

## RESEARCH ALLIANCE RUHR

## COLLEGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The College's ceremonial opening in December marked a highlight in 2025. This year, the College was able to fill three more professorships with excellent researchers and attract 18 international visiting scholars. Numerous events reflected the broad range of research topics.

With filling the junior professorships in the summer semester of 2025, the College was able to establish three research groups. Elena Beregow investigates the socio-cultural dimension of sweating, particularly in the context of climate change. Matthias Kranke's research focuses on the political governance of sustainability at the international level. Florian Fastenrath analyses how socio-economic inequality is perceived by politics and society. The research professorship 'Public Social Sciences and Humanities' is expected to be filled in early 2026.

The research groups and the research professorship 'Curating Digital Objects of Cultural Knowledge and Memory' completed their teams with seven doctoral researchers and one postdoctoral researcher. In the autumn, they organised various workshops that facilitated academic exchange with members of the UA Ruhr and external parties.

Through its international Senior Fellowship Programme, the College has already attracted 36 distinguished researchers from 23 countries for research stays since 2024, 18 of them in 2025. The tandem partnerships with members of the UA Ruhr, which are in-

herent in the programme, have so far resulted in 33 events and 29 publications, primarily in high-ranking refereed journals. In this way, the College is continuously promoting global research cooperation in the humanities and social sciences of the UA Ruhr and strengthening international partnerships.

At the ceremonial opening event on 1 December, the members of the College presented their diverse research focuses – around 100 guests from Germany and abroad attended, including the Minister of Culture and Science of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Ina Brandes. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the role of academic institutions in the face of technological and political transformations.

As part of its PostdocLab programme, the College has been supporting three cross-university working groups since October 2024, which are conducting research on the effects of AI on science communication, on conflicts over the use of urban space, and on civic education in the digital age. From April 2026, three newly selected groups will receive funding.



*"The Ruhr area demonstrates how the transformation from a centre of coal mining to a knowledge region can be successfully achieved. Today, research and science are the resources that ensure good jobs, prosperity and social security. I am therefore delighted to open the College for Social Sciences and Humanities of the Research Alliance Ruhr. Enormous strength is generated when the three major universities in the Ruhr region pool their expertise in the humanities and social sciences. Especially in uncertain times, we need such strong alliances that expertly analyse and explain social developments."*

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE OF THE GERMAN STATE OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, INA BRANDES