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by Dr. Eva Bosbach, Executive Director, University of Cologne New York Office* 6

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Finally, following the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis in Minnesota, activities and mass demonstrations erupted all over the U.S. and also in other countries asking for racial and social justice as well as a reform of the police system. Adding the upcoming presidential election on November 3rd, the year 2020 certainly will be remembered as a turbulent one for the U.S. and the world.

SYNCHRONOUS CRISES SHAKING THE U.S.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, an economic crisis, and civil rights protests, three crises evolved simultaneously in the United States in the spring and summer of 2020. As a result of a high number of cases, lack of protective equipment, and an insufficient number of nurses to care for patients with serious COVID-19 symptoms, the situation in New York escalated for a number of weeks in late March and April, demonstrated by field hospitals quickly built in Central Park and in the cathedral of St. John the Divine. As of September 2020, the situation is altogether more relaxed in New York while the pandemic keeps spreading in other states. Many businesses such as Facebook, Twitter, or Square announced plans to allow workers to continue working remotely indefinitely. NYC public schools, constituting the only large public school system in the U.S. that is even considering starting in-person instruction, are scheduled to open in-person for only 1-2 days per week, with the rest of teaching and learning planned remotely as well. On a national level more than 190,000 U.S. citizens have lost their lives, among them a longtime neighbor in my building.

The related economic crisis is also severe. Almost 40 million people (nearly half the population of Germany) have officially lost their jobs and filed for unemployment benefits. I am writing “officially” because the actual number is higher since many people who lost their jobs worked illegally and therefore did not file for unemployment benefits not to risk consequences such as deportation. The economic crisis is continuously calling for responsible political leadership and calibrating the difficult balance between the impacts of the health and economic crises.

Spring was around the corner and the North America Office of the University of Cologne (UoC) in New York was happily moving towards its 10th anniversary in 2021. We were in the midst of our usual activities, such as providing UoC researchers with platforms to network, present their scientific discoveries and cultivate collaborations with partners in the U.S. and Canada, advising students and scientists in transatlantic mobility, fostering the university’s alumni network in North America, organizing delegation visits, representing the UoC at recruiting events and higher education conferences, and were looking forward to the 2020 class of the UoC’s WiSo@NYC summer school in New York.

Then, the global pandemic hit.

Our signature event we had prepared for months - the high-level panel discussion “Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism” on March 10, 2020 – became our first ever virtual event, marking the beginning of a “new normal” in digital transatlantic engagements of our office, including online fair booths, Zoom workshops, and even virtual internships.

ARE YOU ONE OF THE 170 REGISTERED ATTENDEES? PLEASE PARTICIPATE FROM YOUR SOFA

It is Monday, March 9, 2020, and we are meeting with our partners from the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York and the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWhI). 170 registered attendees are scheduled to come to the German House auditorium for our event on Democracy and Education the next day. Over the weekend, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has declared a state of emergency due to COVID-19, just a week after New York City had reported its first case on March 1. Our concerns of gathering a large crowd indoors grow. But schools are open and on the streets its business as usual with no one wearing masks. After a pivotal suggestion by our moderator Amy Sorkin, Senior Editor for National Security and International Reporting at The New Yorker, we decide to switch the in-person event to a virtual, live-streamed one. Thankfully, our scheduled videographer is ready for this option after we had first discussed it with him, at the time rather hypothetically, on March 4.

Overnight, the UoC Communications department in Cologne provides us with the technical support to stream the event via the UoC YouTube channel. The catering can be cancelled last minute. Thanks to the fantastic partners, including our interns, the event production schedule is modified on the fly and all registered participants are being informed. And then it is "cameras on.”

German Consul General David Gill welcomes the online audience and, moderated by Amy Sorkin, panelists including Professor Stefan Neubert (UoC), Professor Sheri Berman (Columbia University) and Thomas Krüger (President of the Federal Center for Political Education, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) discuss the state of democracy in the Western world and how its well-being can be ensured in the future. Yes, the last-minute changes brought unexpected logistical and technical challenges. For example, we learned not to live-stream via a channel of an organization on a different continent without having live support present. But in the end, bringing together international experts with an audience in this new format proved worthwhile with a timely, inspiring discussion that you are welcome to watch on the UoC NY Office playlist of the UoC YouTube channel.

Only two days after we moved our event online, New York City mandates that all gatherings with more than 500 people must be cancelled or postponed. On March 13, President Trump declares a national emergency, and the following day, New York State reports its first two COVID-19 deaths. The next week, NYC public schools and restaurants close and all non-essential workers must stay home.

SPRING AND SUMMER 2020 – THREE SYNCHRONOUS CRISES SHAKING THE U.S.

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CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING FOR A DIFFERENT FUTURE – THE U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE DURING COVID-19

Similar to Germany, colleges and universities in North America moved their courses online in March 2020 and were at the same time busy with considerations about how to safely reopen in the fall. Special efforts were made to keep registered international students at the campuses and to attract new ones, for the common reasons of internationalization and global engagement, but also because international students in the U.S. are a 40-bilion-dollar business. Different ideas were discussed and some of them realized, such as lifting some test requirements, lowering tuition fees, or promising an in-person reopening, with the goal of bonding with the students since quickly conducted studies had registered the high importance of in-person instruction to them. By now, many colleges and universities started their classes online for the fall as well, or had to close again because of new COVID-19 cases. Simultaneously, like in Germany, while events are held online, a discussion is taking place in higher education institutions about options for internationalization, study abroad, and global mobility in a world potentially non-mobile for longer.
THE "NEW NORMAL" OF THE UoC NEW YORK OFFICE

Alongside with NYC businesses and schools, the German House in Manhattan and with it our UoC NY Office was closed on March 16. The days before, we had been busy with helping our intern and an office visitor to arrange for a quick return to Germany and a re-location within the U.S., respectively. Unfortunately, there was no time left for proper farewells or adequate reflections on all their accomplishments. Travel arrangements and altering of existing work plans needed to quickly be done instead.

Since then, all of our events and activities have been taking place online. Through venues such as a weekly jour fixe Zoom meeting we keep in close digital touch with our partners at the German House – the German Consulate, the DAAD NY, the DWIH, the German Academic International Network (GAIN) and the liaison offices of other German universities in North America - exchanging updates and coordinating our various online activities since all in-person events are cancelled, likely at least until the end of 2020.

Over the summer, successful digital engagements of our office included the Research in Germany Virtual Career Fair and the GAIN annual conference, where we connected with participants in online booths, represented the UoC in workshops, posted our materials on virtual bulletin boards, and advertised open positions at the UoC and promoted our Clusters of Excellence and additional research focus areas. We further featured several UoC researchers in the DWIH New York and the liaison offices of the universities of Heidelberg and Freiburg. Additional events with active contributions by our office this year will include the Study and Go Abroad Virtual Canada Fair on September 24, the Idealist Grad Fair on September 29, and two virtual Career Days by the Goethe-Institute Washington, D.C. on November 5 and 6.

Finally, we continue to prepare the 10th anniversary of the North America Office of the UoC in New York in 2021. While likely events in the spring will be held online, providing us with the opportunity to reach an even wider audience, we hope for a number of in-person events in New York in the fall of 2021. Among the scheduled formats is a high-profile event featuring the ML4Q Cluster of Excellence and a delegation visit lead by Rector Axel Freimuth. All fingers crossed for science to prevail and a COVID-19 vaccine to be available soon. Here is to the next successful 10 years!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? 10 YEARS UOC NEW YORK OFFICE

Sharing our values and belief in the importance of strengthening transatlantic relationships, fostering the visibility of the UoC in North America, as well as providing networking platforms and other services to our researchers will continue through 2020. Wherever we can, these will be conducted in person, blended with live streaming events online and through other digital formats. Next up is our contribution to the DWIH signature event Future Forum – Building Biopolis on their annual topic of Cities and Climate, conducted virtually this year. Together with the liaison office of UAS7 and UoC’s Professor Revilla Diez as a speaker, the UoC NY Office is organizing the workshop "Global Challenges and Solutions for Coastal Areas".

With Professor Frauke Kraas and Dr. Carsten Butsch we will also feature UoC researchers at our event "Sustainable Megacities", co-hosted with the DWIH New York and the liaison offices of the universities of Heidelberg and Freiburg. Additional events with active contributions by our office this year will include the Study and Go Abroad Virtual Canada Fair on September 24, the Idealist Grad Fair on September 29, and two virtual Career Days by the Goethe-Institute Washington, D.C. on November 5 and 6.

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The University of Cologne New York Office

"We are excited about the opportunity to present cutting-edge research results from Cologne to experts and an interested public in North America through our New York Office. This contributes to a free exchange of scientific ideas, to the dialogue between science and society, and to the fostering of our transatlantic relations."

Prof. Axel Freimuth, Rector of the University of Cologne

Office Organization

The University of Cologne’s New York Office (UoC NY Office) was established in 2011 as part of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offices within the German House in New York. Its mission is to build bridges between the academic and research communities in North America and the University of Cologne. Besides the DAAD New York, the German House in Midtown Manhattan is also home to the German Consulate General, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations, the German Academic International Network (GAIN), the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH), and the German Research Foundation (DFG) North America NY Office – all close partners of the UoC NY Office on different levels, such as for co-hosted events.

In addition, several other liaison offices are located on the 15th floor of the German House together with the UoC NY Office, allowing even closer cooperation. These are: Campus OWL (Universities Bielefeld and Paderborn), University of Applied Sciences Ostwestfalen-Lippe, and Detmold University of Arts, Freiburg University, Heidelberg University, the University Alliance Ruhr (UARuhr; consisting of Universities Duisburg-Essen and Bochum, and the Technical University Dortmund), UAS7 Universities of Applied Sciences (including TH Köln), as well as a DAAD office, the DFG NY offices, and one additional university liaison office to be filled (DAAD call has been published) after the joint liaison office of LMU Munich and Free Universität Berlin was closed in 2019. Freies University of Applied Sciences and the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI) have liaison offices at different locations in New York City, the TU Munich liaison office is located in San Francisco. TU Darmstadt opened their North America Office in 2019 at the campus of their strategic partner Virginia Tech, moving it to the Darmstadt sister city San Antonio in 2020.

Since 2014, the UoC North America office is incorporated in the state of New York as the “University of Cologne New York Office Corp.” and a Board, currently headed by the Vice Rector for International Affairs Professor Heinz-Peter Marsel, oversees its activities. Its operations are planned and carried out by the Executive Director of the UoC NY Office, in close communication with the International Office (Division 9 at the University of Cologne), mainly with its Vice Head Christine Brieth, M.A., who also is the North America Coordinator, and with the Vice Rectorate for International Affairs. Since 2019, the office operations are at times supported by an intern/trainee, with the internship being offered to UoC students as part of the service portfolio of the UoC NY Office. The 2020 interns were Antonia Chibuzor (trainee), Anh-Thu Nguyen, and Marie Kallenberg.

Since 2017, Dr. Eva Bosbach has been the Executive Director of the UoC NY Office. Dr. Bosbach has a profound understanding of the higher education systems in both North America and Germany, as well as of the U.S. working environment. She serves as a key link between the academic and research landscapes in North America and Germany. Born in Prague, Czech Republic, Dr. Bosbach received both her master’s and her Ph.D. degrees from the UoC. Prior to her work in New York, she was Program Manager at the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) in Bonn, and is author of several comparative studies about doctoral education and the humanities in Germany and the U.S. Dr. Bosbach currently serves on the Board of the DWIH New York and was awarded City Council and New York State Assembly Citations in 2017.
Big Part of 2020: Working Remotely from Home

As the international situation of COVID-19 became more serious in mid-March, events such as the Germany Grad Fair (planned for March 27, 2020) were cancelled, or held online. Running with the week of March 16, 2020, activities at the German House were set to emergency service and most staff members were asked to work remotely from home. Thus, meetings and events were transferred to video conference platforms.

Office Communication

The UoC NY Office maintains regular contact with the UoC coordinator for North America at the UoC International Office, Ms. Christiane Biehl, M.A., with the Head of the International Office, Dr. Stefan Bilbauer, and with the Rector for International Affairs and President of the Board of the UoC NY Office Corp., Professor Heinz-Peter Mansel. The frequent communication with the UoC International Office includes weekly phone calls and additional communication via email with Dr. Bilbauer and the Vice Rector for International Affairs, Dr. Biehl.

Once a year, a meeting of the Board of the UoC NY Office Corp. is held either in person or via telephone conference. Also, annually, the Executive Director visits Cologne to offer face-to-face meetings and to participate in activities of the International Office. In 2020, the UoC International Liaison Offices Week was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Cologne visit of Dr. Bosbach at the end of August was reduced to work meetings with Ms. Biehl and a small number of UoC faculty, as well as an in-person consultation with the office's current virtual intern, Anh-Thu Nguyen. During the Cologne visit, Dr. Bosbach also staffed the virtual booth at the annual GAIN conference together with Professor Carien Nissen, Coordinator of CECAD Cluster of Excellence for Aging Research, Professor Günter Schwarz, Professor of Biochemistry, and (until April 2020) Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Claudia Amtz, Head of the Division Research Management, and Anh-Thu Nguyen, intern UoC NY Office.

A designated information session “Services of the UoC NY Office” was held by Dr. Bosbach virtually on December 10, 2020. The original format was developed by the UoC NY Office as a special offer in 2018 with the goals to inform stakeholders within the UoC about the service offers of the office and to lay ground for future collaborations as well as events in the North American region. The format proved highly successful, was adopted by the other UoC regional offices, and directly implemented starting 2019 as a new annual joint presentation of the offers and activities of all three regional offices China, India, and North America to UoC staff and faculty.

The UoC NY Office further communicates about its activities through a dedicated website and a North America Twitter account, by facilitating press releases, granting interviews, attending a high number of networking events in North America, delivering content to various newsletters, and, in collaboration with Ms. Biehl as the North America coordinator in the International Office, providing this comprehensive “Annual Report of UoC’s North America Activities”. The website is regularly updated with upcoming events organized or supported by the UoC’s NY Office, provides a link to the recordings of the main events published on the UoC YouTube channel in a designated UoC NY Office playlist, contains a link to the annual report as well as to a presentation with examples of activities and service offers, and features the UoC NY Office Twitter feed.

Main Tasks and Activities

The UoC NY Office cultivates relations with North American partners and offers researchers from the University of Cologne platforms to network, present their scientific results, and initiate new collaborations in the U.S. and Canada. It serves as a first point of contact for faculty and students in North America who are interested in the University of Cologne, organizes delegation visits, and assists with the organization of University of Cologne’s annual WSiööNYC summer school in New York City. The office further reaches out to the universities in Germany and international alumni residing in the U.S. and Canada, offering different events for and with the alumni. Dr. Bosbach organizes panel discussions and lectures with UoC faculty members, frequently attends higher education conferences and presents at student and faculty recruitment fairs. The office is a member of the Association of International Educators NAfSFA as well as of the Institute for International Education (IIE), and is a main supporter of the DWIH New York. To further promote the UoC as a top study and research destination, the office maintains a website and a Twitter account for North America, produces press releases in English and German, and provides content to the IIE and German Consulate New York newsletters. Furthermore, goals of the UoC NY Office include promoting the university’s research clusters of Excellence, networking and enhancing the general visibility of the UoC in North America, as well as promoting its signature programs such as Studienstart International plus, internships@schoolsabroad, or English-taught master programs.

For these purposes, the office sustains active partnerships with a number of German-American stakeholder organizations such as the German Consulate New York, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, the DWHI New York, the DFG North America, liaison offices of other German universities, and Deutsches Haus at NYU. Other important partners include the Goethe-Institutes in New York, Boston, Washington D.C., and San Francisco, the DAAD Regional Office New York and DAAD Information Centers San Francisco and Toronto, GAIN, the German Embassy in Washington D.C., the IIE, the MIT European Club, UoC partner universities, high schools and colleges with German programs, as well as other research institutions and fellowship organizations in the U.S. and Canada.

Focus Areas 2020

In the year of the celebrations of 30 years of German reunification as well as the U.S. presidential election, seen by many as a pivotal event, 2020 yielded potentially crucial political developments and decisions with important consequences for the future opportunities and challenges of democracy. At the same time, renaissance nationalism, right-wing populism, and other extreme political currents were on the rise in many countries, with educators struggling to lay foundations for a democracy for the next generations of world citizens. That is why one of the significant focus areas of the UoC NY office in 2020 was the topic of ‘Democracy and Education’, highlighted in this year’s flagship event Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism. Organized by the UoC NY Office, DWIH, the Consulate General of Germany in New York, and Virginia Tech on March 10th, students, experts, and the general public were invited to reflect on the role of education and democracy, its current state in the Western world, and how we can ensure its well-being in the future. The UoC NY Office continued to work on these crucial topics in close cooperation with its partner institutions and offered virtual event opportunities partially under the umbrella of the initiative Wunderbar Together 2020, a follow-up on the The Year of German American Friendship 2018/2019, to highlight cultural, historical, political and educational ties between Germany and the U.S.

Another focus area for 2020 was ‘Cities and Climate’, the annual topic of all five world-wide DWIHs and thus a guiding motif of various 2020 workshops and events by the UoC NY Office as one of DWIH NY’s main supporters. This year’s DWIH NY FUTURE FORUM: Building Biopolis was a free virtual conference held from October 14 – 17, inviting participants to envision the green city of the future. Together with UAS7 – German Universities of Applied Sciences, the UoC NY Office hosted the event’s very first workshop, on “Global Challenges and Solutions for Coastal Areas”, with speakers from Germany and the U.S. As a continuation of the ‘Cities and Climate’ motif, the UoC NY Office further organized a series of events on the topic of ‘Sustainable Megacities’, in collaboration with the DWIH and the North American liaison offices of the universities Freiburg and Heidelberg.

Major focus areas in 2020 have been:
- Continuous Cooperation and Support of the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) NY through joint events with the UoC NY
Advising and Mobility

The UoC NY Office advises different academic groups on international mobility in order to promote incoming and outgoing exchange amongst students and researchers. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, throughout 2020, the UoC NY office continued to market various study and research opportunities with U.S. and Canadian stakeholders in higher education as well as the internationally mobile student target group in mind.

Studienstart International plus, BA and MA Students

The UoC NY Office is a central point of contact for North American students interested in studying in Germany in general, and at the UoC in particular. Most initial contacts are made at academic and career fairs which are held online or in person. Inquiries of students to pursue a master’s degree program at the UoC are usually higher in numbers than undergraduate study requests, mainly because the majority of undergraduate programs at the UoC is exclusively offered in German. Thus, high school students with profound German language proficiency, yet no German Abitur, are of special interest to the UoC as a target group for our undergraduate studies which are offered in conjunction with the dedicated, UoC-unique fast-track preparatory program Studienstart International plus. Consequently, as in previous years, also in 2020, the distinct focus has been placed on marketing Studienstart International plus in North America. Several activities of the office have been devoted solely to this goal and its target group of students, parents, teachers, and school principals.

Studienstart International plus is a fast-track orientation semester that prepares international students for their desired bachelor’s degree program by offering basic courses in their field of study, subject-specific German classes, as well as seminars on intercultural awareness and study skills, complemented through orientation events and intensive mentoring. After successfully completing this program, participants can transfer directly to the first semester of their degree program – without having to apply again. Compared to the usual path of studying in Germany with a U.S. high school diploma after taking the regular preparatory course (Studienkollegen), another benefit of the Studienstart International plus program at UoC is its duration: Whereas the regular preparatory course takes two semesters, Studienstart International plus only takes one.

To students of German schools in the U.S. who are eligible to apply to the UoC directly based on their German Abitur, the UoC NY Office markets the entire range of undergraduate study opportunities as well as the various UoC master and Ph.D. programs, a significant number of which are being offered in English.

These study and research opportunities for U.S. and Canadian students are promoted by the UoC NY Office through active attendance, presentations, and distribution of information materials at various educational fairs and events throughout the year, such as the career days of the Goethe-Institute and various locations or advising events at schools. A high number of inquiries from prospective students, their parents, principals, advisors, and schoolteachers are addressed in person at the events in workshops and at the UoC booth. Here, prospective students and other multipliers often also register via a sign-up sheet to receive follow-up information by emails. Sent by the UoC NY Office shortly after the corresponding event, these emails include general information about the UoC as well as a link to a contact form which matches requests to subject-specific advising teams at the International Office. Further

Student Mobility: Incoming degree-seeking (including Ph.D.) U.S. & Canadian students at UoC

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Student Mobility: Incoming exchange students from partner universities

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Student Mobility: Outgoing exchange students to partner universities

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* In 2020, the mobility numbers have been negatively impacted through the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Internship Program

In October 2019, the UoC NY Office launched its internship program with a first trainee. It now offers one shorter internship in the spring and one longer one in the autumn/winter of each year. The internship is exclusively offered to UoC students as part of the service portfolio of the UoC NY Office to the university.

The intern's responsibilities encompass the support of ongoing operational and analytical activities as well as current projects, events and goals of the office in close cooperation with the Executive Director. This may concern the preparation of presentations, event summaries, drafting press releases and funding applications, various research tasks, as well as marketing and social media assistance. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, programs commencing in the second half of 2020 were awarded as virtual internships for the two candidates Anh-Thu Nguyen and Marie Kallenberg.

Anh-Thu Nguyen

Virtual Internship August - November 2020

In 2020, many institutions saw a sudden transition into a virtual work structure. Although challenging and fundamentally different from an in-person internship in New York, I was honored to have been the first virtual intern for the UoC Office. Dr. Eva Bosbach placed enormous trust in me and allowed me to take responsibility from day one. This way, I learned something new every day. Whilst supporting the office’s daily activities, I have overseen the coordination of virtual meetings with speakers for events, built online booths for virtual fairs, prepared presentations catered to a target audience, and expanded my knowledge on transatlantic academic exchange. Despite the physical distance, I have been intimately involved in the work processes of the office, as well as collaborative events together with other liaison offices that otherwise share one floor in the German House in New York.

This internship has been an important life lesson to me. Working at the intersection between research, marketing and higher education changed my outlook on potential careers in academia. Furthermore, I gained vital skills that will guide me on my career path.

Antonia Chibuzor

Traineeship October 2019 - March 2020

The traineeship at the UoC NY Office was an amazing professional and personal learning experience. One of the unique benefits for any trainees or interns has to be the structure of the office and its location at the German House. Due to Executive Director Dr. Eva Bosbach overseeing and operating the office by herself, I was able to gain insight into a vast variety of areas and support and organize numerous events as well. This structure also allowed for a close one-on-one work relationship between Dr. Bosbach and myself. Any question was welcome, such as asking to gain insight into fields I am specifically interested in. Due to the close cooperation with the fellow liaison offices of other German universities, I was even able to support some of their events as well and learn about their platforms, target groups, and marketing strategies.

Overall, I was able to broaden my knowledge of the higher education system in North America and strengthen my skills in cooperating with German and North American partners in education, politics, and culture. Thus, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work for the UoC NY Office!
marketing channels include webinars at virtual career days and other online events, Twitter announcements, email distributions to partner universities, and shipments of information materials to events held by other organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Importantly, beyond significant initial gains, these recruitment activities have now contributed to stabilization at high level of student mobility across all three categories of incoming, degree-seeking, incoming exchange, and outgoing exchange students respectively (cf. table on p. 11).

Ph.D. Students
The UoC NY Office functions as a first point of contact and information nexus for prospective or current Ph.D. students in both directions across the Atlantic. It provides Northern American master and Ph.D. students with interest in doctoral studies or postdoctoral research at the UoC with key information about the study and research opportunities at the university and its scientific culture. The UoC NY Office also assists in identifying and referring to suitable Ph.D. supervisors at the UoC. The “Doctoral Programmes Guide”, the flyer “Research in Cologne”, as well as brochures from numerous UoC graduate schools (a.r.t.e.s Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, CECAD Graduate School, Bonn-Cologne Graduate School of Physics and Astronomy (BCCS), Graduate School of Biological Sciences (GSfBS), International Graduate School “From Embry to Old Age: The Cell Biology and genetics of Health and Disease” (GSDHD), CEPLAS Graduate School Plant Sciences, etc.) and Clusters of Excellence are an integral part of the informational materials presented at all events.

In addition to advising in person during workshops and at the UoC booth at various events, including own events such as the annual Germany Grad Fair and various events such as the annual Germany Grad Fair and Germany Grad Fair and Germany Grad Fair and Germany Grad Fair, it offers advice and information on the UoC through its Facebook account, webinars, targeted email distributions to North American partner universities, and an interactive UoC booth at virtual career fairs. Also, the flyers “Study in Cologne” and “Research in Cologne” are now also available at the UoC booth at virtual career fairs. Also, the flyers “Study in Cologne” and “Research in Cologne” are now also available.

Postdoctoral Researchers, Guests Scholars and Faculty
The UoC NY Office further informs prospective postdoctoral researchers, guests scholars and faculty about opportunities at the UoC for research and teaching, for example the “International Faculty” program as well as open positions at the UoC for junior group leaders and professors. Available opportunities are presented through advising in person and in employer branding presentations at various annual events dedicated to this target group, such as at the European Career Fair (ECF), organized by the MIT Europe Career Fair and taking place at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA, or at the German Academic International Network (GAIN) conference and talent fair, held annually in Boston or San Francisco, respectively. As of 2013, every year more than 500 participants have the opportunity to meet with German scientists and key stakeholders in German basic and applied research as well as science policy. GAIN was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel and event restrictions, with over 900 registered attendees (cf. chapter 13).

Virtual Exchange and New Digital Formats
The abrupt transition from in-person to online learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has made digital teaching and learning an essential prerequisite for acquiring knowledge and competence. Prior to this year, the UoC NY Office already had collected first-hand experience with virtual formats, ranging from exhibiting at the virtual fairs to presenting at webinars and offering online workshops. This year’s significant transition to operating exclusively online has expanded on this knowledge and enabled the design of formats specifically catered towards a virtual audience.

Weekly virtual meetings with North American liaison offices of German universities and partners at the German House allowed to integrate a larger number of colleagues on a regular basis and independent of their location, such as staff of the liaison office of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) participating digitally from San Francisco.

Holding our own events digitally since March 2020 allowed us to reach an even wider and more diverse global audience, often fitting the topic such as during our “Sustainable Megacities” series. Going forward, digital and blended formats will be integrated into the operational work of the UoC NY Office on a regular basis.

EduVenture Cologne: Projects with North American partner institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>UoC Faculty</th>
<th>UoC Partner</th>
<th>USA Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Classicism</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>Professor Anja Bettenworth</td>
<td>University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Lives Matter and their Historical Legacies: Perspectives from Europe and the United States</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Institute for North American History</td>
<td>Dr. Silke Hackenbach</td>
<td>University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental, Cities, and Cultures</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of History - Institute for American History</td>
<td>Professor Anke Ortegreso</td>
<td>Professor Simon, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilingualism in the New and Old World</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Department of Romance Studies</td>
<td>Professor Ari Adi</td>
<td>Professor Gregory Guy, New York University, New York, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Communication Workshops</td>
<td>Faculty of Law, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department Didactics of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Institute of Biology Education</td>
<td>Professor Kiran Schröder, Professor Kiran Schröder</td>
<td>Professor Kiran Schröder, University of Washington, Seattle, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transatlantic Plant Science Teaching Virtual Collaborative</td>
<td>Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Institute for Plant Sciences</td>
<td>Professor Stanislav Kopriwa</td>
<td>Professor Helmut Kirchhoff, Washington State University, Pullman, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Family Law Courtroom Practice</td>
<td>Faculty of Law, Chair of U.S. American Law</td>
<td>Professor Katherine Norton</td>
<td>Professor Katherine Norton, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In 2020: the mobility numbers have been negatively impacted through the global COVID-19 pandemic.
**Timeline of Selected Events**

The activities of the University of Cologne New York Office are manifold: from student events, workshops, annual meetings and fairs, to expert round tables, alumni work and seminars. This timeline offers a glimpse of some of the most important events that took place in 2020. Further information on individual events can be found on the corresponding pages.

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**January**
- UoC alumni and Sprint Business President Jan Geldmacher visits German House
  - January 14
  - p. 46
- Meeting with Representatives of GSA (German Studies Association) Executive Council
  - January 23
  - p. 27
- Study in Germany: Presentation for Parents of the German International School in New York (GISNY) and the German Language School
  - January 25
  - p. 27
- German Universities Research Alumni Program Representatives Networking Conference
  - March 3
  - p. 48
- Annual UoC Alumni and Partner Karneval Event
  - February 25
  - p. 48
- Annual New Year’s Reception New York
  - January 21
  - p. 46
- Annual New Year’s Celebration for Alumni and Partners in San Francisco
  - February 23
  - p. 47

**February**
- Research in Germany: Virtual Career Fair
  - July 7
  - p. 29
- Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism: Panel Discussion
  - March 10
  - p. 19

**March**
- Reconsidering John Dewey: Education and the Current Crisis of Democracy
  - March 10
  - p. 20
- German Academic International Network (GAIN) Annual Conference and Talent Fair 2020
  - August 28 - 29
  - p. 30
- Study and Go Abroad Virtual Education Fair Canada
  - September 24
  - p. 32
- Goethe-Institute Virtual Career Booster Germany
  - November 5 - 6
  - p. 33

**April**
- Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources Part I
  - December 9
  - p. 25

**May**
- Wunderbar Webinar Series: Women in Transatlantic and International Careers
  - September 22
  - p. 31
- Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources Part II
  - December 9
  - p. 25

**June**
- Online Symposium: Ethical Challenges Posed by Big Data and AI in Healthcare
  - December 14 - 15
  - p. 26
- Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources Part III
  - November 20
  - p. 24

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**August**
- Study and Go Abroad Virtual Education Fair Canada
  - September 24
  - p. 32
- Virtual Round Table “Culture, Education and Science”
  - September 30
  - p. 36

**September**
- German Academic International Network (GAIN) Annual Conference and Talent Fair 2020
  - August 28 - 29
  - p. 30
- Online Information Session: University of Cologne Liaison Offices
  - December 10
  - p. 40
- University of Rochester Education Abroad Global Fair
  - October 21
  - p. 33

**October**
- Online Symposium: Ethical Challenges Posed by Big Data and AI in Healthcare
  - December 14 - 15
  - p. 26
- Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources Part III
  - November 20
  - p. 24

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**November**
- Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources Part II
  - December 9
  - p. 25

**December**
- DWIH Future Forum: BUILDING BIOPOLIS
  - October 14 - 17
  - p. 23
- Virtual Round Table “Culture, Education and Science”
  - September 30
  - p. 36
- Goethe-Institute Virtual Career Booster Germany
  - November 5 - 6
  - p. 33
- Online Symposium: Ethical Challenges Posed by Big Data and AI in Healthcare
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These events cover a range of topics from academic conferences to career fairs and webinars, providing a comprehensive overview of the activities and opportunities available to students and alumni in 2020.
Events Organized and Co-organized by the UoC NY Office

The number of events and activities of the UoC NY Office increased significantly since Dr. Bosbach took over as Executive Director in 2017. The following overview shows some of the event highlights in 2020 ranging from guest lectures to panel discussions. Besides these events, the UoC NY Office regularly organizes events with and for UoC alumni and partners, which can be found in chapter International Alumni.

Panel Discussion: Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism

March 10
Are we taking democracy for granted? What is its current state in the Western world and how can we ensure its well-being in the future? With the U.S. presidential election seen by many as a pivotal event, 2020 was a year that yielded crucial political developments and decisions with important consequences for the future opportunities and challenges of democracy. At the same time, renascent nationalism, right-wing populism, and other extreme political currents are on the rise in many countries, with educators struggling to lay foundations for a democracy for the next generations of world citizens. The public panel discussion hosted by the UoC NY Office, the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York, the German Consul General New York and Virginia Tech brought together expert researchers on education and democracy from Germany and the U.S., with representatives of political foundations, education centers, the media and interested public.

The panel was moderated by Amy Davidson Sorkin, staff writer and senior editor for national security, international reporting, and features at The New Yorker, with experts from the fields of media, science, and education from Germany and the U.S.:

- Stefan Neubert, Professor of Education, Director of the John-Dewey Center, University of Cologne
- Jim Garrison, Professor of Philosophy of Education, Virginia Tech
- Judith Green, Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University
- Thomas Krüger, President of the Federal Center for Political Education (Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung)
- Sherri Berman, Professor of Political Science, Barnard College, Columbia University

In light of the developments and advisories in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis, as of the evening of March 10th, gatherings of large audiences at the German House were prohibited. Thus, some major changes in regard to the realization of the public panel discussion had to be made. The UoC NY Office ended up pioneering on several levels with this event, including uninviting 170 registered audience participants and switching over to a digital livestream only a day before the event. Nevertheless, after initial technical difficulties with the live-stream and thus a slightly delayed start, over 300 viewers watched the panel discussion as it was streamed on the DWIH Twitter account and on the event videographer’s YouTube channel livestream. After the event, the recording was added to the UoC NY Office playlist on the UoC YouTube channel, where another 300 viewers watched it by the end of the year. Hence, this innovative hybrid format was a first for the UoC NY Office, and even for the German House as a whole, and an exciting and successful experience. It allowed the speakers to engage with their peers during delegation visits in North America.

Organizations of and Participation at Events in the U.S., Canada, and Germany

Educational fairs, conferences, and other events at various locations in the U.S. and Canada as well as online serve as platforms for exchange and representation of the UoC as a hub for excellent higher education, teaching and research. They also expand and strengthen the international profile of the UoC on a global scale. Dr. Bosbach organizes or actively participates in around 25 different events per year, with the UoC NY Office as the main host or in collaboration with partners such as the German Consulate General New York, DFG North-America, Deutches Haus at NYU, or the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York. These events are seized as opportunities to present scientific discoveries from UoC researchers, to advertise current job opportunities at the UoC, to foster academic exchange, and to enhance the visibility of the UoC in North America through showcasing its research strengths and networking with partners and world-wide stakeholders. For some events, speakers, alumni or other participants from the UoC are being featured who showcase their research or other career and can establish or deepen contacts to their peers and representatives of other high-ranking universities or research institutions. Therefore, strong partnerships with North American organizations can be maintained and new alliances forged.

Since one focus of the UoC NY Office is to network with, inform and attract academic staff, many events Dr. Bosbach and specific selected UoC colleagues participate in are recruiting and networking events, such as the annual European Career Fair (ECF), the German Academic International Network (GAIN) conference and talent fair, or the NAFSA conference for international educators, where international partnerships are maintained and fostered. Each fair and event tends to address a unique target group, such as students, and families, graduates, early career researchers or multipliers. To further leverage its potential, attendances and presentations at fairs are not limited to the events themselves but are encompassed by a comprehensive meeting schedule to further advance the measures of the UoC Internationalization Strategy.

To be able to work toward these goals effectively in the U.S. and Canada, as well as in order to identify and win over interested and interesting partners for future events and joint activities, it is crucial to introduce and promote the portfolio of the UoC NY Office to stakeholders within the UoC in Germany and to connect them with their peers during delegation visits in North America.
How can we live and practice democracy today? This question was the guiding motif of the student workshop “Reconsidering John Dewey: Education and the Current Crisis of Democracy” which featured leading researchers in education, social sciences and philosophy from Germany, the U.S. and Japan. Together with the researchers, selected students from the metropolitan NY area were invited to reflect, examine and further develop the philosophical and pedagogical approach to pluralistic, participatory and communicative democracy and education by the U.S.-American philosopher and educational reformer John Dewey (1859 - 1952).

The workshop was organized by the UoC NY Office, DWIH New York, the Consulate General of Germany in New York, and Virginia Tech and preceded the panel discussion. Professors Stefan Neubert (Professor of Education, Director of the John-Dewey Center, University of Cologne), Jim Garrison (Professor of Philosophy of Education, Virginia Tech), Judith Green (Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University), David Woods (Professor of Urban Sustainability, New York University), René Arcilla (Professor of Philosophy of Education, New York University) led the workshop as moderators. Naoko Saito (Professor of American Philosophy, Kyoto University, Japan) decided against making the trip to New York as the spread of COVID-19 got worse and with it, unfortunately, the discrimination against people of Asian descent. As a result, and a strong statement against discrimination, her colleagues held an empty chair for Professor Saito in their midst, as well as a copy of her publication which served as one of the readings for the students during the workshop.

The workshop was opened by Consul Yasemin Pamuk and Dr. Eva Bosbach, followed by lively group work sessions, during which each group discussed the texts studied in preparation of the workshop. To conclude the workshop, the students and professors came together and discussed their findings, views, and questions in a plenary session. After the workshop, each student received a certificate of participation prepared by the UoC NY Office and signed by Consul Yasemin Pamuk.

For both the student workshop and the public panel discussion Dr. Eva Bosbach was supported by UoC NY Office trainee Antonia Chibuzor and UoC International Office Student Mobility Trainee Alexandra Tauer, who was visiting the UoC NY Office for two weeks in March. (continued on page 20)

Professor Stefan Neubert, Professor of Education, Director of the John Dewey Center, University of Cologne

A special, big praise goes to Dr. Eva Bosbach and her team from our New York office! We had been planning these two events together for over a year. It was always and in all respects a wonderful, very pleasant and constructive cooperation. I cannot emphasize enough that without the support and cooperation of the New York office and without the joint planning and organizing, the two events could not have taken place! I also express grateful appreciation on behalf of my colleagues involved, such as Prof. Jim Garrison from Virginia Tech, Prof. Judith Green from Fordham University, Prof. René Arcilla and Prof. David Woods from New York University. It deserves further mentioning that it was only because of the skilful, experienced and creative improvisation of Dr. Bosbach and her team that the panel discussion could be reorganized spontaneously and on the spot from a public event with an expected huge urban audience to a virtual event completely based on live stream transmission. For me, the experience of this very successful project is further proof of how important and indispensable our international offices are. I thank Dr. Eva Bosbach and her team from the bottom of my heart.

Amy Davidson Sorkin, Journalist, Author and Staff Writer at The New Yorker

Moderating the panel on “Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism” at German House in New York this March was a memorable and significant experience for me. The day before, it became clear that the pandemic had reached the city, and Dr. Eva Bosbach and her team at the University of Cologne’s New York office quickly pivoted, transforming what had been intended as an event before a large audience into an interactive livestream. As a result, the panelists, including academics and the head of Germany’s office of civilization, were still able to exchange ideas, debate, and answer questions from the audience. The discussion was doubly meaningful—it was both a timely exploration of democracy and education and an example of how to sustain an academic community even in difficult times.
Online Seminar: Study Abroad and Career Planning in Uncertain Times
July 9

This online seminar was organized by the German university liaison offices in North America, the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI) and the DAAD New York as part of the liaison offices’ series on marketing international education to the U.S. audience in the COVID-19 era. It was a closed workshop for professionals from German universities to gain a better sense of the American context for study abroad during this time. The invited speakers were Dr. William “Bill” Durden, President of the International University Alliance, Courtesy Professor (research) at the School of Education, Johns Hopkins University, President Emeritus of Dickinson College; Kelly Richmond Yates, Assistant Director of the Halle Institute for Global Research at Emory University; and La Neice Collins, Global Communications Manager at the United Nations in New York. The workshop counted 35 attendees in total.

My stay in the New York office of the University of Cologne was unforgettable, educational, exciting and a great networking opportunity. I was fortunate to become part of Eva Bosbach’s small team and the German House. Together with the DWIH and the German Consulate, the “Democracy and Education” events proved to be a spectacular project that I got to be part of. I was not only able to strengthen my skills in event planning, but due to the COVID-19 developments also to expand my skills in teamwork and crisis prevention. It was a pure joy to experience Phase 1 of these two events. Thanks to Eva Bosbach, I also had the opportunity to network with team members of the DAAD, DWIH, HPI NY and other directors of university liaison offices. The entire stay reinforced my decision to pursue a master’s degree in North American Studies, while gaining essential practical experience as a trainee of the UoC International Office, in order to ultimately embark on a career in international higher education with a North American focus. It also opened my eyes to the various possibilities in the field. I am grateful for the inspirational and supportive atmosphere in the office, and for this opportunity by the UoC.

Alexandra Tauer, UoC International Office Student Mobility Trainee

Workshop at DWIH Future Forum 2020:
BUILDING BIOPOLIS, UoC NY/UAS7
Global Challenges and Solutions for Coastal Areas
October 15

The FUTURE FORUM is the DWIH New York’s large annual signature event, which over several days convenes German and American thought leaders and stakeholders from academia, policy and industry on an annual focus topic. The format premiered in 2019 in Brooklyn on the topic of artificial intelligence. The 2020 Future Forum BUILDING BIOPOLIS was a free virtual conference in the theme of the DWIHs 2020 focus topic Cities and Climate. In total, over 190 attendees were invited to envision the green city of the future, the Biopolis, with German and American experts from the fields of urban planning, mobility, green energy, and circular economy.

Together with the North American office of UAS7 - German Universities of Applied Sciences, the UoC NY Office hosted the very first workshop of the event, “Global Challenges and Solutions for Coastal Areas”. Workshop leaders were Javier Revilla Diez (Institute of Geography, University of Cologne), Lena Lankenau (Institute for Hydraulic and Coastal Engineering, City University of Applied Sciences, Bremen), Gabriel David (Ludwig-Franzius-Institute for Hydraulic, Estuarine and Coastal Engineering, Leibniz University, Hanover), and Sunday Leonard (Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) North America Office, Washington D.C.).

The virtual workshop had 76 registrations and on the day of the event, around 50 participants were present. Dr. Eva Bosbach and Claus Lange as the workshop’s organizers held brief welcoming statements before handing over to the workshop leaders for their introductory presentations. The subsequent breakout rooms were visited by around 13 participants each, allowing for an intimate and interactive atmosphere of discussion rounds.

The Future Forum “Building Biopolis” was a terrific event. I am very grateful that I was invited to present my research. I really enjoyed the very fruitful discussions with my dear co-panelists and the participants. Many thanks to Dr. Eva Bosbach and her team for the excellent organization and the opportunity to link up with new colleagues and stakeholders.

Professor Javier Revilla Diez, Professor of Human Geography, Chair and Head of the Working Group Economic Geography and Global South, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne
Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources – Part I
November 20

The world is projected to have 43 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants by 2030. Megacities are centers of growth and magnets for migrants as they provide better infrastructure, supplies, and access to education and healthcare. But they also pose challenges with regard to disease, risk, and resource management. Against this background, the need of a transformation towards a more sustainable development of megacities is decisive for millions of inhabitants. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the most pressing issues highly visible to the general public and even sparked questions of reverse urbanization. Will those who can afford it leave the cramped, heated megacities for less congested areas as climate change, multiple risks and urban health problems intensify? Will new urban strategies arise in light of changing urban lifestyles, consumption patterns, and infrastructural connectivity that compromise the sustainability of our cities?

The time for making megacities more sustainable is running short; but where millions of people live together in diverse communities, creativity, solidarity and innovation are likely bound to unfold. The event series Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources invited participants to envision the premises of life in more sustainable megacities, and to examine which strategies have already succeeded and what tools we need to ensure they are truly sustainable.

With three spotlight keynotes in 2020 and a final joint event in May 2021, the series is another contribution to the DWH 2020 focus topic Cities and Climate, co-organized by the University of Cologne New York Office, the New York offices of the Universities of Freiburg and Heidelberg, and the DWH New York.

First spotlight event of the “Sustainable Megacities” online event series, here with UniC’s Professor Kraas and Dr. Butsch

In November 2020 my colleague Frauke Kraas and I had the chance to present our work on megacities in Asia within DWH NY’s series on sustainable megacities. Working together with Dr. Eva Bosbach and the University of Cologne New York Office as well as with the DWH team was a very good experience as the whole preparation of the event was extremely professional. The event was well prepared in advance, the PR for the event was good and the whole technical handling very supportive. We also liked the concept of a series and the possibility to connect with other universities and other communities such as NGOs. Science has to matter, so this exchange was really meaningful.

PD Dr. Carsten Butsch, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne

It was a great pleasure to work together with the University of Cologne New York Office and the DWH NY in the lecture series Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources and to present our own research results. Without detracting from the unique value of authentic personal encounters and discussions, the digital world made possible what would have been impossible in the real world. In the morning I gave a seminar in Myanmar, in the evening a lecture in New York, after which we discussed live with colleagues from the USA, India, Great Britain and Austria. Dr. Eva Bosbach and the New York Office together with the DWH took well care of a perfect organization in a very courteous and charming way.

Professor Frauke Kraas, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne

First keynote on Sustainable Megacities with Professor Kraas and Dr. Butsch

Representing the University of Cologne, Professor Frauke Kraas and PD Dr. Carsten Butsch held the first of three spotlight talks on November 20, including an interactive Q&A session with around 40 attendees.

Online Event Series: Sustainable Megacities: Health, Risks, Resources – Part II
December 9

How can cities prioritize circular strategies towards sustainable resource use? With the circular economy in the spotlight of political and business agendas, cities are starting to discuss and plan new strategies that could help them achieve sustainable resource use. What kind of strategies do cities envision? Can they actually contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?

In the second part of the virtual Sustainable Megacities series and a spotlight event with Dr. Anna Petit Boix from the University of Freiburg, these questions were discussed, and insights provided into potential monitoring tools that can help cities to identify the effects of circular strategies on natural resource use. The web talk was, like the rest of the series, co-hosted by the North American liaison offices of the German universities of Cologne, Freiburg, and Heidelberg, together with the DWH New York.
Online Symposium: Ethical Challenges Posed by Big Data and AI in Healthcare

December 14 - 15

During the invitation-only event on Ethical Challenges Posed by Big Data and AI in Healthcare, experts examined existing ethical and legal frameworks for big data and its applications in healthcare across several jurisdictions around the world. They then worked together to identify the most current and pressing issues for oversight in the United States. The panel was co-organized by the Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI); NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Division of Medical Ethics; the Hastings Center; and the University of Cologne New York Office.

The event came about as the culmination of parallel interests and events. Clinicians and healthcare researchers across the United States have been approaching the NYU Division of Medical Ethics with questions about how to ethically manage their data sets, consent or reconsent research subjects, and adequately inform their patients about the integration of AI-based technology into care and translational research projects. The Hastings Center has similarly been engaged in considering the power of big data and AI to shape our lives, and the necessity to establish best ethical practices to promote access to the goods produced and equity in outcomes. The HPI has great interest in these subjects especially as their management is evolving in different ways across the globe, and the UoC NY Office was honored to co-host as several of our research units are working on big data, AI, and various aspects of healthcare.

Facilitated through the UoC NY Office, UoC Professor for Ethics and Theory of Medicine, Executive Director of cores (Cologne Center for Ethics, Rights, Economics, and Social Sciences of Health) and Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies Christiane Woopen was the presenter on the topic of regulation of big data in healthcare in Germany. Professor Woopen was invited to share her thoughts regarding the state of ethics and law as it pertains to her area of expertise, further on hurdles that are faced in Germany because of ethical or legal uncertainty around consent, privacy, data sharing, algorithm bias, and patents, and finally on recommendations about existing regulations and guidance.

Specific agenda topics of the high-level meeting included comparing domestic regulatory regimes and working toward a global framework for big data in healthcare, digitization making medicine and disease prevention more precise, contact tracing to control COVID-19, specific applications in healthcare and relevant ethical considerations, and outlining principles for data ethics in healthcare.

Events with Active Participation and Contribution by the UoC NY Office

Meeting with Representatives of German Studies Association (GSA) Executive Council

January 23, New York

This networking meeting was organized by the DAAD New York and brought together Johannes von Moltke, President of the GSA and Professor of German and Film, Media and Television at the University of Michigan; Margaret Menninger, Executive Director of the GSA and Associate Professor of History at the Texas State University, as well as the following representatives of organizations with current or former offices at the German House: Yasserim Pamuk, Head of Cultural Affairs and Science, German Consulate General New York; Anna Oberle-Brill, Program Director, German Academic International Network (GAIN); Charlotte Dreell, Assistant Information Officer, GAIN; Benedikt Bartsch, Director, DAAD and DWWH New York; Michael Thomanek, Senior Program Officer, DAAD New York; Katrina Westbrook Donovan, Chief Officer for Management, 1014 – Space for Ideas; Benjamin Bergner, Program Officer, 1014; Irene Kacandes, Professor of German Studies and Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College and Board of Directors, 1014; Amanda Daquila, Executive Director, Heidelberg University Association; Patrizia Nobbe, Director of Liaison, UAS7-German Universities of Applied Sciences; Peter Rosenbaum, Executive Director, LA Ruhr; Dietrich Fenner, Program Manager, DWWH New York; Stefan Altevogt, Program Manager, DFG North America; and Dr. Eva Bosbach and Antonia Chibuzor as UoC NY Office Executive Director and Trainee respectively.

Dr. Bosbach and Ms. Chibuzor introduced the UoC, the portfolio of activities of the New York Office, as well as current projects, and together with all partners, discussed possibilities for future cooperation with the GSA, such as activities in the field of German Studies or session proposals for the GSA annual conference.

2020 Annual Receptions Beethoven and the Reunification of Germany

January 23, New York

Dr. Eva Bosbach attended the event as a representative of the UoC NY Office. The DAAD and the German Consulate General invited guests to celebrate 30 years of German reunification and the 250th birthday of Beethoven. Professor David B. Dennis will be presenting on his personal experience of the Fall of Berlin Wall and his book chapter on “Beethoven and the Reunification of Germany”. David B. Dennis is a Professor of History at Loyola University Chicago, where he teaches courses on Western Humanities, Modern European Cultural and Intellectual History, and the Cultural History of Computing.

Having studied with scholars such as George Mosse, Harvey Goldberg, Robert Wohl, Eugen Weber, Saul Friedlander, Robert Winter, and others, Dennis’s own scholarship has focused on German cultural and political history. His Beethoven in German Politics, 1870-1989 (Yale University Press, 1996) examines evolutions and uses of Beethoven’s biography and music by all of the major parties of 19th- and 20th-century German political culture. The book attracted considerable international attention and was reviewed in both scholarly and popular media, including The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Guardian, the New Statesman and Society, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Music and Letters, the American Historical Review, the German Studies Review, and other publications.

Study in Germany: Presentation for Parents of the German International School in New York (GISNY) and the German Language School

January 25, White Plains

In cooperation with Urschi Nethammer, Program Officer, Inbound Programs: U.S. & Canada, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) New York and Dr. Katja Simons, Executive Director, Campus OWL New York, Dr. Eva Bosbach led an information session for parents and teachers at the German International School in New York (GISNY) about the German higher education system, with the goal to enable them to support the application of their children and students to study in Germany. The topics presented and discussed included the benefits of studying in Germany and information on how to navigate the various offerings and programs. In addition, Dr. Bosbach summarized the requirements, application process and available funding resources.

Top: Venue event “Study in Germany,” bottom: Urschi Nethammer (DAAD New York), Lara Harish (Head of School, GISNY), Dr. Katja Simons (Campus OWL New York), and Dr. Eva Bosbach.
Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
February 14 – 16, Seattle

The annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) was held on 14-16 February in Seattle, Washington, with the motto “Envisioning Tomorrow’s Earth”. In spite of travel restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak, more than 12,000 visitors attended the event. Each year, the exhibition at the AAAS meeting provides an internationally visible platform for presenting trends relevant to research outside the USA. The German signature initiative “Research in Germany – Land of Ideas” was presented with a booth and presentations, organised primarily by the DFG Office North America and hosted in collaboration with the other Research in Germany (RiG) partners and with special support from the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg. In addition to four major non-university research institutions, the universities and Clusters of Excellence that were successful in the German competition for funding through the Excellence Strategy were invited to participate.

Facilitated through the UoC NY Office, the UoC was represented in person by Principal Investigator and Deputy Speaker of the CEPLAS Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences Professor Stanislav Kopriva, who introduced the cluster in a dedicated presentation and represented the UoC through further networking during the conference.

Research in Germany - Virtual Career Fair
July 7

Invited by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the “Research in Germany Virtual Career Fair 2020” offered a focus on career opportunities in Germany, where participants met representatives of German universities and research organizations to learn about positions for Ph.D. students and postdoctoral researchers, as well as about funding opportunities and research in Germany. The University of Cologne’s virtual booth was staffed by Professor Ansgar Büschges, Vice-Rector for Academic Career and Equal Opportunities; Dipl.-Geogr. Claudia Amtz, Head of Department of Research Management; Professor Stanislav Kopriva, Principal Investigator and Deputy Speaker of CEPLAS, Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences; Dr. Julia Zielinski, Coordinator for Cologne Graduate School of Ageing at CECAD, Cluster of Excellence for Aging Research; and Dr. Eva Bosbach.

3735 interested participants registered for the fair and 2211 logged onto the platform on the day of. Most of the participants were master students (52%), followed by PhD students (24%) and bachelor students (17%). The University of Cologne was represented by two booths, in addition to a general UoC booth by a separate booth for the Quantum Alliance that included the ML4Q Cluster of Excellence, staffed by Dr. Marian Barsoum, Public Outreach Manager. The UoC booth had 703 visitors in total, the Quantum Alliance booth counted 377 visitors. The UoC team at both booths held over 240 individual chats with participants. Out of all 25 exhibitors, including universities and university alliances across Germany, the University of Cologne’s booth was the second most visited booth.
two events with active participation and contribution respectively were part of the webinar series, in addition to the UoC NY office promoting the entire series via its various communication channels.

Wunderbar Webinar: Women in Transatlantic and International Careers September 22

Part of the Wunderbar Webinars event series was a workshop on the topic “Women in Transatlantic and International Careers” with Dr. Bosbach as a speaker, together with Dr. Clinton, President and CEO of Cultural Vistas. 170 participants registered for the online workshop.

Wunderbar Webinar with Dr. Emily Haber and John Shimkus: Moving Forward Together and Resolution Courage for Cooperation October 19

The Wunderbar Webinars series concluded with the event Moving Forward Together, featuring Dr. Emily Haber, German Ambassador to the United States and alumna of the University of Cologne, together with John Shimkus from the U.S. House of Representatives, moderated by Daniel Villanueva from Cultural Vistas. Alumni of the University of Cologne were invited to this event with a special mailing by the UoC NY Office.

At the end of the event, a resolution was presented to all attendees: With the title “Courage for Cooperation”, it presented a commitment to transatlantic cooperation, stressing the importance of bilateral government, foundation, and private funding to experience each other’s societies and engage in meaningful cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Germany. This resolution was edited by numerous parties, including Dr. Bosbach, and signed by her as well. Beyond the event itself, the resolution was later sent to UoC alumni in North America with an invitation to sign.

Wunderbar Webinars Series September 14 - October 19

The Wunderbar Webinars series was part of the “Wunderbar Together USA 2020” initiative, a continuation of the Year of German-American Friendship activities from 2019. Both years and all activities (that are planned to be continued in 2021) were being marketed under the motto of [Germany and USA being] Wunderbar Together. The comprehensive collaborative initiative is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institute and is dedicated to promoting the robust relationship between Germany and the U.S., rooted in their deep historic ties, shared values, and bold visions for the future. Cultural Vistas and the American Bundestag Network (ABN) facilitated the virtual Wunderbar Webinars series mainly for members of various German American alumni groups, such as alumni of the University of Cologne.

In close cooperation with the organizers, the University of Cologne New York Office assisted with suggestions for alumni to be invited as speakers. Two UoC alumni were selected and featured in panels: Dr. Emily Haber, German Ambassador of the United States and alumna of the University of Cologne was the speaker at “Moving Forward Together” on October 19th, and a UoC alumna herself, Dr. Eva Bosbach was a speaker at September 22nd, together with Dr. Jennifer Clinton, President and CEO of Cultural Vistas.

In total, over 400 alumni of the German American network joined the series across five weeks, each attending 2.3 seminars on average. The following

German Academic International Network (GAIN) Annual Conference and Talent Fair 2020 August 28 - 29

Due to the pandemic, the GAIN annual conference and talent fair in 2020 took place virtually for the first time. With over 900 registered attendees, 30 workshops, and 68 exhibitors, the fair remained a significant transatlantic opportunity to connect and network with researchers living in the U.S. who are interested in career opportunities in Germany. Despite the virtual format, the platform meetyoo convincingly staged virtual spaces, such as an auditorium, a workshop hall, as well as the talent fair hall, where each exhibiting institution had its own digital booth with a chat function to welcome attendees.

The University of Cologne booth offered a first point of contact for any participants interested to learn more about research opportunities at the university. Throughout the fair, the booth’s team consisted of Professor Carien Niessen, Coordinator of CECAD, Cluster of Excellence for Aging Research; Professor Günter Schwarz, Professor of Biochemistry and (until 4/2020) Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Claudia Amtz, Head of the Division Research Management; and Anh-Thu Nguyen, UoC NY Office. The UoC team held around 30 individual chat conversations with both visitors, offering direct consultation. Attendees who wished to keep contact with the UoC after the fair, or who sought further support in finding suitable funding opportunities or jobs, were provided with a link to a short online form for a follow-up communication with the UoC Department of Research Management (DRM). Furthermore, the booth team also pro-actively referred attendees to the current job postings and collaborative research centers (SFBs) at the UoC by regularly posting opportunities information on the event virtual bulletin board and in the general chat at the virtual coffee lounge.

In addition to the interactive presence at the booth, UoC representatives offered their expertise as panelists in two workshops: Professor Niessen was a speaker at the workshop for medicine, where she illustrated research opportunities at the UoC for medical practitioners. The UoC further organized a workshop on the topic of different paths to a professorship in Germany. At this workshop, the UoC was represented by Professor Niessen, Professor Schwarz, and Ms. Amtz. In total, around 85 additional attendees were reached through the UoC workshop activities, resulting in 85 participants in total reached directly with UoC specific advising information.

Wunderbar Webinar “Women in Transatlantic and International Careers” with Dr. Bosbach (top right) as a speaker
Study and Go Abroad Fair Canada
September 24
The Study and Go Abroad Fair is Canada’s largest international university and student travel expo. Taking place in a digital format in 2020, the University of Cologne booth was part of the virtual Research in Germany pavilion and staffed by Dr. Eva Bosbach and Anh-Thu Nguyen, in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); TU Ilmenau, and the University Alliance Ruhr.

Dr. Bosbach and Ms. Nguyen informed the around 200 fair participants about study and research opportunities at the University of Cologne through relevant information material at the digital booth, and in addition held around 30 individual chats, informing about studying and living in Cologne and answering specific attendees’ questions. Altogether, the Research in Germany booth counted 86 individual chats with students who were interested in studying in Germany.

As an additional feature of the event, Dr. Bosbach and Ms. Nguyen recorded a webinar in advance that was accessible to the participants. During the six hours of the virtual fair, the video received 75 views. After the fair, the recording was placed on the UoC NY Office playlist at the UoC YouTube channel, where it was viewed by another 50 viewers by the end of 2020. Finally, supplementary information about study opportunities at the UoC was sent to the 86 participants who visited the booth, and further individual advising provided upon request.

Idealist Grad Fair
September 29
Like the majority of events, the annual Idealist Grad Fair took place virtually in 2020. With 560 registrants and 264 attendees, the event was aimed at prospective graduate students in North America. The University of Cologne was the only non-English speaking exhibitor at the fair, increasing the UoC’s and Germany’s visibility among exhibitors and for participants. The virtual booth was staffed with Dr. Bosbach and Ms. Nguyen, informing the attendees mainly about UoC’s master programs and scholarships in Germany. Additionally, the office reached out to attendees after the event by sending out a follow-up email offering further support and information on studying in Germany and at UoC.

University of Rochester, Education Abroad Global Fair
October 21
The Education Abroad Global Fair at the University of Rochester, including in its online edition in 2020, is designed to help students of the University of Rochester to learn more about education abroad opportunities available to them. As a partner university, the University of Cologne was able to exhibit at this fair which is exclusive to the University of Rochester’s partners and institutions with exchange agreements. Although the fair featured many representatives from a variety of programs, the UoC was the only German exhibitor. In total, 48 participants visited the fair. The UoC virtual booth was staffed by Christiane Biehl (Vice Head UoC International Office), together with Dr. Eva Bosbach, Marie Kallenberg and Anh-Thu Nguyen from the UoC NY Office. Alongside visiting the virtual booth, interested students also had the opportunity to speak to the staff directly via Zoom. In total, information regarding exchange programs between the UoC and the University of Rochester were conveyed to 45 students.

Goethe-Institute Virtual Career Booster German/Y
November 5 - 6
Organized by the Goethe-Institute Washington, D.C., the Career Booster German/Y took place virtually on November 5th and 6th. The event offered interactive information opportunities for students who are interested in studying in Germany or in various career paths that include German language or a stay in Germany. At the event, they could learn firsthand from representatives of various German businesses and higher education institutions, as well as from alumni of a number of German related programs.

The UoC NY Office actively contributed to the organization of panels by suggesting alumni as speakers, by presenting information on English-taught master programs at the UoC, and by conducting a designated workshop on the signature UoC fast-track program Studienstart International plus. Frances Esquivel, an alumna, was invited to speak at the alumni panel, where she shared her experiences with the Studienstart International program and with her subsequent study of geosciences at the UoC.
Network within the Education and Scientific Community in North America

The UoC NY Office’s task, as part of the goal of raising the visibility of the UoC in North America, is networking within the educational and scientific community. This includes German, U.S., and Canadian institutions, as well as other stakeholders in the target region. There are multiple purposes of the proactive networking, e.g., to get to know key-players and pick up trends, to promote the UoC as a partner for future events and potential collaborations, and to maintain existing or explore possible new university partnerships, including student and faculty exchange, as well as joint research projects. Another goal is to feature the UoC as an excellent academic institution and place to study and work, being not only one of the oldest and largest universities in Germany, and offering an exceptionally wide subject range, but also being one of the few top research universities in Germany with four Clusters of Excellence. Consequently, meeting with delegations such as the Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia Armin Laschet in 2019 are important opportunities for the UoC NY Office to highlight its activities and UoC’s international profile. This chapter features examples of events and meetings attended by the UoC New York Office’s Executive Director Dr. Eva Bosbach or the offices interns in North America as part of the networking activities.

Fifth Annual Friends of Freiburg Gala Dinner: Dealing with Disruption: Challenges and Choices for 2020

January 16, New York

Dr. Bosbach and Antonia Chibuzor attended the gala dinner organized by the University of Freiburg Alumni NY Office at the Princeton Club in New York, informing attendees during the networking slots about the UoC. Mrs. Chibuzor further supported the planning during the networking slots on the event. The event started with Dr. Bosbach as keynote and the event reception, and dinner. Keynote speaker of the event was Ambassador Peter Wittig.

Beethoven and the Reunification of Germany

January 23, New York

The DAAD and the German Consulate General New York invited alumni, partners and other guests to celebrate 30 years of German reunification and the 250th birthday of Beethoven. Professor David B. Dennis presented on his personal experience of the Fall of the Berlin Wall and his book chapter on “Beethoven and the Reunification of Germany”. He is a Professor of History at Loyola University Chicago where he teaches courses on Western Humanities, Modern European Cultural and Intellectual History, and the Cultural History of Computing. Having studied with scholars such as George Mosse, Harvey Goldberg, Robert Wohl, Eugen Weber, Saul Friedlander, and Robert Winter, Dennis’s own scholarship has focused on German cultural and political history. His book Beethoven in German Politics, 1870-1989 (Yale University Press, 1996) examines evocations and uses of Beethoven’s biography and music by all of the major parties of 19th and 20th century German political culture. The book attracted considerable international attention and was reviewed in both scholarly and popular media, including The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Guardian, and the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Dr. Eva Bosbach attended the networking event as a representative of the University of Cologne.

New Year’s Luncheon of the German American Chamber of Commerce with Professor Christoph Schmidt, Chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts

January 29, New York

Dr. Eva Bosbach attended the luncheon organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) together with over 150 invited participants including high-level representatives of German and U.S. companies and their guests to receive new economic insights from keynote speakers, exchange ideas, and explore collaboration opportunities for the new year and beyond.

Breakfast Briefing with Professor Christoph Schmidt, RWI President, on New German and European Climate Policies

January 30, New York

This breakfast briefing was hosted by the American Council on Germany (ACG) and the UA Ruhr, featuring Professor Schmidt at the Consulate General of Germany. Dr. Bosbach networked with key stakeholders from the ACG as well as with representatives of various New York-based companies and universities. During the Q&A, Dr. Bosbach pointed out an event with a colleague of Professor Schmidt, Leibniz award winner Dr. Axel Ockenfels from the UoC, that the UoC NY Office hosted in 2018 and where German, European and global climate policies were also discussed.

Opening Celebration - Campus OWL New York: Innovation and Talent in the 2020s

February 27, New York

Dr. Eva Bosbach attended the opening celebration of the Campus OWL New York Office titled “Deep Dive into the Digital Future of Work”. Antonia Chibuzor supported the event during the check-in and check-out process of the guests. Opening remarks were held by Consul General David Gill and fellow representatives of the German House, as well as by Professor Dr. Ingeborg Schram-Wölk, Chairwoman, Campus OWL and President, Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences.

German House Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas after his meetings at the UN Security Council

February 27, New York

German Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas visited the German House in New York on February 27, 2020, as part of his delegation visit to New York for a meeting at the United Nations Security Council. Minister Maas was welcomed at the German House entrance hall, offering brief moments to speak to him personally following his address to the German House staff. The location of the German House in close proximity to the United Nations headquarters as well as being the home to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN and the German Consulate make it a popular place for visits of important political figures.

How Identity Politics Has Shaped Modern Political Discourse with Dr. Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University

September 10

Professor Axel Ockenfels from the UoC, that the UoC NY Office hosted in 2018 and where German, European and global climate policies were also discussed.
UN Global Governance Forum
September 16 - 18
From September 16 to 18, the UoC NY Office participated in the UN75 Global Governance Forum. Taking place virtually, the forum was held under the motto of “The Future We Want, The UN We Need”, with the aim to reflect on complex challenges facing our world, including cross-border health pandemics, economic shocks, inequality, climate instability, and threats to peace and security. The opening panel was headed by Ban Ki-Moon (Eighth UN Secretary-General, Deputy Chair of The Elders, and President & Chair, Global Green Growth Institute); Aya Chebbi (African Union Envoy on Youth); Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (President of the UN General Assembly and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN); and Gro Harlem Brundtland (Co-Chair, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, Member of The Elders, and former Director General of the World Health Organization and Prime Minister of Norway). The Forum’s opening plenary explored the current state-of-the-world in regards to the pandemic and the continued challenges in the climate crisis, as well as the role of the UN to foster cooperation on a global level. Public intellectuals and other stakeholders discussed these topics a few days prior to the endorsement of a new UN75 Declaration with twelve distinct commitments and points for global action by world leaders. The Forums’ outcome document, the “Roadmap for the Future We Want and the UN We Need: A Vision 20/20 for UN75 and Beyond”, was presented and virtually handed to H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, who stressed the need for civil society and youth engagement to carry the ideas further.

Road to Election Night & Beyond: Knowing each other? Mutual Perceptions across the Atlantic
September 23
Hosted and organized by several transatlantic institutions and political foundations, this virtual event was part of the “Road to Election Night & Beyond #RGZEN” series, focusing on transatlantic relations in light of the U.S. presidential election in 2020. The discussion featured German Ambassador to the United States and University of Cologne alumna Dr. Emily Haber and former United States Ambassador to Germany John B. Emerson sharing their thoughts on the topic “Knowing each other? Mutual Perceptions across the Atlantic.”

The two Ambassadors, both renowned experts in the realms of foreign policy and transatlantic relations, exchanged their views on how Americans currently perceive their German partners across the Atlantic and vice versa. What larger trends can we deduce from the current state of transatlantic relations? Are we in fact still “wunderbar together”? The event was attended by Dr. Eva Bosbach on behalf of the University of Cologne.

Virtual Round Table Culture, Education and Science
September 30
Hosted and moderated by the German Consul General twice a year, the round table brings together leaders of 30 German and Germany related organizations with offices in New York City such as the DAAD New York, DFG North America, DWIH New York, Goethe-Institute, German-American Chamber of Commerce, German Academic International Network (GAIN), German American Partnership Program (GAPP), German International School New York (GISNY), German university liaison offices including the UoC NY Office, the American Council on Germany (ACG), Deutsches Haus at NYU, as well as liaison offices of political foundations, German speaking church communities, German Films USA & Canada, and the Frankfurt Book Fair New York. The representatives briefly present their current activities and explore opportunities for collaboration in the next six months and beyond.

In her statement, Dr. Bosbach placed the current activities in the context of the UoC NY Office’s close partnership with the DWIH New York. As mentioned in the Focus Areas 2020 chapter, this year’s DWIH focus topic of Cities and Climate has been an important one for many of the DWIH’s partners, with contributions by several university liaison offices. Regarding the relegalization of the events, the UoC NY Office has been paving new ways with online formats throughout 2020 like other partners, and expects digital to be the predominant format at least until the summer of 2021, the year the UoC NY Office celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Regarding the outlook for the anniversary year of 2021, Dr. Bosbach introduced the preliminary plans to celebrate through highlighting the educational and scientific transatlantic relations between the U.S. and Germany, in particular with the presentation of researchers from the University of Cologne together with their transatlantic peers. Through 2021, various online events will showcase top-notch research from the UoC’s six faculties and Clusters of Excellence, as well as their collaboration with U.S. partners. For the second half of 2021, in-person events might be planned at the German House in New York or at other locations in the U.S., if the world health situation and current travel restrictions allow. Dr. Bosbach invited partners at the virtual round table to collaborate with the UoC NY Office to plan more events for the second half of 2021. Furthermore, Dr. Bosbach invited all partners to the official anniversary celebration, cautiously planned for the 11th of November 2021 together with a delegation lead by UoC’s Rector and the Cluster of Excellence ML4Q. The 11th of November is an important date for Cologne as it marks the beginning of the carnival season and thus fits the occasion of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the UoC North America office.

Media(R)evolution Talk: Newsroom Culture and Culture Wars: Journalism, Diversity and Changing Societies
September 30
Much remains to be done in terms of how cultural and ethnic backgrounds, experiences, and views are expressed and represented in newsrooms. In both Europe and the U.S., controversies over opinion pieces after the killing of George Floyd have sparked a debate about representation and responsiveness in journalism – often with an identity and generational dimension. At the same time, various initiatives both in the U.S. and in Europe demonstrate how diversity can strengthen journalism.

Organized by 1014 – Space for Ideas together with the Institute for Media and Communications Policy (IFM) and with support of the American Council on Germany (ACG), the panel discussion featured Nil Idil Cakmak of Neue Deutsche Medienmacher, Paulina Frohlich of Das Progressive Zentrum, Martina Guzman of Wayne State University Law School, and Aleksandra Tulaj of biber Verlagsgesellschaft, moderated by Leonard Noxy (IFM). The speakers are part of different initiatives in Europe and the U.S. to diversify the editorial boards and journalistic staff of newspapers and other media. For the UoC NY Office, the event was attended by Anh-Thu Nguyen.
30 Years of German Unity: German Unity To-Go
October 3
Every year, the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and the German Consulate General New York invite stakeholders in New York’s German American as well as U.N. circles to a gala event at the Loeb Boathouse in Central Park to network and celebrate the day of German reunification. Given the circumstances brought on by the pandemic in 2020, this year an in-person event did not take place. However, close partners of the German Consulate General and Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN including the UoC NY Office received a care package “German Unity To Go” with German specialties to mark the occasion of German reunification and could watch a celebratory address online.

DAAD #movingtarget2020 Conference
October 5 - 6
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) invited the international and German higher education community to the virtual conference “Moving Target Digitalization: Re-thinking Global Exchange in Higher Education”. The conference focused on new aims and opportunities that arise from the digital transformation and its effects on internationalization in higher education. Anh-Thu Nguyen attended the event on behalf of the UoC NY Office.

Digital Education in the U.S. and Germany: Promises and Challenges
October 21
No other year before has illustrated the necessity of digital technology as an important means for connections, networking and education. Is it here to stay after the pandemic? Can digital technologies help improve both learning and teaching? Organized by the DWIH New York together with the German Embassy Washington D.C. and the German Consulate General San Francisco, the discussion featured leading experts from Germany and the U.S. who discussed how educational technology should be incorporated in the classroom. Dr. Emily Haber, German Ambassador to the U.S. and alumna of the University of Cologne was one of the speakers. As a commitment to digital technologies for the purpose of education, exchange and research collaboration, the University of Cologne, with the support of the UoC NY Office, successfully applied to DAAD’s International Virtual Academic Collaboration (IVAC) program (cf. chapter Virtual Exchange and New Digital Formats). The event was attended by Dr. Bosbach on behalf of the UoC NY Office.

Navigating a “World in Danger” - Lessons for a new generation of Transatlantic security leaders
November 17
Organized by the German American Conference and co-hosted by the Goethe-Institute Boston, the conversation on the future of Transatlantic security partnership featured Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Cathryn Olvier Ashbrook, Director of the Future of Diplomacy Project at the Harvard Kennedy School. Drawing on ideas from his book “World in Danger - Germany and Europe in an Uncertain Time,” Ambassador Ischinger offered insights on how future transatlantic challenges may be tackled. In conversation with Cathryn Olvier Ashbrook, he analyzed foreign policy implications of a divided U.S. election and the strained relationship with Europe. The event was attended by Dr. Bosbach.

The Road to Recovery – Economic Prospects Post-Pandemic
December 3
On December 3rd, Dr. Bosbach from the UoC NY Office attended the third event of “The Ambassador Meets” series, where UoC alumna and German Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Emily Haber held a live chat and Q&A together with Dr. Adam Tooze, Professor of History at Columbia University and Director of the European Institute on the post-pandemic economy about economic prospects post-pandemic and shared thoughts on how Germany and the U.S. can recover from the current crisis.
Networking with Stakeholders in Germany

Besides continuous close collaboration with the university, the activities of the UoC NY Office also find a larger context in cooperation with the city of Cologne. The Executive Director Dr. Bosbach has deepened existing connections to the AmerikaHaus NRW e.V. in Cologne and established an active collaboration with the Cologne Convention Bureau (CCB). The CCB on a regular basis sends information and merchandise that can be used at events, cross promoting the City of Cologne and its university to various partners, alumni, researchers, and other stakeholders. Based in Cologne, the North America coordinator Christiane Biehl presents and networks at a number of events over the year. The UoC NY Meetings in Cologne instead of UoC International Liaison Offices Week August 27 - 29 Every year for one week, the Executive Directors of all three UoC international Liaison Offices in China, India, and North America come to Cologne to offer facetime meetings and participate in different activities within the International Office and beyond. Throughout the week, meetings are held for the purposes of various strategic and administrative planning. Dr. Bosbach usually holds meetings with representatives from the International Office and the Rectorate, as well as with other members of the UoC academic community.

In 2020, due to pandemic-related travel and meeting restrictions, the “Cologne week” had to be reduced to work meetings of Dr. Eva Bosbach with Christiane Biehl a few other staff members of UoC’s International Office as well as researchers of the university and UoC NY Office intern Anh-Thu Nguyen. During a brief stay in Cologne from the 27th to 29th of August, Dr. Bosbach also staffed the virtual booth at the annual GAIN conference in person together with Professor Carien Niessen, Coordinator of CECAD Cluster of Excellence for Aging Research, and Professor Günter Schwarz, Professor of Bio-chemistry and (until 4/2020) Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The booth team was complemented virtually by Claudia Amtz, Head of the Division Research Management, and Anh-Thu Nguyen, intern UoC NY Office (cf. chapter Events with Active Participation and Contribution by the UoC NY Office).

Research Marketing Networking Event with German Research Foundation (DFG) September 2

With virtual events being established as a new standard during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became apparent for German institutions and universities to adjust their organizational structure for future events and fairs. Held by the German university liaison offices in the U.S. together with colleagues from the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Bonn, New York and Washington, D.C., the meeting offered an opportunity for an exchange of experiences based on the last months of primarily organizing virtual events, meetings and networking round tables. One of the main topics while discussing these challenges and new formats was the extent and effectiveness of marketing strategies via online formats, as well as financial aspects and pros and cons of virtual and hybrid events respectively.

courses online and discussions regarding conditions for a safe reopening in the future; and specifically (3) the UoC NY Office and its current operations, activities, and online events.
**Fulbright Workshop for Administrators in International Education**

October 30 – November 1

As a Fulbright alumna herself, Christiane Biehl took part in a Fulbright workshop for administrators in international education. Between October 30 and November 1, 2019, roughly 15 U.S. and 15 German administrators in international education met in Berlin to exchange knowledge and share best practices on topics such as diversity, outreach to the student community, and research cooperation.

One direct outcome was the establishment of a core group of approximately 12 people that now meet monthly via Zoom to discuss relevant questions on recent developments in higher education with a focus on German-U.S. topics concerning student and staff exchange in (but not exclusively) times of the pandemic.

In addition, Christiane Biehl continues to be part of the yearly Fulbright Selection Committee for German Scholars to the U.S. in 2021/22.

**Online Information Session – University of Cologne Liaison Offices**

December 10

In 2020, for the third year in a row, Dr. Bosbach held a designated information event “Services Offers by the UoC NY Office” for all interested colleagues at the university, this year virtually, during a joint online information event by the three UoC liaison offices in Beijing, New Delhi and New York. The original format was developed by the UoC NY Office as a special offer in 2018 with the goals to inform stakeholders within the UoC about the service offers of the New York office and to lay ground for future collaborations as well as events in the North American region. The format proved highly successful, was adopted by the other UoC regional offices, and directly implemented starting 2019 as a new annual joint presentation of the offers and activities of all three regional offices China, India, and North America to UoC staff and faculty.

The joint event was once again a great opportunity for UoC researchers to learn about different formats of events and other offerings for international networking and visibility as well as to ask questions about opportunities the liaison offices might bring to them and their teams. Upon initiative by the UoC NY Office and suggestion during the proceeding joint meetings of the offices, this years online format of the session was also used to promote the offices in the university further with measures such as expanding the radius of invitations. For example, since there was no room capacity limitation with a virtual event, in addition to researchers also UoC doctoral students and PostDocs were invited to join the Zoom meeting. Thus, the session could be of benefit also to younger UoC researchers to learn about the existence and manifold activities of the international liaison offices, and how they could potentially benefit from them in the future, such as visiting them when they travel, joining their alumni networks if they are going to live in one of the countries, or using their services to promote their research and build international connections if they stay involved with the UoC during their next career steps.

The event was successful with 86 participants live online. The presentation prepared for the information session is now being used further to reach a wider audience by being centrally featured on the University of Cologne’s New York Office website.

**Christmas celebration of the International Office**

December 15

The UoC International Office celebrated Christmas virtually this year and invited all colleagues to participate in an online Christmas padlet in advance. Everyone was invited to contribute anything related to Christmas, resulting in a collection of texts, pictures of Christmas trees and treats, or, by Dr. Bosbach, a guessing game of holiday songs by only seeing the corresponding emojis. The actual event was a pleasant, relaxed exchange among the UoC International Office and Liaison Offices colleagues after a challenging year for all of us.

Summer Schools

Since its inception in 2011, it has been one of the tasks of the UoC NY Office to support the organization of a summer school in the U.S. The office was instrumental in terms of organizational and legal aspects to lay the foundations of the WiSo@NYC summer school. It now assists with its organization and realization every year through conceptual ideas and connections to local contacts such as for business visits, as well as contributions to the programming, for example with organizing a networking event for the participants with the NY UoC alumni and bestselling author Sandra Navidi or hosting a reception at the German House including input talks by representatives of the German Consulate, Permanent Mission to the UN etc. The office also supports the program with financial transactions and other operative tasks when needed.

In 2020 and also already for 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time necessary planning in advance to secure classrooms, select participants in Cologne etc., the WiSo@NYC summer school has been cancelled. Hopefully the successful program can resume in 2022.

In addition to the various support of the pre-pandemic well-established WiSo@NYC program, the North America Office also performs marketing for summer school programs that take place in Cologne, such as the Cologne Summer Schools. These are particularly attractive to North American partners being offered free of charge and frequently in English. Invitations and info sheets are being distributed in North America via social media such as Twitter; in non-pandemic times also presented at events, and always emailed and promoted in other communications with our partners in the U.S. and Canada. In 2020, the summers schools in Cologne took place online or were cancelled, a few examples are below. In general, over time the marketing activities of the North America Office have contributed to an increase in applications, as well as to further strengthening the international profile and visibility of the UoC. Other tailored offers usually promoted by the office to North American students and partner institutions include ‘German for Students of Classical Studies’ (GSCS) and the fully credited Cologne Global Study Program (CGSP) which combines English-taught classes on Contemporary European Studies with German language courses.

2020 German for Students of Classical Studies, University of Cologne

July 8 – 17, Cologne (cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

The Classics Department at the University of Cologne launched its sixth run of the ‘German for Students of Classical Studies’ program. It features six weeks of intensive language training accompanied by a varied social program that take place in Cologne, such as the Cologne Summer Schools. These are particularly attractive to North American partners being offered free of charge and frequently in English. Invitations and info sheets are being distributed in North America via social media such as Twitter; in non-pandemic times also presented at events, and always emailed and promoted in other communications with our partners in the U.S. and Canada. In 2020, the summers schools in Cologne took place online or were cancelled, a few examples are below. In general, over time the marketing activities of the North America Office have contributed to an increase in applications, as well as to further strengthening the international profile and visibility of the UoC. Other tailored offers usually promoted by the office to North American students and partner institutions include ‘German for Students of Classical Studies’ (GSCS) and the fully credited Cologne Global Study Program (CGSP) which combines English-taught classes on Contemporary European Studies with German language courses.

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Summer School by UoC Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Aesthetic Possibilities: Literature, Rhetoric, Philosophy
July 12 – 16, Cologne (canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

The 4th Berkeley-Cologne Summer School “Aesthetic Possibilities: Literature, Rhetoric, Philosophy” was scheduled to take place in Cologne, this year’s topic being “I would prefer not to.” – Negation, Noncompliance, Delay.” The Berkeley-Cologne Summer School is part of the UoC German Department’s cooperation with Anneliese-Maier-award winner Nikolaus Largier (Professor of German and Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley). Nikolaus Largier was awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung for his exceptional research in the field of medieval mysticism, scholasticism and their complex interrelation with current questions of cultural theory. Seminars were supposed to be led by Rüdiger Campe (Yale), Eva Geulen (ZbL, Berlin), Nikolaus Largier (Berkeley), Anja Lemke (Köln), Torsten Hahn/Nea Pethes (Köln). This North America summer school has so far been organized without the support of the UoC NY Office however, in the future, the office is planning to support it by offering to organize co-events for UoC scholars or alumni in Berkeley, or inviting attendees to visit the office and engage in New York if they have a stop-over there. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer school was cancelled, a make-up date is being planned.

Cologne Summer School: Perspectives and Visions of Digital Societies
July 27 – August 7, online

As every year, the UoC NY office helps to promote Cologne Summer Schools with various activities such as presenting about innovative concepts as best practice at conferences or forwarding the calls for application to our North American alumni and partners. For the Cologne Summer School "Perspectives and Visions of Digital Societies," held in English, international students from global partner institutions of the University of Cologne were welcome to join online to learn about and discuss topics related to digitization with international peers as well as international academic experts. Several guest speakers from the U.S. and Canada held webinars for the summer school, including Margarita Boeinp-Lipton, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, on Imaginaries of Data Justice: U.S. and EU perspectives; David Carroll, Associate Professor, Parsons School of Design New York, on Data Rights and Human Rights; and Anna Nuhn and Jessie Loyer, Mount Royal University, on Wayfinding in Blackfoot Language with student-designed app: Decipher.

International Alumni

Former students and researchers who spent time or earned their degree at the UoC are key multipliers and ambassadors for the UoC in their current countries and their present study, research, or other work environments. They can share their experiences and are able to convey a credible testimonial. Some alumni are also engaged in giving back to their university in terms of financial sponsorship or active participation in events and initiatives. Thus, event announcements and other UoC marketing activities are regularly communicated to UoC alumni, friends and partners by the UoC NY Office, keeping them informed about and engaged with their alma mater. In order to reach as many of the UoC alumni in North America as possible, the UoC NY Office keeps and regularly updates a list of UoC Alumni and partners who reside in the region as well as UoC Alumni visiting North America for full-time or short-term programs.

The UoC NY Office both organizes and is actively involved in numerous alumni and partners events taking place in New York and other cities in the U.S. and Canada. At these occasions, alumni are updated on news from the UoC, provided with Cologne and UoC giveaways, and briefed about opportunities for donations, if interested. Examples of such formats are the annual holiday reception organized jointly by the liaison offices of German universities in New York, the New Year’s receptions for alumni at the residences of German Consuls General in New York and San Francisco, the Cologne Karneval get-togethers in New York, and annual alumni and partner events in Canada.

In a yet different format of alumni-related activities and offers, the NY Office engages UoC alumni in events to promote the UoC as an excellent destination for study and research. For example, in several years and with a standing offer going forward, UoC alumnus (UoC master’s degree in business administration) and Senior HR Business Vice President of Commerzbank, and Head of HR, Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) Americas respectively Michael Yohannes could successfully be placed by the UoC NY Office as a panel speaker at the Goethe-Institute’s Career Boosters Germany. Similarly, UoC alumnus and public-school teacher Matt Steingruber had represented the UoC at the Career Boosters in previous years. Another example is a now established annual engagement of the New York based UoC alumna and bestselling author Sandra Navidi for the WiSo@NYC Summer School, where she meets with the students, gives an input talk on the financial worlds of the U.S. and Germany and her journey from studying at UoC to a bestseller author living in New York, and answers questions. The event (and entire summer school) unfortunately could not take place in 2020 due to the pandemic. Regarding summer schools, the UoC NY Office also actively promotes summer schools taking place in Cologne to North American alumni as potential participants, such as in the KölnAlumni WELTWEIT summer school. Every year, 2-3 North American alumni come to Cologne to participate specifically in the KölnAlumni WELTWEIT summer school.

Close relationships are being maintained with UoC VIP alumni in the U.S. such as Dr. Benedikt Binsch, DAAD North America and DWH New York Director, and events attended and promoted with UoC alumna Emily Haber, German Ambassador to the United States.

UoC Alumna Rilana Wenske and Fellow at Fordham Law School - Visit to the German House
January 9, New York

UoC alumna Dr. Rilana Wenske visited the German House on January 9, 2020. Ms. Wenske received her doctoral degree from the University of Cologne’s Faculty of Law in 2016 for her work on “Liability of OSP for Copyright Infringements in German and U.S. Law”, supervised by Professor Karl-Nikolaus Peifer.
UoC’s Institute for Media and Communications Law. She is currently a Law Fellow at the Emily C. & John E. Hansen Intellectual Property Institute of the Fordham Law school. During the visit, Dr. Bosbach and trainee Ms. Chibuzor updated Ms. Wenske on the activities of the UoC in Germany, and gifted her some of the UoC and City of Cologne promotional material. She was also invited to upcoming alumni-related events such as the annual New Year’s alumni reception that she was able to join (cf. below).

**UoC Alumnus and Sprint Business President Jan Geldmacher Visits the German House**

**January 14, New York**

Dr. Eva Bosbach invited UoC alumnus and President of Sprint Business Jan Geldmacher to the German House. With the goal to establish a cooperation within the context of our WiSo@NYC summer school, Dr. Bosbach successfully established the contact to Mr. Geldmacher as well as to Ulrike Decker, who works at the UoC ZiB WiSo and is in charge of UoC’s academic short programs New York and Hong Kong, and Carolin Bausum from KölnAlumni, to Mr. Geldmacher and his colleague Claire Ridge. As a result, a future visit of the Sprint Business offices in New York with a presentation on “Sprint Business Turn Around” and the “Internet of Things” is considered.

**Annual New Year’s Alumni Reception**

**January 21, New York**

In cooperation with the fellow NY liaison offices and the German Consulate General, the UoC NY Office organized the annual UoC Alumni New Year’s Reception hosted at the German Consulate General’s New York residence. As the number of invites was limited by the German Consulate, 10 UoC alumni were allowed to attend the event. On behalf of all the university liaison office organizers, Dr. Eva Bosbach gave the welcoming remarks, following Consul General David Gill’s opening remarks.

The event was also mentioned in the official German Missions in the United States newsletter on January 24, 2020:

“This week, Consul General David Gill hosted a New Year's reception for the liaison offices and American alumni from German universities. The evening started off with beautiful classic melodies sung by soprano Rebecca Rucker, accompanied on the piano by Matthias Cognet. After opening remarks from Consul General Gill and Dr. Eva Bosbach, the guests enjoyed conversation and (re)connected over refreshments. It is always a great pleasure to see the great connection our American friends have to Germany.”

**Annual New Year’s Reception for Alumni and Partners in San Francisco**

**February 23, San Francisco, CA**

UoC Alumni were invited to the 2020 New Year’s Reception at the Consulate General of Germany in San Francisco with honorary Guest Federal Minister for Education and Research Anja Karliczek. The event was hosted by the local Consulate General of Germany, the DAAD San Francisco, the Technical University Munich, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, the German Research Foundation, and the German Federal Foreign Office. The UoC NY Office traditionally invites UoC alumni in the Bay area to this thought-after event while sharing the costs and sends UoC promotional material. Nine UoC alumni participated in the event in 2020, with others on the waiting list (the free of charge get-together books out quickly and the rooms have capacity limitations). The event has high reviews by participating alumni each year, including suggestions for improvements such as below – we conveyed to the local organizers to consider name tags with logos for the future editions so that attendees can recognize each other’s affiliations.

“I had loads of fun, mostly since I met so many unique individuals (I got along perfectly fine without knowing German). It was an extremely packed event with great food and drinks. One thing I wish was done better: making it clear if there were representatives from different institutions. I was curious to know if there was anyone from the University of Cologne - I never found out!”

Nora Hazenbos-Shibata, UoC alumna
Annual UoC Alumni and Partner Karneval Event
February 25, New York
The University of Cologne New York Office and the German Consulate General invited UoC Alumni from the New York area to their annual Karneval celebration at Zum Schneider. As February 25th also was the last day of operation of the renowned German restaurant and Biergarten Zum Schneider in New York City, the event marked the end of a special celebration of the German carnival tradition among the UoC alumni and partner community at this venue. Eighteen UoC alumni and partners attended the event, enjoyed German carnival songs and treats, and shared highly positive feedback later, such as the one by Matt Stöhring, UoC alumnus and KölnAlumni WELTWEIT Summer School participant:

“Thank you so much for putting together a super enjoyable networking event - It was a blast! Until next time!”

Besides marketing the event through UoC NY Office channels via email and on the UoC NY Office Twitter account, Carolin Bausum, Director of KölnAlumni also shared the invitation via the Köln Alumni social media networks.

UoC Alumna and Bestseller Author Sandra Navidi featured in Podcast
July 1
For the podcast “Coffee Connections” by Hanni Geist, Senior Manager, University Relations, DAAD San Francisco, Dr. Bostbach recommended various North American UoC alumni for interviews. The podcast focuses on conversations with German alumni who now live in the U.S. or Canada, and their different life paths and interests. The podcast was released in July and featured a 40-minute conversation with Sandra Navidi, UoC alumnus, international attorney, best-selling author, consultant, media contributor and public speaker. Ms. Navidi offered insight on the international working environment, spoke about her best-selling book Superhubs, gave advice on the importance of networks and networking as well as how to navigate uncomfortable situations, and shared her experience as a woman in a male dominated environment. Another interview was facilitated for the June edition of the podcast with UoC alumna Lin Song.

German Universities Research Alumni Program Representatives Networking Conference
March 3, New York
Organized by the Department for International Researchers at the UoC International Office, this conference brought together representatives from several universities in Germany to discuss alumni work of their respective institutions. Dr. Bosbach and Ms. Dumisic (DAAD New York) participated in the conference via video conference from New York City. Dr. Bosbach presented the comprehensive alumni activities by the UoC NY Office, while Ms. Dumisic introduced her work with the DAAD Research Ambassadors program. After the presentations, both answered questions from the conference attendees.

KölnALUMNI Weltweit – Marketing and DigiTalk Guest Lecture Series
July 20 and November 5
As part of its marketing efforts, the UoC NY Office regularly supports other UoC departments in their activities, such as with promoting events via e-mail or on the office’s social media channels. For Alumni, we frequently promote events by the UoC alumni network KölnAlumni and by KölnAlumni WELTWEIT. In 2020, the office marketed the digital lecture series “KölnAlumni WELTWEIT DigiTalks”, where each lecture was followed by an audience Q&A with the guest speaker. The lectures featured online sessions with scientists, researchers, partners and friends of the UoC, dealing with a variety of topics, such as “Building Your International Career” on July 20th with Dr. Joann Haipern, Director of the Hasso Plattner Institute in New York, suggested as a guest speaker by the UoC NY Office. 70 alumni registered for the event and around 50 attended.

Another lecture that was featured had a transatlantic focus on the topic “U.S. Presidential Elections: A Post-Election Analysis” and took place right on the main day of the election on November 5th, with Dr. Zachary Callen, Professor for Political Science at the UoC’s partner university Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, as a guest speaker. The office supported this event by promoting it through social media and e-mails to the office’s North America alumni network. With around 45 participants attending, the guest lecture was another success for KölnAlumni WELTWEIT. For more information on UoC NY Office’s marketing efforts, cf. chapter Public Relations, Marketing, Social Media.
The program also featured dedicated alumni panels, where former students of German universities had the opportunity to speak to an interested audience, answer their questions and share their experience about studying and living in Germany. As the preceding workshop by Dr. Eva Bosbach was titled "Studying in Germany with a High School Diploma", a co-presenting colleague from the UoC, graduate Frances Esquivel with an invitation to join the alumni panel discussion on the same day as a speaker. Ms. Esquivel, who after completing the Studienstart program successfully continued her studies at the UoC and enrolled in a geosciences major, was able to join and share her experiences with the UoC program with the event participants. During the panel, more than 120 attendees joined and were able to ask questions regarding the program, as well as exchange experiences from their life in Germany with other alumni and participants.
Public Relations, Marketing, Social Media

The UoC New York Office is instrumental in promoting the UoC in North America as an excellent study and research institution and in utilizing corresponding scientific platforms, event formats, and communication channels for UoC scientists to present their research in this region. The UoC NY Office has its own website within the UoC online presence, maintains a Twitter account, sends LinkedIn posts, contributes to press releases in both English and German and to the UoC's “Uni-Magazin”, and provides content for Facebook and Instagram posts by the International Office as well as for the “UoC News” as part of the Albert’s Researcher Alumni Newsletter in Cologne. It further reaches out to North American UoC alumni and partners in collaboration with KölnAlumni, KölnAlumni Weltweit, and the International Office via XING/LinkedIn and email, supplies content to the newsletters of the DAAD, the German Consulate New York and other partners, and provides information on joint activities for the web pages of the DWIH New York, Deutsches Haus at NYU, DFG North America, and Wunderbar Together. To keep in touch with UoC alumni, friends and partners, a comprehensive database of contacts is being maintained and in 2020 has again been successfully used for event announcements and other UoC marketing activities.

The task portfolio of the UoC NY Office finds a larger context in cooperation with the city of Cologne. Executive Director Dr. Bosbach has established connections to the Amerikan-Haus NRW e.V. in Cologne as well as an active collaboration with the Cologne Convention Bureau, which on a regular basis sends merchandise and giveaways to the UoC NY Office that is distributed to partners, alumni and researchers at various events to cross-promote the City of Cologne and its university. To further support marketing purposes, the UoC NY Office uses diverse UoC corporate design products, developed in close cooperation with the Communications & Marketing Department (D8) and the International Office (D9). These include print publications, PowerPoint presentations and image films, information materials, rollups, locally adapted slide decks, leaflets, printed materials catering to different target groups, business cards, and UoC giveaways. In order to provide better service to interested students, the International Office has developed various guides and publications, such as the short general “Research in Cologne” and “Study in Cologne” guides, as well as the more comprehensive “Master Programmes Guide”, “Doctoral Programmes Guide”, “Profile Guide” and “International Students Application-Guide Undergraduate” brochures. In 2020, these brochures are being updated by the International Office. Together with specific brochures by faculties, Clusters of Excellence, graduate schools or key profile areas, these materials are systematically presented at UoC NY events at the UoC booth or information table, and in 2020 have been uploaded to the digital booths of UoC at the prevalent virtual events.

To present itself with a professional and more distinctive look in the marketing materials and correspondence by the office, a new logo was introduced in October 2020, designed by the UoC’s Communications & Marketing Department (D8).

One focus of the contributions to these marketing channels is to promote and document the ongoing activities of the UoC NY Office year-round through upfront advertisements and invitations as well as to publish press releases, follow-up reports, photo galleries, and video recordings of the events. A second focus area is promoting aspects of study and research at UoC that might not be directly connected to the office. These include postings of current UoC job advertisements, promoting various educational and research opportunities such as English master’s programs or the Studienstart International plus, and highlighting achievements by UoC researchers and other milestones such as new publications, awards, ranking results or new Collaborative Research Centers (SFBs).

Social Media

The UoC NY Office’s social media channels play a vital part in supporting the office’s marketing strategies by promoting events, supporting and interacting with partners’ channels and documenting activities. For the April through
June 2020: The UoC NY Office internship program for instance, the office marketed the call on several digital channels of the UoC, as well as on the website, via Twitter and through the International Office and Centers for International Relations (ZIBIs) in the individual faculties. Through these channels, the office received 20 applications and held three interviews in early 2020.

The website of the UoC NY Office introduces the office and its general tasks. It also includes a calendar of upcoming events, and, as additional marketing tools, a presentation of the services of the NY Office available to UoC scholars and administrators, as well as a link to a copy of the “Annual Report of UoC’s North America Activities”. Since July 2020, the website also includes a link to a dedicated UoC NY Office playlist within the UoC’s YouTube channel, created this year and featuring recordings of some of the office’s highlights events. This tool proved very practical right in 2020 when most events took place virtually and availability plus promoting of the recordings made the content available to even larger audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Twitter account of the New York Office (@UnColoNY) was launched in 2012 and operates in addition to the main UoC Twitter account @UniCologne, as well as the accounts of the International Office (@UnColoIo), Department Management (@UnColo), and other specific accounts such as @artesCologne, @oxes UoC, @CECAD_, @ceplas_1, @ECON_, @WiSoUniCologne.

The content of the @UnColoNY tweets focuses on events and activities of the UoC NY Office, research highlights from the UoC, as well as study, research, job and funding opportunities. It is also being used to promote current university rankings, announcing new UoC NY Office interns, or for further information on the university and city of Cologne as well as on life and opportunities in Germany.

As part of the office’s marketing efforts to improve traffic on social media channels and support the overall visibility of the office, partner social media campaigns are supported with active contributions whenever applicable. For example, in March 2020, the office participated in the virtual exhibition project by Deutsches Haus at NYU: On Monday, March 23, the organizer sent out a call for images, asking friends and followers to submit the views from their windows as most spent their time social distancing and working from home, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Bosbach submitted a view from her home office in Prague in the summer of 2020.

Although the virtual exhibition is concluded, the organizers are planning a physical exhibition in the future. In a similar manner, the office’s partners at Research in Germany initiated #MyNewCoronaLife, where followers were asked to post a picture of their home office.

The DWIH New York hosted the #InclusiveResearchGermany campaign on its Twitter in June and July 2020 to highlight underrepresented scholars in the German community. Thirty talents were featured in total, from startup founders to scientific researchers, professors, university administrators, and policy advisors. Dr. Bosbach was actively contributing to the campaign through numerous suggestions for UoC scholars and other fitting activities that could be featured as part of the initiative. The campaign surpassed the DWIH’s 2019 monthly averages in profile visits, new followers and tweet impressions with 24 retweets, 46 likes and a 6.4% engagement rate. The tweet introducing the campaign was the single most successful Tweet in DWIH’s social media history.

Given the success of the campaign, the DWIH New York commits to continue to promote the full breadth of German research and innovation in its communications and future events, particularly minorities such as Black and PoC Germans, those with immigration backgrounds and LGBTQI+ folks, with disabilities, and women who are making significant contributions to German science, technology and research.

For the UoC, the campaign highlighted sociolinguist Professor Aria Adli and Julie A. Panagiotopoulou, Professor of Human Sciences, for their research and the foundation of an anti-racism network at the UoC. Independently from the DWIH campaign, the University of Cologne’s Diversity Week took place in June 2020 as well, offering workshops, lectures and seminars on social inequality, inclusivity in education and numerous other topics with this year’s motto “You make the difference!”

A UoC social media campaign supported by the UoC NY office in 2020 was organized by KölnAlumni under the hashtag #abschlussindertasche. Many students graduating this year had to pass up graduation ceremonies and in-person celebrations. To compensate, the KölnAlumni network organized and published greetings by UoC alumni and university staff to the new fresh alumni, congratulating them to their graduation and sharing advice for their further careers. Upon invitation by KölnAlumni, Dr. Bosbach, a UoC alumna herself, recorded a brief video message, encouraging the graduates to “stay curious and active, and to always continue expanding their networks, for example by staying in touch with the University of Cologne via its KölnAlumni network”. The recording was shared on multiple KölnAlumni social media channels, such as YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook, in July 2020.

Interviews and Articles

In 2020, Dr. Bosbach participated in two larger editorial projects. For the DWIH Annual Report 2019, published in 2020, Dr. Bosbach was interviewed by Klaus Luber of FAZIT Communication GmbH. She looked back on highlights that year, such as the event on ‘Diversity and Multilingualism in a Megacity’, or event series ‘Aging and Society’, both co-hosted together with the DWIH New York. She also described her cooperation with the DWIH and named them one of the pivotal partners in amplifying the visibility of German research as well as building transatlantic relationships. In response to Klaus Luber’s question on the importance of New York City as the location of the liaison office, Dr. Bosbach highlighted the innovative landscape in the U.S. and Canada and the proximity to partner universities as key factors for transatlantic networking and increasing the visibility of the UoC including its Clusters of Excellence.

The second larger editorial project in 2020 was an initiative by the International Office, an internal brochure as a written record of how the International Office staff felt and experienced the first weeks and months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eva Bosbach contributed with an article describing her experiences in the first weeks of the crisis, transitioning to home office, and managing the office’s work while witnessing several crises erupting in the United States simultaneously. Anh-Thu Nguyen contributed with a short passage on her experience as the first virtual intern of the UoC NY Office.

Newsletters from Partner Organizations

In cooperation with its partners, the UoC NY Office provides content to their newsletters such as about upcoming events or job postings. Published monthly, the GAIN Newsletter is vital to reach German researchers living in the U.S. The UoC NY office works in close contact...
Fostering Transatlantic Relations in the Age of a Global Pandemic

Spring saw around the corner and the North America Office of the University of Cologne (UoC) in New York was happily moving towards its 50th anniversary in 2021. We were in the midst of our common activities such as providing UoC researchers with platforms to network, present their scientific discoveries and cultivate collaborations with partners in the U.S. and Canada, advising students and scientists on transatlantic mobility, fostering the university’s alumni network in North America, organizing delegation visits, representing the UoC at recruiting events and higher education conferences, and were looking forward to the 2020 class of the UoC’s Wellesley/NYC summer school in New York.

Then the global pandemic hit...
with the newsletter’s editorial team to include current UoC job postings every month.

For the newsletters of the German Consulate New York and Deutsches Haus at NYU, the office supplies text and visual entries about upcoming events on a regular basis.

The DWIH New York implemented a new section in their monthly newsletter from June 2020 onwards: ‘Events and Supporter News,’ the University of Cologne was featured in the September 2020 issue with the founding of the European University of Wellbeing consortium (EUniWell).

Also in 2020, the UoC NY Office and its March 10 ‘Democracy and Education’ event was featured as the only university, only liaison office and only event in the DAAD and DWIH NY director Benedikt Brisch’s report about working in New York during the Covid-19 pandemic for the DAAD de website. His report includes a link to the event website where the video recording of the livestream panel discussion can be viewed from the University of Cologne’s YouTube channel.

Press Releases

The panel discussion ‘Democracy and Education in the Age of Renascent Nationalism’ was featured in the University of Cologne’s German and English press releases, published online and via corresponding UoC channels, inviting journalists, students and researchers among other prospective participant groups to take part in the public event.

In the other direction, the UoC NY Office continuously cross-promotes press releases by the UoC North America via Twitter posts and other channels such as mailings whenever appropriate. UoC press releases are also being used by Dr. Bosbach as a tool to get in touch with UoC researchers by congratulating them on achievements, presenting an opportunity for a future collaboration such as for joint events.

Internationalization of Teacher Education

As a contribution to the UoC goal and measure number 7 of the Internationalization Strategy “Internationalizing the Teacher-Training,” the UoC NY Office supports placements of teacher-training students from the UoC as teaching assistants and interns in the U.S. and Canada within the student exchange internships@schoolsabroad initiative. This program is run jointly by the Centre for Teacher Education (CITE/Zentrum für LehrerInnenbildung, ZfL) and the UoC’s central International Office since 2013, sending UoC teacher-training students to partner schools all over the world to complete either a voluntary or an obligatory teaching placement within the framework of their teacher education program. The placements (generally 4 to 8 weeks) usually take place during the summer (August to October) or winter break (February to April).

Already in 2018, the office launched a major campaign in North America with the goal of establishing a network of U.S. hosting institutions – mainly elementary schools, high schools, and colleges with German programs – for the UoC internships@schoolsabroad program, resulting in 15 new hosting institutions within one year. In 2020, Dr. Bosbach continued marketing of this program, looking out for future placement opportunities for teacher-training students whenever applicable, with the prospect of in-person mobility returning after the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of South Alabama joined the program as a new partner and was also chosen as the model partner for the DAAD-funded program University Network for Internationalization in Teacher Education Cologne – UNITE Cologne. With regard to teacher-training, it will become a highly relevant partner in the coming years. Representatives of the University of South Alabama participated in the first UNITE Summer School held virtually in October 2020.

Whenever possible, Dr. Bosbach reaches out to participants of the internships@schoolsabroad and connects in person, for example by inviting them to visit the UoC NY Office at the German House. This offer was highly limited in 2020 because of the pandemic.

In addition to this internship program focused on teacher-training students and the dedicated UoC NY Office internship program featured in chapter Internship programs, internships of UoC students in North America are being generally supported by the UoC NY Office in multiple ways. The office highlights internship opportunities at partner organizations in North America to interested UoC students – an offer that continued in 2020 with promoting of offers for virtual internship – and, when in-person travel is possible, helps them with suggestions for accommodation options in NYC. Interns who come to New York are welcomed by the Executive Director at the UoC NY Office, providing an extra resource for information and support at their destination, including office space, if needed. This offer could not be used for the most part of 2020 due to the pandemic-related restrictions.
Partnerships / Delegations / Support of Visiting UoC Students and Scholars in North America

The UoC NY Office is highly engaged in supporting different target groups to enhance transatlantic exchange between partners in North America and the UoC. Thus, forging partnerships with various institutions and organizations, engaging with visiting delegations, and supporting incoming and outgoing UoC students and scholars always plays an important role within the activities of the office. Except when there is a global pandemic like in the most of 2020, effectively shutting down mobility for students, researchers and delegations all over the world.

Examples of high-level political delegations include a visit by NRW Prime Minister Armin Laschet hosted by German Consul General in 2019, serving as a great opportunity for Dr. Bosbach to represent the UoC and highlight current achievements such as the four Clusters of Excellence, the NRW start-up center, and UoC internationalization activities including the regional offices in China, India and North America.

Throughout the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the UoC worked to maintain its established large network of partner universities in the U.S. and Canada on the university-wide as well as individual faculty levels. The university partnership programs – in non-pandemic years – not only enable students and researchers to participate in in-person international exchanges, they also support a mutual assistance for Ph.D. students and their research, coordinated applications for third-party funding, or the establishment of joint summer schools. Other collaborative efforts include joint events, workshops, field trips, and publications. In 2020, many partnerships were taken to a new level that now includes virtual collaboration in teaching and learning, as described in chapter Virtual Exchange and New Digital Formats.

For this initiative as well as support with regular partnerships maintenance and acquisition, the UoC NY Office serves as an effective platform to represent the UoC in the U.S. and Canada. Upon request, the office evaluates U.S. American academic institutions who are interested in partnering with the UoC, when travel is possible, the office prepares trips for individual scholars, assists delegation visits, and provides various assistance to researchers from Cologne in New York. Dr. Bosbach promotes the UoC and its study and research opportunities throughout the various activities and events presented in the previous chapters, with some activities chosen specifically to culture relationships with existing UoC partners, and others to include related faculties or mobility sectors or to explore opportunities for entirely new partnerships. Besides regular student and faculty exchanges, joint events and research projects, popular programs for North American partners in non-pandemic years include summer and winter German language programs, the International Faculty program, the Cologne Summer Schools, and the partner-exclusive Cologne Global Study Program. In 2020, some of these programs could be continued while transformed to online formats.

Over the years, more than 40 formal partnerships at university or faculty level have been established between the UoC and higher education institutions in North America. Due to the vast variety of topics of interest to researchers in Cologne and the immense diversity within the higher education system and research landscape in North America, the partnerships here do not focus on one institution exclusively, but include different partners, regions, and interest groups. Comprehensive cooperation activities exist, for example, with the University of California in Berkeley, Duquesne University, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, or in Canada with the University of British Columbia and the Université de Montréal. At the same time, many less formal research contacts and active collaborations have been initiated and nurtured.

Recently developed partnerships include the University of Texas at Austin, Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business, the Queens University, the University of Western Alabama, and the Kansas State University. Further requests to cooperate have been expressed by MIT (MIT – Germany), Georgia Tech, Ohio State University, and by McGill University to expand the partnership beyond the UoC WiSo Faculty. A Southern Illinois University delegation visited Cologne to discuss a cooperation with the Institute for Biology and Didactics. A request from Emory University to cooperate closer in the field of collaborative research is being discussed at the UoC Rectorate.

Within the past few years, a new active cooperation with Washington State University (WSU) was developed. UoC and WSU have a similar structure and congruence regarding research and academic focus. A general Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, and a student exchange agreement is in process. A comprehensive cooperation has been started between the UoC Cluster of Excellence in plant sciences CEPLAS and WSU after the Transatlantic Workshop Plant Science, organized by the UoC North America Office in 2017 in New York. The Transatlantic Network in Plant Science (TRANSPLAS) which was inaugurated at the workshop includes research cooperation, coordinated applications for third-party funding, and a joint summer school, which kicked off in Cologne in 2019.

Since 2019, the opportunity for a university-wide partnership between the UoC and the NYU is being explored. The initiation of this potential cooperation serves as a great example for the development of a partnership through support by the UoC North America Office. Over several years, researchers from different departments at both universities have been cooperating, such as UoC’s Professor Axel Klawonn of Mathematics, and NYU’s Professors Olaf Widlund of Computer Science and Mathematics and Georg Stadler of Mathematics. UoC’s Dr. Bosbach has established a collaboration with NYU’s Director of the German House, Juliane Camfield, resulting in several events co-hosted by both institutions. Another important step towards a potential umbrella UoC-NYU partnership was the event “Multilingualism and Diversity in Megacities”, co-hosted by the UoC North America Office and NYU, as well as the DWAH New York and the German Consulate General. The panel discussion featured UoC’s Head of the Center for Sociolinguistics Lab Professor Aria Adil, together with his NYU research partner Professor Gregory Guy, the NYU Senior Vice President for Global Inclusion, Diversity, and Strategic Innovation Dr. Lisa Coleman. The event demonstrated common interests and shared values by both institutions, and lead to a first meeting between NYU and UoC representatives towards a potential university-wide MoU. The discussion of the potential umbrella partnership came to a halt in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, a joint memorandum of understanding between the UoC and Weill Cornell Medical College at the Cornell University was signed, allowing for two students of the UoC to visit the university in New York for eight weeks. This additional exchange agreement is the result of a positive partnership between the UoC and Cornell University, having established other collaborations have been initiated and nurtured. Through the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the UoC worked to maintain its established large network of partner universities in the U.S. and Canada on the university-wide as well as individual faculty levels. The university partnership programs – in non-pandemic years – not only enable students and researchers to participate in in-person international exchanges, they also support a mutual assistance for Ph.D. students and their research, coordinated applications for third-party funding, or the establishment of joint summer schools. Other collaborative efforts include joint events, workshops, field trips, and publications. In 2020, many partnerships were taken to a new level that now includes virtual collaboration in teaching and learning, as described in chapter Virtual Exchange and New Digital Formats.

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List of Partnerships with North American Universities

University of Colorado Boulder U.S.A.
University of Mississippi U.S.A.
University of California Berkeley U.S.A.
Duquesne University Pittsburgh U.S.A.
Washington State University U.S.A.
University of Michigan Ann Arbor U.S.A.
University of British Columbia Canada
Simon Fraser University Canada
University of Colorado at Boulder U.S.A.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill U.S.A.
University of Texas at Austin U.S.A.
Kansas State University U.S.A.
Cornell University U.S.A.
Duke University Fuqua Business School U.S.A.
Emory University Goizueta School of Business U.S.A.
Indiana University Kelley School of Business U.S.A.
University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management U.S.A.
University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School U.S.A.
University of Texas at Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management U.S.A.
Queen's University Smith School of Business U.S.A.
McGill University Desautels Faculty of Management Canada
University of Calgary Haskayne School of Business Canada
University of Victoria Peter B. Gustavson School of Business Canada
The University of Western Ontario Richard Ivey School of Business Canada
Université du Québec à Montréal École des sciences de la gestion (ESG) Canada
University of Texas at Dallas Chemistry Department U.S.A.
University of Toledo U.S.A.
California Institute of Technology U.S.A.
Mount Royal University Canada
University of British Columbia Sauder School of Business and Faculty of Arts Canada
University of Western Ontario Richard Ivey School of Business Canada
Université du Québec à Montréal École des sciences de la gestion (ESG) Canada

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

Cornell University U.S.A.
Duke University Fuqua Business School U.S.A.
Emory University Goizueta School of Business U.S.A.
Indiana University Kelley School of Business U.S.A.
University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management U.S.A.
University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School U.S.A.
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Mount Royal University Canada
University of British Columbia Sauder School of Business and Faculty of Arts Canada
University of Western Ontario Richard Ivey School of Business Canada
Université du Québec à Montréal École des sciences de la gestion (ESG) Canada

Faculty of Human Sciences

Cornell University U.S.A.
Duke University Fuqua Business School U.S.A.
Emory University Goizueta School of Business U.S.A.
Indiana University Kelley School of Business U.S.A.
University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management U.S.A.
University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School U.S.A.
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Université du Québec à Montréal École des sciences de la gestion (ESG) Canada
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