



Dear colleagues,

The past months have been marked by exciting developments at SFU. A particular focus was the launch of our call for **European Research Council (ERC) grant applications**. We encourage you to share this opportunity broadly, including with external colleagues—we are happy to offer support throughout the process.

Another major milestone has been the implementation of the **PURE research information system**. These were intense but productive months, involving tailor-made configurations to meet our reporting needs. My sincere thanks go to the PURE implementation team for their tireless commitment and to the voluntary test users whose feedback was invaluable.

We are proud to announce the release of SFU's first public annual **Science Report**, offering a comprehensive overview of the university's research achievements and strategic developments over the past academic year.

We are pleased to present **highlights from our four faculties**—including outstanding research projects, events, awards, and new research collaborations.

Enjoy reading—and I wish you a restful and inspiring summer break!

Warm regards,

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Marion Garaus, PhD  
Vice Rector for Research

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# News from the Research Support Center



**European Research Council**  
Established by the European Commission

## **Expression of Interest Programme for ERC Grants at SFU**

The Research Support Center of SFU is excited to announce the upcoming launch of its “Expression of Interest (EoI) Programme for ERC Grants”. The programme is designed to support researchers applying for European Research Council (ERC) grants and to strengthen the university’s research excellence and international profile by encouraging outstanding researchers to choose SFU as their Host Institution for ERC-funded projects.

SFU invites applications for upcoming ERC calls: Starting Grants (early-career), Consolidator Grants (mid-career), and Advanced Grants (established leaders). Applicants can be of any nationality and do not need to hold a current position at SFU; researchers already affiliated with SFU are, of course, also warmly encouraged to express their interest.

The programme offers comprehensive support, including administrative assistance, proposal feedback, and access to research infrastructure. Selected candidates will receive guidance throughout the application process and, if successful, formal affiliation with SFU for the duration of the ERC project.

Interested researchers must submit their application by **August 15, 2025, at 5 p.m. (CET)**. All required documents must be submitted as a single PDF file to [research@sfu.ac.at](mailto:research@sfu.ac.at).

**To the programme!**

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## FWF Webinars & Trainings Now Available in Our Research Intranet

We are pleased to inform you that a **selection of webinars and trainings from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)** is now available in our [Research Intranet](#). These resources cover a range of FWF programmes -- including ASTRA, ESPRIT, and Special Research Groups -- to help you explore new funding opportunities.

Find valuable information on drafting and submitting successful proposals, as well as preparing project budgets. Access these FWF webinars at your convenience and strengthen your applications with expert guidance.

Visit our intranet to discover the full collection [here](#).

[Learn more!](#)



## SFU Releases Its Annual Science Report

Sigmund Freud Private University (SFU) has published its first annual Science Report, marking an important milestone in the university's commitment to fostering a transparent and dynamic research culture. This publication offers a comprehensive overview of the university's research

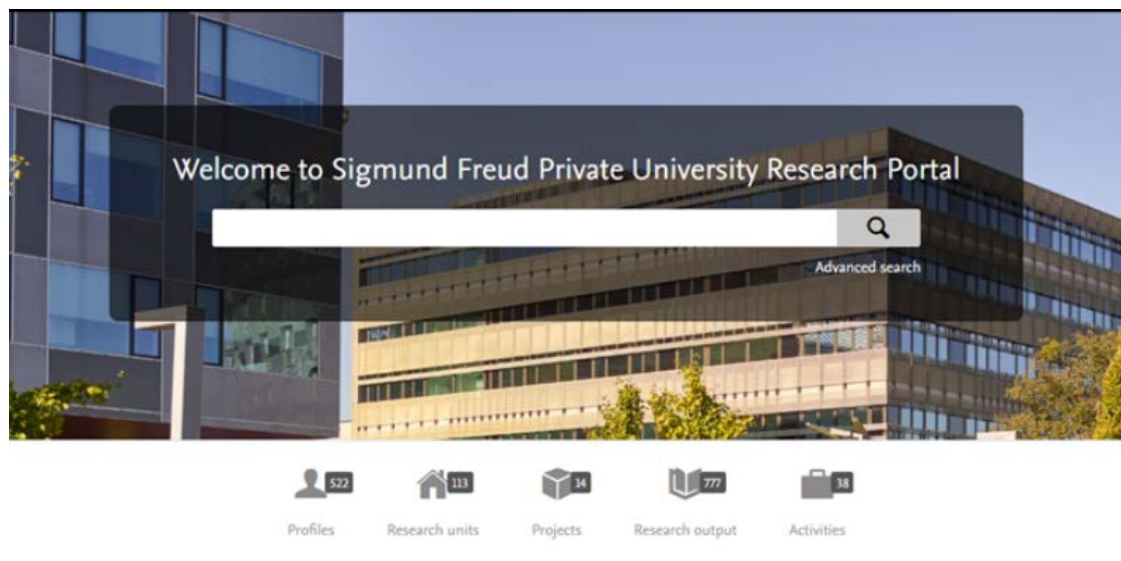
activities over the past academic year and highlights its growing impact within the academic and broader societal landscape.

The report reflects SFU's increasing focus on high-quality, interdisciplinary research aligned with both academic standards and pressing societal needs. A notable rise in third-party funding and greater success in securing competitive research grants—particularly from the EU and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)—underscore the university's expanding research profile and visibility.

The release of the Science Report also recognizes the growing role of internal support structures, such as the Research Support Center, in helping researchers navigate increasingly complex funding environments and build strong, collaborative projects.

This first edition sets a foundation for regular reporting on SFU's scientific contributions, aiming to further strengthen the university's research identity and support its mission to address future societal challenges through interdisciplinary inquiry.

[Read the entire report!](#)



## PURE

The implementation of SFU's new research information management system, Pure, is in full swing. Most of the customised configurations have been finalised, ensuring that Pure will best fit SFU's needs. Not only will this database increase the **external visibility** of SFU's research activities, but it will also represent a more modern replacement for our old publication and research project databases, facilitating highly efficient creation of **research reports, quality assurance, and streamlined processes** for internal and external research funding.

### What are the next steps?

We are currently in the process of testing Pure together with five highly active researchers from each faculty, our **Pure Pioneers**. These motivated test users are now gaining their first hands-on experiences with Pure. Therefore, the next steps of the implementation will revolve around feedback, troubleshooting and potential final adaptations of the database.

### When will Pure launch?

This coming autumn, all academic and research staff members will receive a Pure account, meaning access to the internal Pure backend. From then on, you will have several months to import and enter your research outputs and activities to fill up your individual research profiles. A comprehensive user manual as well as introductory workshops to Pure will be offered for support. As soon as Pure is as complete with research information as possible, we will **officially go live with the public Pure Portal (i.e. external view) in December 2025.**

Please get in touch with the Pure implementation team if you have any questions: [pure@sfu.ac.at](mailto:pure@sfu.ac.at)

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### **31st of July - Don't Miss This ERC Starting Grant Masterclass: Essential Insights for Early-Career Researchers**

Attention early-career researchers: here's an exceptional opportunity to learn from the experts about ERC Starting Grants, one of Europe's most prestigious research funding schemes.

The UK Research Office (UKRO) is hosting a comprehensive webinar on the 2026 ERC Starting Grant call, don't worry, the insights shared are incredibly valuable for researchers everywhere, not just the UK. The strategies, evaluation criteria, and application approaches discussed apply universally to ERC applications.

**When?** 31st of July - 11:00am

**What makes this webinar special?** You'll get insider knowledge on the submission process, detailed evaluation procedures, and practical guidance on designing compelling project proposals. The session includes real-world expertise from Professor Jane Kershaw, who will share her successful journey to securing an ERC Starting Grant.

#### **Key topics covered:**

- Proposal format and structure requirements
- Evaluation criteria and what reviewers look for
- Writing strategies that make applications stand out
- Project costing and budget considerations

- Common pitfalls to avoid in your application

The 2-hour session (with a mid-point break) is designed to give you practical, actionable advice for crafting competitive proposals. Whether you're considering your first ERC application or refining your approach, this webinar offers expert insights that could make the difference in your funding success.

**Ready to boost your ERC application skills?** Registration is free but required. This is professional development time well invested for any researcher serious about European funding opportunities.

[Register now!](#)



## **Transforming Research Assessment: Why CoARA Principles Matter for Every Researcher**

### **Moving beyond citations to recognize the full value of research contributions**

The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) represents over 700 research organisations worldwide committed to reforming outdated assessment methods that rely heavily on publication-based metrics like citation counts. The coalition operates through 10 core commitments that guide systematic reform while respecting institutional autonomy.

**CoARA@SFU:** In October 2024, the SFU signed the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.

<https://www.sfu.ac.at/de/news/sfu-joins-coara>

<https://www.sfu.ac.at/en/news/sfu-joins-coara>

Led by Vice Dean Research Ass.Prof. Dr. Nora Ruck, along with a faculty-wide CoARA working group, the Faculty of Psychology is piloting the research assessment reform to account for the faculty's diverse research cultures. The reform focuses on participatory engagement, qualitative indicators, and peer review. Through "participatory contact zones", a CoARaverse working group is reforming three assessment instruments at the individual and the faculty level: the Research Report, the Development Interview, and the External Research Evaluation. After the pilot phase, CoARaverse research assessment practices will be extended from the faculty to the university level.

<https://psychologie.sfu.ac.at/de/news/forschungsevaluierung-coaraverse/>

<https://psychologie.sfu.ac.at/en/news/research-evaluation-coaraverse/>

**Why is reform necessary?** Groundbreaking teaching innovations, crucial data management work, community engagement, mentoring excellence, and interdisciplinary collaborations frequently go unrecognized in systems focused primarily on journal impact factors and citation numbers. CoARA's vision centers on comprehensive assessment that recognizes diverse outputs and activities, basing evaluation primarily on qualitative judgment with peer review at its core. Factors beyond quantitative metrics should be considered; whether a researcher is developing innovative methodologies, engaging with policymakers, contributing to open science practices, or supporting early-career researchers, these valuable activities should receive appropriate recognition.

**Why should you care?** Research excellence encompasses far more than publication counts, and evaluation systems should reflect that reality. Understanding CoARA principles helps researchers better articulate their full contributions and supports institutions in developing more effective evaluation criteria.

**Learn more:** Visit [coara.eu](https://coara.eu) to explore the full agreement and see how this global movement is reshaping research assessment for the better.

About CoARA

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## Third-party funding

### Current third-party funding calls



## ERC ADVANCED GRANTS | ERC-2025-ADG

**Funding Institution:** EU

ERC Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their research proposal.

**Funding Amount | Duration:** EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years

**Deadline:** 28 August 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

[More about it!](#)



## Research and innovation to provide evidence that support reforms of research assessment | HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-03

**Funding Institution:** EU

A global movement is underway to significantly enhance the evaluation process for researchers, research projects and research institutions. The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the Leiden Manifesto, the Latin American Forum on Research Assessment (FOLEC-CLACSO), and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment[1] and the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) under Action 3 of the European Research Area Policy Agenda 2022-2024[2] are the main initiatives that strive to shift away from inappropriate reliance on metrics such as the Journal Impact Factor. Instead, they acknowledge the diverse range of research practices, activities and outputs that go beyond publications. They aim to reward practices, activities and outputs that contribute to a higher quality and impact of research, while also recognising and mitigating systemic biases, particularly gender biases, within traditional assessment metrics.

**Funding Amount | Duration:** EUR 2 000 000

**Deadline:** 18 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time



## **Horizon Europe - Cluster 2. Improving mental health outcomes for people in education, training and work | HORIZON-CL2-2025-01**

**Funding Institution:** EU

Over the past years, many innovative solutions (supported EU Framework Programmes for research and Innovation and/or international, national, regional, and local initiatives) for tackling mental health problems have been developed. (For further information on this topic please visit our [Research Intranet](#).) However, few interventions have been implemented at scale. There lacks evidence about the feasibility, acceptability and suitability of these mental health interventions at scale.

Building on innovative solutions supported by EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation and/or international, national, regional, and local initiatives, the challenges of the topic are:

- to significantly increase / scale-up the percentage of interventions that are actually used, and
- to involve families, individuals/communities, stakeholders and authorities, such as public services, civil society organisations in the development and implementation of interventions aimed at heterogeneous segments of population

Additional evidence is also needed about to which extend mental health interventions are actually cost-effective and cost-efficient - looking via various policy perspectives, e.g. education, training, working life, well-being and health. This would aid policy makers to decide on which one (or a combination) of the policy choices to use when weighing up policy choices in investment for education, training and work- related outcomes.

**Funding Amount | Duration:** EUR 15 000 000 for 3 projects for 4 years or more

**Deadline:** 16 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

**To the Call!**

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## Research news from the faculties

### Research news of the faculty of psychotheraphie science



#### **World Congress for Psychotherapy 2025 at SFU Vienna**

From July 16 to 19, 2025, the 10th World Congress for Psychotherapy (WCP) will take place at Sigmund Freud University Vienna (SFU) under the main theme "Polarities of Life". The congress is organized by the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) in cooperation with our faculty.

As a hybrid event, WCP 2025 offers professionals from around the world the opportunity to participate—either on-site in Vienna or online via an interactive platform. The congress brings together renowned experts in psychotherapy, psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry, and philosophy. Keynote speakers include, among others, Peter Fonagy, Peter A. Levine, Emmy van Deurzen, Mark Solms, Emilia Afrange, Judy Kuriansky, Joseph Knobel Freud (a great-nephew of Sigmund Freud), and Alfred Pritz.

The World Congress serves as a major platform for international exchange on current developments in psychotherapy and mental health. The scientific program includes lectures, symposia, and interactive formats. Most sessions will be live-streamed and also available online, with the exception of certain offerings like workshops or supervisions, which will take place exclusively on-site.

[About WCP!](#)

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## **Second Round of Seed Funding Successfully Completed**

As part of the **second round of internal faculty seed funding** to support research projects in the field of psychotherapy science, **eight out of eleven** submitted projects were approved for funding. The goal of this initiative is to support researchers in acquiring **third-party funding** and to contribute to the **development of innovative research areas**.

The submitted projects cover a **wide range of research topics**, including:

- Artificial intelligence in psychotherapeutic diagnostics
- New spaces in art therapy
- Migration and mental health
- Conspiracy narratives
- Therapeutic relationship building
- Psychometric basic research
- Mental health in an international context

These research projects are conducted in **close cooperation with esteemed national and international partner institutions**, including:

- IPU Berlin
- Austrian Society for Applied Depth Psychology and General Psychotherapy (ÖGATAP)
- FH Joanneum Graz
- Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
- INMI (University of Vienna)
- University of Innsbruck
- Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence (OFAI)

- DDr. Alfried Längle (GLE International)

In the **first round (2023/24)**, five projects were successfully funded. With a total of **13 funded projects** across both periods, the seed funding initiative represents an **important measure to strengthen research** at our faculty.

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## **Establishment of Two New Research-Focused Faculty Committees in Psychotherapy Science**

### **CARE Board**

The **CARE (Clinical Assessment, Research and Education) Board** is a newly established committee overseeing the clinical care facilities of the Faculty of Psychotherapy Science. The committee was approved by the faculty conference mid-May 2025 and consists of five regular and two associate members. Its core responsibilities include:

- **Care:** Ensuring high-quality, psychotherapeutic care with a focus on basic documentation, data protection, and ethical guidelines, while considering the legal framework specific to each location.
- **Teaching:** Guaranteeing practical training components, linking curricular teaching activities, developing practice-based education, and integrating students and PhD candidates into health services research.
- **Research:** Strategically planning and approving research projects at clinical care facilities in Vienna and other SFU locations (e.g. clinical trials, evaluation studies, training research).

A key focus is the coordination of care facilities across different sites, resulting in a cross-location network. There is outstanding research potential due to the opportunity for international, multicenter studies in the field of health services research. This potential is currently being explored and utilized in an ongoing CORE-OM pilot study (project lead: Univ.-Prof. PD Mag. Dr. Marina Zeldovich).

### **Book Funding Committee**

At the same faculty conference in late May, a second faculty committee—the Book Funding Committee—was officially established. This committee will oversee the strategic planning and decision-making regarding book grants from the faculty’s research budget. Key goals include creating more transparency, structure, and sustainability in the financial support of academic book publications.

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**ÖFG //**

ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT

### **ÖFG Travel Grant**

**Dr. Kamila Midor**, from the **Institute for Transgenerational Trauma Transfer Research**, was awarded a travel grant from the Austrian Research Association (ÖFG). Specifically, it was an International Communication Grant, which enabled her participation in the 37th APS Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, held from May 22 to 25, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

At the conference, Kamila Midor presented findings from a qualitative research study on loss and grief. The study explores how grief, while a highly subjective experience, may also exhibit cross-cultural similarities in coping strategies. The comparison focuses on experiences of bereaved individuals in the U.S. and Poland.

The ÖFG's International Communication program supplements existing university and project-related travel funding and is aimed especially at early-career researchers with high-quality research outputs, who cannot access sufficient funding from other sources due to formal restrictions or exhausted resources.

[More about it!](#)

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# Research news from the faculty of psychology

Four third-party funded projects at the Faculty of Psychology were conceived and prepared with substantial involvement from PhD candidates of the faculty. The faculty leadership is particularly pleased that the candidates have already been able to successfully apply the skills they acquired through the PhD curriculum—especially in the field of research and project funding—at the pre-doctoral level in the grant application processes.

[Learn more!](#)



## **The Limbus of the Third Family Business Generation from a Family Psychology Perspective**

Project leader Assoc. Prof. Mag. Dr. Tarek el Sehity ([tarek.el-sehity@sfu.ac.at](mailto:tarek.el-sehity@sfu.ac.at)) and project collaborator and PhD candidate Lola Koller, MSc ([lola.koller@mail.sfu.ac.at](mailto:lola.koller@mail.sfu.ac.at)) are conducting this qualitative research project—funded by the EQUA Foundation—in the field of business psychology, exploring intergenerational dynamics in family businesses.

Despite the central role families play in family businesses, their internal dynamics—especially in comparison to non-entrepreneurial families—have been under-researched. The transition from the second to the third generation is considered particularly critical, as the family system evolves into a complex network.

This study uses Olson’s Circumplex Model to examine family functionality in both entrepreneurial and non-entrepreneurial families, focusing on cohesion, adaptability, communication, decision-making, and conflict resolution, in order to better understand how business families cope with increasing complexity across generations. Semi-structured individual interviews are conducted with three groups:

1. Nuclear families with no business background,

1. Nuclear families with a business within the third generation ( $\leq 3G$ ), and

1. Nuclear families whose business has existed for more than three generations ( $>3G$ ).

**About the project!**



### **Twin Study on Metacognition and Its Related Symptoms**

At the study site in Milan, Prof. Simona Scaini ([simona.scaini@mail.sfu.ac.at](mailto:simona.scaini@mail.sfu.ac.at)) and project collaborator and PhD candidate Stefano de Francesco, MSc, investigate etiological factors underlying metacognition and its relationship with internalizing and externalizing symptoms in children and adolescents, with particular attention to the transition from childhood to adolescence.

Metacognition—thinking about thinking—is considered a key factor in persistent emotional distress in mental disorders, yet its underlying causes remain unclear. The focus of the study is to determine whether metacognition can be understood as a phenotypic expression of a general vulnerability to psychological disorders.

As genetic influences have been largely overlooked to date, the project uses a twin study design to examine both genetic and environmental factors, as well as possible age-related differences.

This research project uses exclusively quantitative data from a non-clinical twin sample drawn from the general population. Monozygotic (genetically identical) twins are compared with dizygotic twins (who share about 50% of their genetic material). Correlation coefficients are used to estimate genetic and environmental influences as well as the variance and covariance of traits.



***Those Who Must Die. The Use and Consequences of Psychological Tools, and Gender as a Diagnostic Criterion at the Klagenfurt State Hospital Before and During Nazi Euthanasia, Aktion T4, Using the Example of Progressive Paralysis***

In spring 2024, a research project funded by the Austrian Future Fund and the state of Carinthia was launched under the leadership of PhD candidate Lisa-Teresa Woller-Mensshengen, MSc MA ([l.woller-mensshengen@sfu.ac.at](mailto:l.woller-mensshengen@sfu.ac.at)), and Univ. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Benetka ([gerhard.benetka@sfu.ac.at](mailto:gerhard.benetka@sfu.ac.at)).

Under the title "*Those Who Must Die. The Use and Consequences of Psychological Tools, and Gender as a Diagnostic Criterion at the Klagenfurt State Hospital Before and During Nazi Euthanasia, Aktion T4, Using the Example of Progressive Paralysis*", the project examines the diagnostic and assessment practices of patients with progressive paralysis at Klagenfurt State Hospital during the Nazi era, based on patient medical records. Particular focus is placed on the psychological assessments used and on the role of gender as a determining factor in psychiatric diagnostics in connection with progressive paralysis.

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### **Connecting the Dots: Reconstructing the Social Production of Suspicious Knowledge**

In the sub-project located at SFU Vienna and funded by the FWF as part of the Weave Lead Agency network “Connecting the Dots,” project leader Dr. Markus Brunner and PhD candidate Florian Knasmüller, MSc, are working together with Dustin Henze, MA, on the social production of suspicious knowledge from the perspective of psychoanalytic social psychology.

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**Research news from the faculty of law**



## **"AI-Competence Expert" in cooperation with Manz at SFU Vienna on May 8-9, 2025 | Academic Director: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Zankl**

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Zankl, Head of the Interfaculty Institute for Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence at SFU Vienna and Berlin, recently boosted AI competency at SFU by collaborating with the renowned publisher "Manz". 250 staff and students participated free of charge in the two-day AI-Competence Expert course (May 8-9, 2025). By focusing on digitalization and AI, the Institute provides significant value to SFU and a unique academic-practical profile. The AI-initiative gained widespread media attention, including in "Der Standard", "Die Presse", and "Radio Wien", particularly following Prof. Zankl's inaugural lecture on AI in Music, held at Vienna's legendary U4 club in January 2025.

**About the Institute for Digital Transformation**



**FisCon-EU Project: A paradigm shift within the European Union in light of the establishment of NextGenerationEU?**

The economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the European Union was NextGenerationEU (NGEU) representing an unprecedented display of solidarity between the Member States and a push for European (economic) integration. The adoption of this bundle of financial recovery instruments has been described in a multifaceted way ranging from “complex, almost baroque legal architecture” to representing a “constitutional moment” for the Union. Since some are even claiming to see breach of primary law NGEU has certainly brought to light highly contentious issues in EU law, including its proper legal basis and the role of EU debt in the EU’s economic and monetary constitution.

Starting in October 2024 our research project funded by Oesterreichische Nationalbank addresses these questions, which is carried out by Christoph Turecek LL.M BSc under the leadership of Dr. Andreas Orator LL.M.

Contact: Dr. Andreas Orator LL.M (andreas.orator@jus.sfu.ac.at)

## About Next Gen EU



## Centering Victims in a Changing World: Upholding Victims' Rights Amid Evolving Crimes

Karin Bruckmüller SFU in cooperation with Dawn Beichner-Thomas, Illinois State University and the World Society of Victimology

In an era of new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime, protecting victims and upholding their rights is essential. The project advocates for the strengthening of rights and support mechanisms for victims of new forms of criminal acts, as environmental or digital crimes. Especially victims of AI are in the focus of the project. Therefore new approaches of crime prevention and criminal justice strategies as well as victims support measures have to be elaborated; thereby the role and involvement of civil society organizations is explored.

Karin Bruckmüller presented the first results at the United Nations - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in May 2025 in Vienna. She was a panelist in a side event organized by the World Society of Victimology in cooperation with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, American Academy of Criminal Justice Science. The research paper

Dawn Beichner-Thomas also presented results in a guest lecture at the SFU - Faculty of Law.

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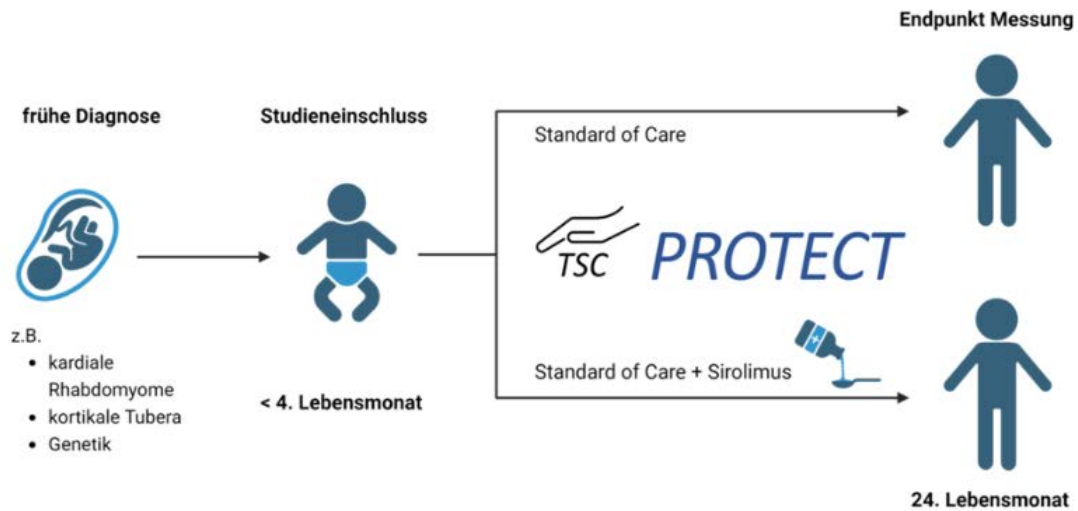
### **A tribute to Albert Armin Ehrenzweig - private international law scholar and author of *Psychoanalytic Jurisprudence* (1971)**

The fiftieth anniversary of his death was the occasion for organising a tribute to Albert Armin Ehrenzweig at the Austrian Ministry of Justice in June 2024. The speakers at the conference initiated by professors Florian Heindler (SFU) and Matthias Lehmann (University of Vienna) reminded about the rich jurisprudential legacy and the heroic life of Albert Armin Ehrenzweig. He was „the most famous private international law scholar of Austrian origin in history“ (Heindler), a „giant of private international law“, and an advocate for a transatlantic dialogue. Ehrenzweig was forced to leave Austria when the National Socialists came to power in 1938. He became a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. These days, the *Revue critique de droit international privé* as the leading journal on private international law on the European continent has published its special issue on Albert Armin Ehrenzweig. The issue includes the speeches delivered at the conference on Ehrenzweig by professors Matthias Lehmann (University of Vienna), Florian Heindler (SFU), Andrew Bradt (University of California, Berkeley), Chris Thomale (University of Vienna), Jeremy Heymann (University of Lyon III), David Messner-Kreuzbauer (Austrian Academy of Sciences).

Contact: Prof. Dr. Florian Heindler ([florian.heindler@jus.sfu.ac.at](mailto:florian.heindler@jus.sfu.ac.at))

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# Research news from the faculty of medicine



## PROTECT - STUDY IN NEWBORNS AND YOUNG INFANTS WITH TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS COMPLEX

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) is a rare genetic disorder characterized by multiple tumors in various organ systems. Targeted therapy with an mTOR inhibitor has already achieved significant success in this context. The PROTECT study aims to determine whether this medication also has a positive impact on neurocognitive development. The goal is to reduce the risk of intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder in TSC patients through preventive treatment.

Austrian contact for patient recruitment:

[theresa.scholl@sfu.ac.at](mailto:theresa.scholl@sfu.ac.at) & [birgit.pimpel@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:birgit.pimpel@meduniwien.ac.at) & [martha.feucht@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:martha.feucht@meduniwien.ac.at)



## MED SFU Leads groundbreaking project for clinical trials in rare and ultra-rare diseases

Sigmund Freud Private University, as the coordinating institution, has launched the Innovative Health Initiative RealiseD project together with AstraZeneca and nearly 40 partners.

The initiative aims to fundamentally improve clinical trials for rare and ultra-rare diseases and accelerate the development of therapies for over 30 million people across Europe.

With a budget of 17 million euros, the project will develop new methodological tools over the next five years to address challenges such as small patient populations and fragmented regulatory frameworks. Technologies like Real World Evidence and digital tools will play a key role in optimizing trial designs and fostering patient-centered innovations.

Key partners, including the European Medicines Agency and several European Reference Networks, support the project, which also aims to advance cutting-edge therapies like Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products.

RealiseD strengthens the European research landscape and demonstrates the value of public-private partnerships in improving care for patients with rare diseases. With this project, SFU reaffirms its leadership in innovative medical research.

Contact: ralf-dieter.hilgers@med.sfu.ac.at

### About RealiseD



In Ihr Konto einloggen

Benutzername

Passwort

Angemeldet bleiben

Anmelden

Herzlich Willkommen beim Ticket-System der Sigmund Freud PrivatUniversität!

Bitte melden sie sich mit den Anmeldeinformationen Ihres SFU Accounts an (academyFive, Moodle,...)

Welcome to the ticket system of the Sigmund Freud Private University!

Please login with the credentials of your SFU account (academyFive, Moodle,...)

## New Way to Reach Clinical Competence Centre: Introducing Our Ticket System

Our Clinical Competence Centre (3C) provides essential project management, data management, and statistical support to researchers initiating new projects and needing support with ongoing studies. Our experienced team supports you with everything from study design and protocol development to final data analysis and publications. We're now streamlining how you connect with our team through a new ticket system for faster, more efficient service.

**Why switch to tickets?** Every request gets instant confirmation with a tracking number and a complete communication history in one place. No more lost emails or wondering about your request status. The organized format helps our team understand your needs faster, reducing back-and-forth emails and speeding up project support.

**Getting started is simple:** Visit our support portal, select your request type, describe your situation, attach any documents necessary and submit. You'll receive immediate confirmation and can track progress anytime from any device. More information [here](#).

**Ready to experience better support?**

[Access the new ticket system](#)



## Houska Prize 2025

Great success for the Clinical Research program line at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Osteology! The project **“Optimization of the Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) in Austria”**, part of the Clinical Research program line and led by **Roland Kocijan**, was awarded **third place in the Houska Prize** on **April 9, 2025**, receiving a prize of **€20,000**.

**Contact:** [roland.kocijan@med.sfu.ac.at](mailto:roland.kocijan@med.sfu.ac.at)

[About Houskapreis](#)

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### **High-Impact Publication in Neurology**

A major publication has been achieved by an international team led by **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Marek Sykora, PhD, MSc**, Chair of Neurocritical Care at SFU MED.

The latest findings on **acute stroke treatment caused by carotid artery dissection** result from a broad collaboration between Austrian, German, and Swiss stroke centers. The study was recently published in *Neurology*, the world's most widely read neurology journal.

Contact: [marek.sykora@med.sfu.ac.at](mailto:marek.sykora@med.sfu.ac.at)

**To the publication!**

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## **Science communication initiatives**

**Calls for science communication  
activities for researchers**



### **FAEKT! Science communication for the next generation**

The new initiative of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), which is funded by Zukunft Österreich fund (FZÖ), serves the purpose of modern, inclusive science communication for a target group of 10 to 14-year-olds. Social media should not be left to conspiracy theorists or enemies of science. Those voices should be countered with a format at the target group's level that teaches science-based content as comprehensibly and accessibly as possible.

The initiative addresses researchers from all disciplines who want to make their quality-assured scientific projects known to a broad public in the target group of 10 to 14-year-olds with the help of a professional environment and in this way make a major contribution to the fight against the anti-science mindset.

**Deadline:** 7 September 2025

[Learn more!](#)



## Understanding Science Funding

Do you want to make new research results and knowledge accessible to the general public? Do you want to make science and technology more understandable and trustworthy in an innovative way? Is your goal to get more people interested in science education and careers? Then the Understanding Science Funding is right for you.

**Deadline:** 15. August 2025

**Understanding Science Funding!**



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Sigmund Freud Privatuniversität Wien GmbH  
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