing procedural instruments for processing mass damages are explained, in particular Austria's "Class Action Austrian Style", where claims are bundled into a single lawsuit. The situation on collective redress in Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland is also analysed.

In collaboration with legal experts, we are publishing the *Class Action Handbook* (facultas). A book presentation will be held on **April 10, 2025, at SFU** with distinguished speakers.

**Contact:** Ass.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Huber ([katharina.huber@jus.sfu.ac.at](mailto:katharina.huber@jus.sfu.ac.at))



**To handbook class action!**



## What rights does nature have? And who can enforce them?

Tina Rametsteiner examined these and other questions in her award-winning dissertation, *Rights of Nature. A Comparative Legal Analysis with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Rivers* (Duncker & Humblot, 2025).

The new research project deepens the understanding of key legal issues at the national level, including the following activities:

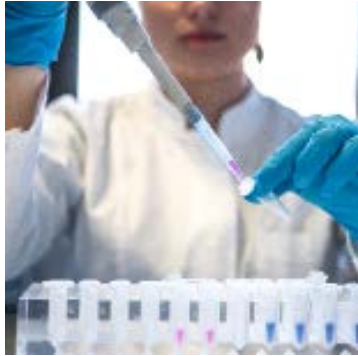
At the international conference “Rights of Nature. An Utopia in the Present?” on **May 9, 2025**, renowned scholars will address the following questions: In which states have rights of nature already been adopted? What legal theoretical and philosophical considerations underpin them? And how can they be operationalized?. Selected presentations will be published in ZöR (4/2025).

In addition, a new research project in cooperation with natural scientists is being prepared, to investigate how the rights of rivers can be operationalized in national law.

**Contact:** Dr. Tina Rametsteiner, E.MA

[Learn more!](#)

**News from the Faculty of Medicine**



### **SFUMED-WIGEV cooperation**

By March 2025, 17 joint research projects—funded by the SFUMED Research Promotion Fund—have been launched across Ottakring, Floridsdorf, Favoriten, and Hietzing clinics. At a March 5 meeting, SFUMED and WIGEV representatives discussed future collaboration, aiming to strengthen clinical research, career opportunities, and PhD programs. Expansion efforts focus on cardiology, oncology, and neurology, with initial discussions already underway to develop new specialist projects.

### **Paper: Fractional exhaled nitric oxide in a respiratory healthy general population through the lifespan**

This study analyzed FeNO levels in 2,251 respiratory-healthy, non-atopic, non-smoking participants (aged 6–82 years) from the LEAD cohort (Austria). Median FeNO was 13.0 ppb, increasing with age and higher in males. Key associations include body height, eosinophil counts, IgE levels, lung function, urban living, and cardiovascular health. Findings provide reference values for FeNO in clinical practice.

Contact: Alvar Agusti, Ahmad Karimi & Sylvia Hartl, Faculty of Medicine, SFU Vienna

## **Project: XR2ESILIENCE: Pioneering XR Technology for the Promotion of Resilience and Mental Health of the Healthcare Workforce**

The EU-funded XR2esilience project leverages extended reality (XR) to strengthen nurses' resilience amid the healthcare crisis. Through immersive training, cohort studies, and data analysis, it identifies resilience factors, assesses XR effectiveness, and explores barriers to adoption, offering solutions for a supportive work environment.

Contact: Paul Barach & Roland Schlesinger, Faculty of Medicine, SFU Vienna

[More about it!](#)

[Read the paper!](#)

[To the project!](#)



## European Partnership Opens a New Era in Rare Disease Research

To leave no one behind, over 180 organisations championed by the European Union and members states are working hand in hand to make Europe a world leader in rare diseases research and innovation. The European Rare Disease Research Alliance (ERDERA) takes over EJPRD to deliver concrete health benefits to rare disease patients in the next decade by advancing prevention, diagnosis and treatment research.

For more information: Nicole Heussen and Ralf Dieter Hilgers, Faculty of Medicine, Sigmund Freud University Vienna

## The Eklund Foundation awarded: The Oral Health project within the IBD Prognosis study

This multidisciplinary project explores the impact of oral health on the disease course, severity, progression, and treatment response of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The study aims to enhance understanding of the mechanisms linking oral health to IBD, potentially informing more personalized treatments. The findings could ultimately benefit the global patient population and help healthcare providers tailor treatments more effectively.

**Contact:** Kristina Bertl, Faculty of Medicine, Sigmund Freud University Vienna

[To edera website!](#)

[To the foundation!](#)

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## Science communication initiatives

**Current activities**



### **Discover the World of Medicine - Daughters' Day at SFU!**

We want to encourage young people to learn more about the exciting field of medicine. Sigmund Freud University (SFU) invites 20 internal and 20 external daughters to join us for Daughters' Day and gain their first experience in the medical world. Participants will have the opportunity to try activities like conducting their first ultrasound and engage with hands-on simulations. Our goal is to inspire young women by showing them the diverse and exciting career paths in medicine.

[More about it!](#)

**Calls for science communication activities for  
researchers**

## "Wissenschaft verstehen" funding from the Vienna Business Agency

This program supports science communication projects in Vienna. The aim is to make scientific content accessible to a wide audience and to promote understanding of scientific processes. The funding rate is up to 75% of the recognized project costs.



[To the website!](#)



## Science Ambassadors: Inspiring the Next Generation of Researchers

The **Science Ambassadors** initiative connects over 490 researchers with schools across Austria. These researchers volunteer to visit schools and share insights into their field and careers, offering students the opportunity to ask questions and gain firsthand knowledge about scientific work. Schools can choose between individual visits or thematic workshops, available both in-person and virtually. Participation is free for schools. This program aims to inspire and educate the next generation about science and research.

[More details!](#)

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# Research Trainings





### **Crafting Your Personal Brand and Shaping Your Career Path**

On June 3, 2024 (09:30-12:00 & 13:00-16:00, online), this workshop helps PhD students and faculty strengthen their professional presence in academia.

In a competitive academic landscape, effective positioning is key to career growth. This session guides participants in developing a strong personal brand, refining their online presence, self-marketing, and networking skills, and crafting a personalized PR strategy.

By the end, attendees will have a clearer career direction and practical tools to enhance their academic visibility.

To register, complete the application form and send it to [personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at](mailto:personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at). Places are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Building Your Online Presence: Social Media Strategy for PhD Students and Academics**

On June 24, 2025 (09:30-12:00 & 13:00-16:00, online), this workshop helps PhD students and faculty use social media for effective science communication.

Participants will learn to craft engaging content, choose the right platforms, and use visual storytelling to connect with academic and public audiences. The session covers best practices for targeting different groups while simplifying complex ideas without losing accuracy.

By the end, attendees will understand science communication principles and have the tools to build a strong, strategic online presence.

To register, complete the application form and send it to [personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at](mailto:personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at). Places are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Virtual FWF Coaching Workshop: Submitting FWF Proposals

On Thursday, 8 May 2025 (09:30-14:30, EN) and Wednesday, 23 July 2025 (09:30-14:30, DE), this online workshop via ZOOM is aimed at researchers planning to submit an FWF proposal in the near future.

The session offers valuable insights into the FWF's funding principles and decision-making process, along with practical tips for submitting a successful application. Participants will engage in hands-on exercises, analyzing real FWF applications, including reviews that led to approvals or rejections. Key aspects of the review process, dos and don'ts of application preparation, and best practices will be covered.

This workshop is designed for qualified researchers familiar with the FWF portfolio, ideally those who have attended previous FWF webinars. Research service center staff are also encouraged to attend.

Costs: €80, fully covered by SFU  
Registration **Deadline: 21.04.2025**

To register, complete the application form and send it to [personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at](mailto:personalentwicklung@sfu.ac.at). Places are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.



Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter nicht mehr empfangen möchten, können Sie ihn [hier abbestellen](#).

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[Datenschutz](#)

