

Newsletter N° 9

2019 / 2020 / 2021



„The times are urgent – let’s slow down!“ ([Bayo Akomolafe](#))

*D*ear members, friends and supporters of the Institute for Integral Studies,

...this quote may stand as a motto over the period that this newsletter is reporting about. What an eventful and turbulent time! ... in the negative – as well as in the form of an unexpected acceleration in the direction of new ways of thinking and creative approaches to finding novel solutions in many areas of our lives.

The fact that we are once again presenting a double newsletter (for 2019 and 2020) is not only due to the Corona-related state of emergency in 2020, but also the busy day-to-day business at IFIS, which will be illustrated in more detail on the following pages. But as our loyal readers already know, IFIS is not about "faster, higher, further", but about working on a deeper level, where – especially in turbulent times – the rule is to always keep calm!

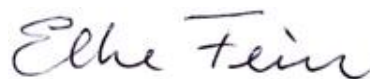
We invite you to read more about our EU project Leadership for Transition (LiFT) – *Politics*, which was approved in 2019, about a Youtube channel called "Pioneers of (integral) Politics (PoP)", our website finally revised in 2020, as well as about ongoing and new projects and activities.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all donors who have supported IFIS over the past two years, especially through our well-established online colloquium.

We wish you a stimulating and inspiring read and look forward to many surprises in 2021!

Freiburg, January 2021

Dr. Elke Fein
Managing Director




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www.ifis-freiburg.de OR: www.integral-studies.org. # [IFIS on Facebook](#). # [IFIS on LinkedIn](#)

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1. Reports: IFIS' projects and events 2019/20

Leadership for Transition (LiFT) – Politics approved!

The highlight of 2019 at IFIS was certainly the approval of our new EU-funded **Strategic Partnership Leadership for Transition (LiFT) – Politics**, which was officially launched in September.

After our project application for the third LiFT project had been rejected in the previous year (2018) due to a formal error, we used the months until the next application deadline to expand and deepen our consortium once again and to give the project application new polish – with success. In July 2019, we received the pleasant news that LiFT 3.0 - or **Leadership for Transition (LiFT) – Politics** was approved for three years – as the most comprehensive of all 70 projects approved in 2019!

bp_Bewilligungslisten_KA204_2019.pdf 1 / 2

7	Evangelische Gesellschaft Stuttgart e.V.	Buechsenstrasse 34	70174	Stuttgart	BW	der sozialpsychiatrischen Versorgung	93.000,00 €
8	GLOBAL NATURE FUND STIFTUNG	FRITZ-REICHLÉ-RING 4	78315	RADOLFZELL	BW	Empowerment of European Citizens for Action through Education on Biodiversity	233.481,00 €
9	Institut für Integrale Studien	c/o Dr. Elke Fein, Mathildenstr. 18	D-79106	Freiburg	BW	Leadership for Transition 3.0 – Politics	432.721,00 €
10	Medienkompetenz Team e.V.	Sophienstraße 120	76135	Karlsruhe	BW	Curriculum guide of media and information literacy for adults	116.585,00 €
11	Italienische Handelskammer München-Stuttgart Camera di Commercio Italo-Tedesca	Landaubogen 10	81373	München	BY	Women@Work	232.391,00 €
12	LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN	GESCHWISTER SCHOLL PLATZ 1	80539	MÜNCHEN	BY	Participatory Model to Designing Learning Outcomes	69.685,00 €

With this, LiFT has now entered its third funding phase, the second as a [Strategic Partnership](#) within the framework of [Erasmus+](#). As the applicant, IFIS is the coordinating partner (as it has been for LiFT 1.0). We are very happy and proud of this success!

The LiFT – *Politics* Consortium consists of **seven full partners** from four European countries.

Partners LiFT 3.0 Politics

Institute for Integral Studies (IFIS)

Freiburg/Germany

Dr. Elke Fein (initiator, coordination)



Dialogues Facilitation Gothenburg (DFG)

Gothenburg/Sweden

Bernard Leroux



Institut für Zukunftskompetenzen (IFZ)

Krumpendorf/Austria

Harald Schellander



University of Oslo (UiO)

Oslo/Norway

Prof. Dr. Karen O'Brien



European Citizens Initiative (ECI)

Freiburg/Germany

Carsten Berg



SelfLeaders (SL)

Stockholm/Sweden

Michael Wernstedt



Entz-von-Zerssen, Caspari & Partners (EZCP)

Berlin/Germany

Anne Caspari



Among them are research and educational institutions (IFIS, [University of Oslo](#)), organizations promoting personal and organizational development ([SelfLeaders](#), [Entz-von-Zerssen, Caspari & Partners](#), [Institut für Zukunftskompetenzen](#)), experts in the field of dialogue and political conflict mediation ([Dialogues Facilitation Gothenburg](#)), and lobbyists of democracy in Europe ([European Citizens Initiative](#)). In addition, LiFT – *Politics* has eleven **associated partners** ([details here](#)).

The **aim of the project** is to contribute to a "new paradigm" of politics, which is inspired by a holistic, integral consciousness. On this basis, it wishes to contribute, among other things, to (further) developing cooperative and co-creative methods of deliberation and decision-making and to carry them into political contexts.

More information about the work plan, our public workshops and the so-called "*intellectual outputs*" can be found in the [project summary on our website](#).

A detailed [description of LiFT and LiFT – Politics](#) (in German) was published in the magazine *Integral Perspectives* in July 2020. [Project folder for download here](#).

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LiFT – *Politics* Kick-off meeting, Freiburg (27.11.-1.12.2019)

As the applicant and coordinator of the LiFT - *Politics* project, IFIS hosted the kick-off meeting of all seven partner organizations at the end of November 2019. The four-day meeting therefore took place in Freiburg and the surrounding area, organized by the project managers, IFIS managing director Dr. Elke Fein and board member Dr. Bettina Geiken. The project team met at the [Solar Info Center](#) and at [Haus des Engagements](#), a co-working space for social businesses center.



LiFT team at Horben

from left to right (upper row):

Karen O'Brien, Michael Wernstedt, Bernard Le-Roux, Harald Schellander, Bettina Geiken

(lower row) Indra Adnan, Anne Caspari, Katrin Muff, Elke Fein

In addition to getting to know each other and the team members and their work, and some fine-tuning of the project's work program, there was also an informal meeting with **pioneers of cooperative politics** from Freiburg and the region, which both sides found very enriching. A half-day excursion to Horben in the Black Forest served as a small break for the LiFT team to relax and digest.

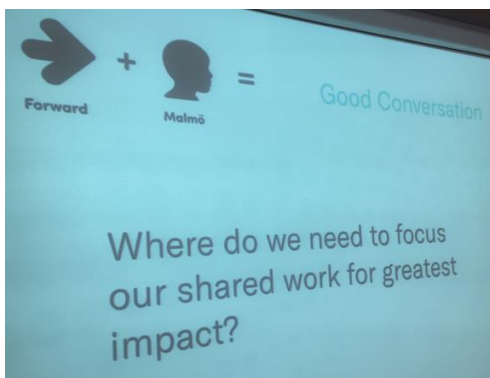
Working meeting with political pioneers at HdE in Freiburg



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LiFT Workshop Gothenbourg (March 23-25 2020)

.... And then came Corona. Actually, the first major public LiFT workshop should have taken place in Gothenburg, Sweden, and in the small town of Falsköping to the northeast. But this crisis threw a spanner in the works. One week before the planned event, the travel restrictions became so severe that we had to change our plans and hold our workshop digitally.



Admittedly, this was not a major challenge from a technical point of view for us (being used to communicating integrally online from our European collaboration and our online colloquium for many years). Nevertheless, the disappointment was of course great that we could not continue the team-building process that had just begun in the form of personal encounters.

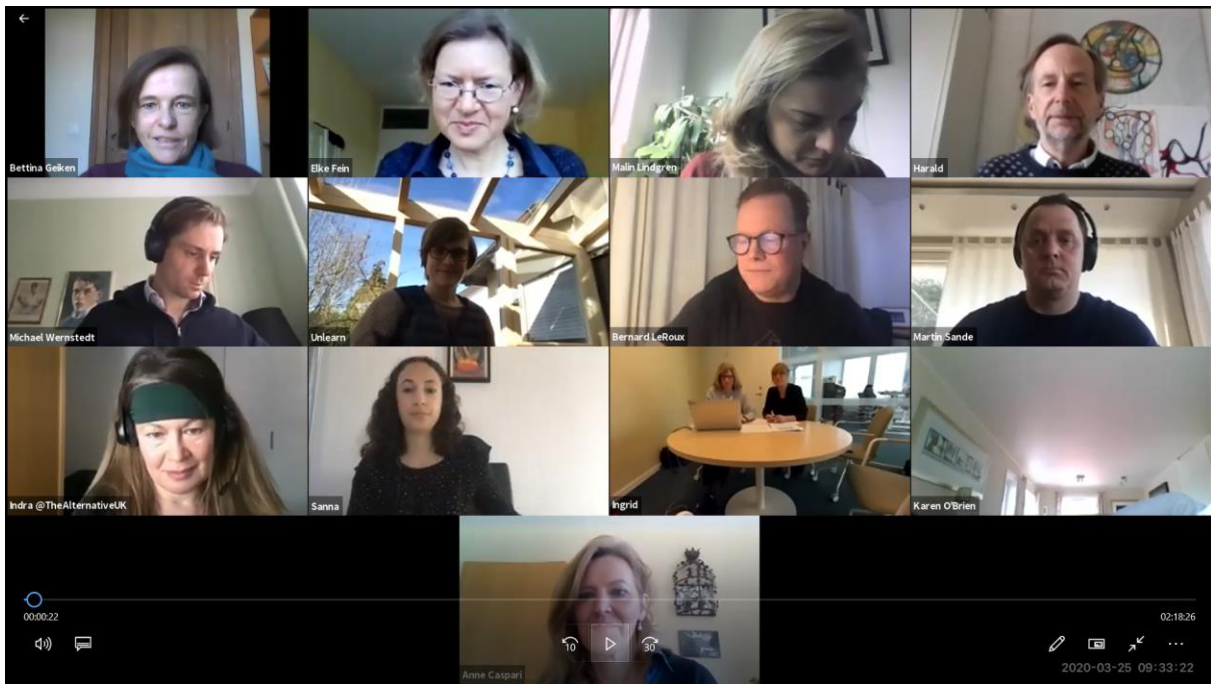
However, it was gratifying and in part surprising for everyone to see how much encounter and depth is possible even in a virtual space if the "art of hosting" is given appropriate atten-

tion. Special thanks for this go to Bettina Geiken and Harald Schellander (IFZ).

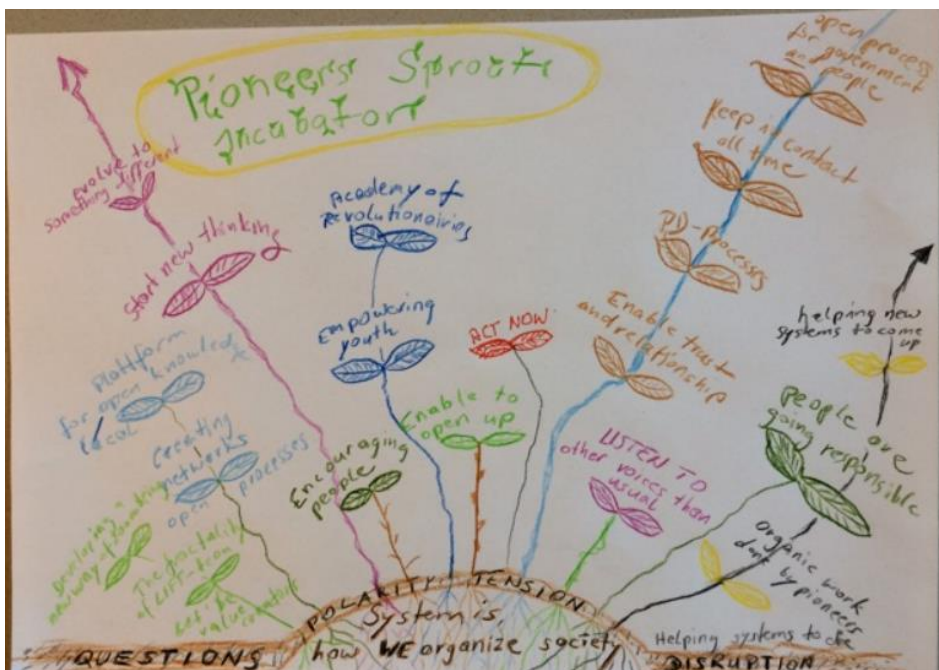
This allowed us to work intensively on the topic of dialogue in the political arena over three days. The Swedish part of the workshop was hosted by our local LiFT partner [Dialogues Facilitation Gothenburg](#), a small non-profit company that supports municipalities and regions throughout Sweden with dialogue processes in difficult and tense situations.



As part of this workshop, we had a very productive and inspiring 2.5 hour **meeting with Swedish pioneers of cooperative politics** from the Gothenburg region - many of whom operate internationally. Presentations included [democratisering2018.se](#), [Digidem](#), [peopleseconomy.org](#), the Academy for Local Knowledge, and the work of Dialogues Facilitation Gothenburg for the Swedish Association of Regions and Municipalities (SALAR).



The workshop had also planned to include a **conference on how to deal with social polarities** in local political contexts. For this purpose, the city of Falsköping, in cooperation with LiFT – *Politics*, had invited experts and other local stakeholders who are concretely concerned with or confronted with the challenge of "dialogue in polarized contexts". Unfortunately, this expert meeting had to be postponed due to the Corona crisis.



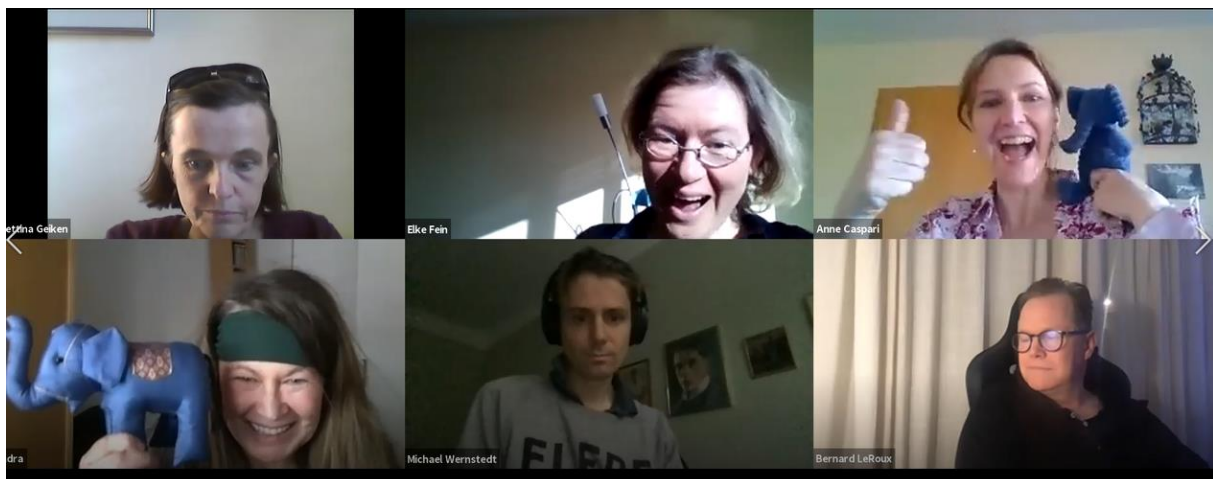
Graphic Harvesting by hand done by LiFT partner Harald Schellander (IFZ)

One highlight of the March meeting was undoubtedly the establishment of a new tradition in the LiFT project: the **integral-political elephant round**. Unlike the "elephant rounds" we know from today's politics, where the leaders or top candidates of the parties (mostly after elections) comment on their respective results, our elephant rounds are a form of **shadow work**.

Inspired by the metaphor of the "elephant in the room", the aim is to take a self-critical look at one's own process from a meta-perspective. For example, the question can be asked: What was/is the taboo in the room? What was noticeable for everyone, but no one addressed it? What was the question that no one asked? What assumption has not been questioned before? And what impact(s) did this have on the group process?



As it turned out, shadow work can be a lot of fun. In our case, the round helped to clarify a perceived tension and thus also contributed significantly to improving the quality of the team – as well as to the feeling that we were working together "for real".



Integral political elephant round - clockwise from top: Bettina Geiken (IFIS, SelfLeaders), Elke Fein (IFIS), Anne Caspari (EZCP), Indra Adnan (IFIS/The Alternative/UK), Michael Wernstedt (SelfLeaders), Bernard le Roux (DFG)

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Inter-integral MiniCollaboratory on politics in times of Corona

The difficulty or even impossibility of holding regular meetings in the project in times of Corona led us at LiFT to shift our focus more to working on the so-called "intellectual outputs" – and in the course of that process to create some unplanned things and try out new activities.

One of these unplanned products of this time was a 3.5-hour **online collaboratory on the challenges of the Corona crisis for an integral politics**. One inspiration for this was the "class reunion" of the original IP core group, in which Elke Fein participated as a guest from 2008-2010, which was scheduled for the spring (and then cancelled due to necessity).

It would be great, so we thought, to harvest the wisdom and experience of the founding fathers and mothers of integral politics in the German-speaking world in view of current challenges. While the old core group itself no longer exists today, the field of those involved in integral politics has expanded and developed considerably.

Therefore, after some preliminary discussions, we finally invited participants from several integrally politically informed contexts, namely:

- the founding generation and former core group of Integral Politics (IP) Switzerland
- the present IP Switzerland
- the movement "Building a New Culture" (BNK)
- from IFIS
- from the Integral Forum (Germany)

The online collaboratory finally took place on June 13, 2020 with 15 participants, facilitated by [Elke Fein](#) and supported by [Bettina Geiken](#). A [recording](#) (shortened by taking out small group phases and breaks) is available on Youtube. For more details see the [description below the Youtube video](#).

This mini-U process was at the same time an experiment with regard to possible further developments of the [collaboratory format](#), which we have extensively tested and researched in the context of our LiFT 2 project into virtual spaces – with encouraging results.

By the way, we received a request from the Integral Forum (before the Corona break) to offer our Collaboratory facilitation training to a group of salon leaders at a later date. We very much hope to take this up in 2021. More information about the LiFT Facilitator Training can be found on the [LiFT Website](#).



The inter-integral Mini-Collaboratory went online in Jul 2020 as „Pioneers of Politics 2”.

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IFIS' Youtube channel „Pioneers of Politics“

Another new creation – even if the idea matured before the first Corona-related lockdown – is our [Youtube channel](#), which opened in the summer:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrgFBh-CUkuNE9hEKessQyQ/videos>

Under the title „[Pioneers of Politics](#) (POP)", we present pioneers of a new, cooperative quality of politics who explicitly or implicitly work from an integral consciousness or who implement aspects of integral politics in practice. This series was started in July 2020 with an [interview with Gil Ducommun](#), the initiator and co-founder of "Integral Politics" (IP) Switzerland. Since then, we have been publishing a new video about every month, mostly in interview form.

So far, the interviews have been **conducted by Elke Fein and Harald Schellander** (Institute for Future Competences/[Institut für Zukunftskompetenzen](#), Carinthia), our Austrian LiFT partner, who is coordinating the sub-project "Portraits of Pioneers" within the project, together with **Indra Adnan** (UK). In perspective, an English-language section is also in preparation.

So far the following videos have been published (in German):

- POP 1 (July 2020): [Interview with Gil Ducommun](#) (Initiator and founding member of IP CH)
- POP 2 (July 2020): [Inter-integral Online-Collaboratory on politics in times of Corona](#)
- POP 3 (Sept 2020): [Interview with Prof. Traugott Elsässer](#) (founding member of IP CH)
- POP 4 (Okt 2020): [Interview with Dr. Pia Härtinger](#) (councilwoman, Sociocracy practitioner)
- POP 5 (Nov. 2020): [Interview with Roland Jaritz](#) (GILT, Verantwortung Erde)
- POP 6 (Dec. 2020): [Interview with Roman Huber](#) (Mehr Demokratie)
- POP 7 (Jan 2021): [Interview with Claudia Döring](#) (sociologist, integral city art)

The **premiere of POP 8** ([Interview with Elke Esders on her project *politicsreinvented*](#)) will take place on February 5.

LiFT Leadership
for Transition



Institut für integrale Studien
Institute for Integral Studies



We welcome feedback on the POP videos, as well as suggestions for integral political pioneers we may not yet know about.

From now on, viewers also have the opportunity to participate in various **interactive surveys** that we are experimenting with in the LiFT – *Politics* project. More details are explained in the introductory video. In this way, everyone interested can participate in the development of a new, integral politics.

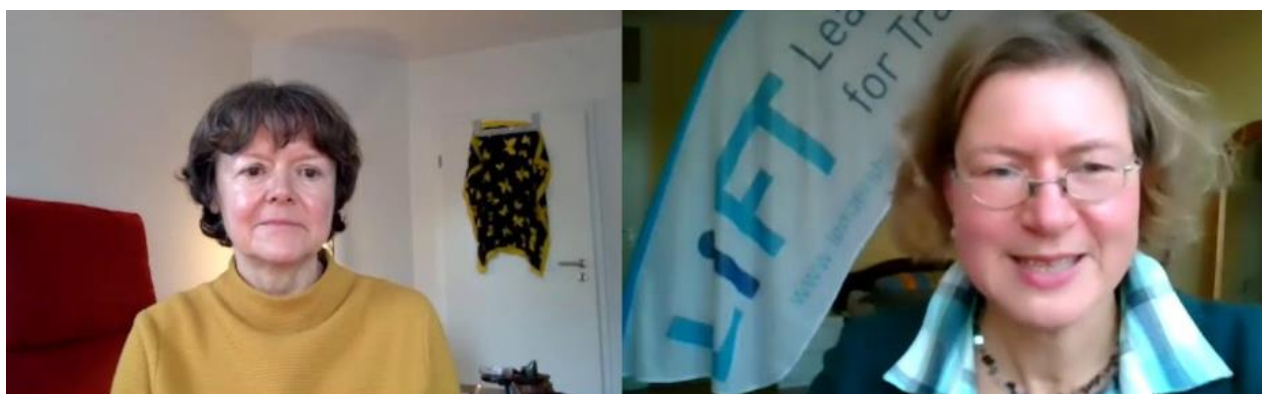
Pioneers of Politics *Pioniere innovativer / integraler Politik*

Heute: *Politics Reinvented* – Ein emergierendes Ökosystem neuer Politik mit Kopf-, Herz- und Bauchintelligenz

Pionierin: **Elke Esders**, [politicsreinvented.eu](#)



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Special Issue „Integral Politics“ in *Integrale Perspektiven*

Finally, a third result of the Corona-induced shift in focus to "intellectual outputs" was the preparation of a [special issue of the journal *Integral Perspectives on "Integral Politics"*](#) (mostly in German, with some English contributions). It was edited by IFIS' Managing Director Elke Fein together with the Integral Forum and was published online in July 2020. It offered the LiFT *Politics* project a nice opportunity to present the first results of its work to a larger, integrally informed audience.



The screenshot shows the website for the Integral Forum. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'INTEGRALES FORUM' and menu items: 'Online-Zeitschrift IP', 'Bibliothek', 'Begegnung', and 'Akademie'. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Juli 2020: Integrale Politik' is displayed. A large banner image features a colorful, abstract design with the text 'INTEGRALE POLITIK' overlaid. Below the banner, the section 'Einführende Beiträge' (Introductory Contributions) lists three items: 'Editorial', 'Leadership for Transition (LiFT). Von Elke Fein', and 'Eine kurze (unvollständige) Geschichte der integralen Politik. Von Elke Fein (LiFT)'.

Besides a detailed [description of the LiFT – *Politics* project](#) the issue contains a broad panorama of perspectives on the topic of integral politics. 17 contributions (including 10 by LiFT authors) are cover the sections:

- Introductory contributions
- Foundations of integral politics
- The landscape of pioneers
- Integral governance
- Integral Politics Switzerland

The jointly produced booklet is the visible expression of a more intensive cooperation and partnership agreed with the Integral Forum in view of disseminating results from integral research as practiced at IFIS.



Michael Wernstedt is a social entrepreneur working to build a resilient world where both humanity and life on the planet thrive. He has co-founded and served as the party leader for the political party *the Initiative*, a party which aims to create a new political culture in order to implement a metamodern political vision. He also serves on the board of the Raoul Wallenberg Academy for Young Leaders, an NGO which empowers 10 000 young people to make a difference every year. Michael is a partner of the LiFT *Politics* project on behalf of SelfLeaders, Stockholm.

LiFT Leadership
for Transition

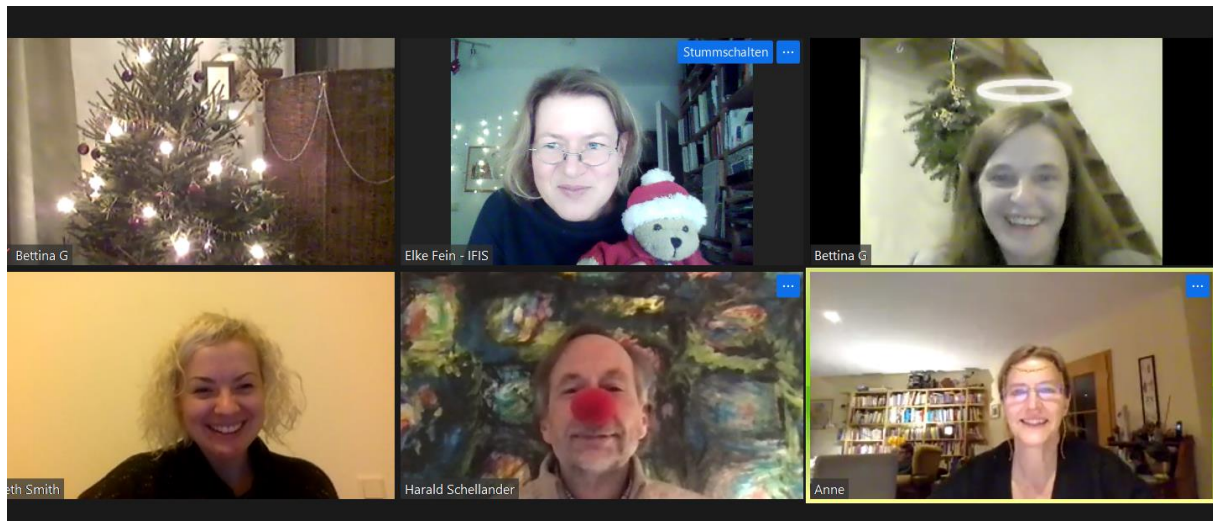
Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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LiFT Christmas Hangout

The LiFT project compensated for the impossibility of organizing a "real" Christmas party with a Zoom Call on December 18, 2020. A virtual Advent calendar with sayings and photos from the first year together contributed to a cheerful atmosphere and pre-Christmas team building.



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IFIS Online Kolloquium und Blog

In addition to our EU project, we also dedicated lot of space to our Online Colloquium over the last two years. It took place – as has become traditional – regularly once a month (with the exception of a summer break from July to September). Accordingly, there were a total of nine colloquia in each of 2019 and 2020. An overview of all previous colloquia can now be found in our colloquium archive: <https://www.ifis-freiburg.de/en/online-colloquium-archive>

A premiere was the evening with the member of our advisory board, [Prof. em. Claus Eulich \(Colloquium No 25\)](#), which – at the request of the presenter – was held in German for the first time.

Since then, we have been offering presenters the opportunity to choose the language (and thus the target group) of "their" colloquium themselves. Some German-speaking colleagues have already made use of this offer, for example

- [Daniela Borschel about Way of Council](#) (No 28),
- [Roland Jaritz about innovations of democracy in Austria](#) (No 29),
- Ilya [Alexander Yacine about innovations in the city administration of Leipzig](#) (No 30)
- [Anja Sagara Ritter and Barbara Strauch on Sociocracy in local politics](#) (No 32)
- [Dr. Bertold Ulsamer on systemic constellations in the internet](#) (No 33)
- [Carolin Klingsporn and Marie-Kathrin Siemer on Liquid Democracy](#) (No 34)
- [Gil Ducommun about the Bewegung Neue Kultur](#) (No 35) and finally
- [Bernhard Possert and Andreas Schulz \(MindOpening-Dialog\)](#), No 37).

This **linguistic diversity** is definitely an **experiment** on our part. Most of the above-mentioned speakers could have presented in English, but they preferred German. At least three could not have offered the colloquium in English in the same way. In two cases, it was discussed to offer another Colloquium on the same topic in English later on.

We are aware that we are addressing different target groups depending on the language chosen – and are therefore grateful for feedback. In the end, the topic and the respective presenter seem to be the decisive factors for the attractiveness. During the reporting period, our [Colloquium No. 27 with Prof. Karen O'Brien](#) on a quantum theoretical approach to the climate crisis (English, 40 registered participants) and [Colloquium No. 33 with Dr. Bertold Ulsamer](#) on systemic constellations (German, 47 registered participants) were particularly well attended.

For 2021, the picture again looks very well mixed – both linguistically and thematically. While we continue the **thematic focus on "integral politics"**, the colloquium is basically open to all topics, aspects and dimensions of integral research. Starting with [Online Colloquium No. 38](#) in January, we are even offering the option of **bilingualism** for the first time (main colloquium in English, small groups in both languages).

An overview of **all future colloquium dates** as well as more detailed information on the individual events can be found on our website under "[Activities](#)":

<https://www.ifis-freiburg.de/en/online-colloquium>

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Online Colloquium

View Edit Revisions Translate

Launched in November 2016, held monthly as an interactive Zoom meeting, in English or German, depending on the topic/presenter.

--> For upcoming events please scroll down.
--> For previous Colloquium events: see [Colloquium Archive](#).

Main intention and format of our Colloquium:

The online colloquium aims to connect integrally oriented and like-minded researchers and practitioners by offering them a forum to exchange experiences around innovative approaches to complex social challenges. It is designed to strengthen the dialog and connection between IFIS' members and friends, mostly spread out in different countries and even continents. We invite new colleagues to join us and be part of IFIS' community of integral research and inquiry. New presenters are always welcome.

In order to maintain a protected space, the recordings are not being published

[Terms and conditions](#)

IMPORTANT: With the migration of our website to Drupal 8, we now distinguish between upcoming and past colloquia. In addition, individual dates, topics or speakers can be researched, using the search function. This also applies to the blog posts of the respective speaker(s).

Organizational matters:

Until further notice, the colloquium will be **held on a donation basis**, with external participants invited to make a one-time donation of 10-20 Euros.

Blog

The Integral (Meta-) Studies Blog

The IFIS blog contains two kinds of entries:

- a) reflections about recent IFIS Colloquium sessions
- b) considerations about **big picture science**.

For regular guests we offer a **colloquium flat rate** (50,- Euro/year, as a donation via [Betterplace](#) or directly to our [account](#)). Alternatively, you can support us through an [associate or sponsor membership](#).

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2. Other activities and news from our members

General conferences 2019 and 2020, new board

The last two general conferences were held on Jan. 31, 2019 and on Feb. 6, 2020. In February 2020, the board of the association was reelected. After eleven years on the board, Dr. Markus Molz did not stand for re-election. Instead, [Dr. Bettina Geiken](#) took his place. Bettina joined IFIS in 2015 through the LiFT 2.0 project and is actively involved in the LiFT 3.0 *Politics* project in a coordinating role. She holds a PhD in Chemistry, is a co-founder of the Social Architects Community and has been working in EU project management for many years.



Thus, the new [IFIS board](#) now consists of a female triumvirate:

- Dr. Elke Fein
- Dr. Iris Kunze
- Dr. Bettina Geiken



We would like to express warm thanks to [Markus Molz](#) (Luxembourg) for his commitment to IFIS over the past eleven years. In particular, we wish to emphasize Markus' valuable contributions to the development of the IFIS website and to the positioning of IFIS in the international integral academic community, not least by attracting several renowned scientists as members of the IFIS Scientific Advisory Board.

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In-depth workshop on Theory U in Freiburg

In October, the in-depth [workshop by Dr. Elke Fein on Theory U](#) (actually planned for May 2019) took place at Treffpunkt Freiburg. With 15 participants, it was fully booked, just like the previous (first) training evening.

The latter had taken place at the end of 2018 as part of the [moderation training & practice group](#). Due to the very positive response of almost 30 participants (the best-attended evening of the practice group since its founding), a continuation and deepening was requested by many.

Theorie U und der U-Prozess

Einführung in die integrale Moderation

Slide from the
in-depth
workshop

Blinder Fleck:

Inkohärenz

Our [event archive](#) can also be found on our website at: <https://www.ifis-freiburg.de/en/activities/events/archive>.

Among the collaborative events that unfortunately **could not be held in 2020 due to Corona**, there were both regular ones (such as the *Days of the Future* in Arnoldstein) and (for IFIS) new collaborations, such as the planned **mini-collaboratory** by Elke Fein and Bettina Geiken at the Symposium **Heiligenfeld** and the 2-day seminar by Elke Fein on Theory U in the Jahnishausen community. Both will hopefully be made up for.

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Other activities by members 2019 / 2020 (selection)

- In March 2019 [Elke Fein](#) took part in the [Democracy Fitness Training](#) of LiFT's associate partners [We Do Democracy](#) in Copenhagen (Denmark) and was certified as a Democracy Fitness Trainer.
- Equally in March, **Markus Molz'** set up his Strategic Partnership [BLAST \(Blended Adult Learning for the Socio-ecological Transition\)](#) which received notification of funding in July. However, this was not applied for through IFIS, but through Markus' employer, [Ecolise](#). A total of ten partner organizations from seven EU countries are involved.
- In May 2019, **Elke Fein** was hired as a trainer for Theory U at the Leadership Academy ([Führungsakademie](#)) of the State of Baden-Württemberg.
- From May 31-June 3 [Denis Knubel](#) gave his already established advanced training on Spiral Dynamics and Peace Politics [Spiral Dynamics und Friedenspolitik](#) at Kientaler Hof in Wetzikon (Switzerland).



- In June 2019, the Days of the Future ([Tage der Zukunft](#)) took place for the tenth time in Arnoldstein (Austria). [Bettina Geiken](#) and [Elke Fein](#) from IFIS were again involved as project coaches.
 - In September 2019, [Elke Fein](#) and [Indra Adnan](#) represented IFIS and the new LiFT Politics project at the [Metamodern Arts Festival](#) & the [Emerge Gathering](#) in Kiev (Ukraine), including a workshop on metamodern and integral politics.
 - [Nikolaus von Stillfried](#) continues to work intensively on the topic of constellation work in the service of social transformations. He is now also teaching organizational constellations in Witten/Herdecke.
 - In October, [Elke Fein](#) attended the [Innocracy \(Innovations in Democracy\) Festival](#) in Berlin and the [TEAL Camp](#) in Bern.
 - Also in October, our Advisory Board member [Jennifer Gidley](#) was a guest on a [webinar series on Post-COVID-19 Futures](#) hosted by [Dr. Lawrence Jones, Vice President of EEI International Programs](#).
 - In November, [Elke Fein](#) participated in the congress "[Sociocracy and Politics](#)" in Salzburg as part of the action research for LiFT *Politics*.
 - In December, she was involved in the founding of the University for agile education ([Hochschule für Agile Bildung, HfAB](#)), Zurich.
 - As part of the monthly "Viernetzen" meeting at the Freiburg Haus des Engagements (on the 4th of each month), [Elke Fein](#) presented the concept of integral organization in November 2020 (online).
 - In December, board member [Iris Kunze](#) was an interview partner in a radio series on the topic of "new spiritual communities and monasteries" ("[neue spirituelle Gemeinschaften und Klöster](#)"), which is enjoying increasing interest.
 - In addition, [Iris Kunze](#) was involved in the development of a new, innovative course at the Bertha-von-Suttner Private University, St.Pölten (AT). "[Values-based economics](#) (Weltanschauliches Wirtschaften)" looks at different approaches to economics, i.e. from spiritual, public welfare and natural science perspectives. The still very young Suttner University has a novel didactic concept. Among others methods, mindfulness training will also be part of this course. The final module deals with integral perspectives on economics. The part-time master's program has been rigorously examined by the accreditation authority and has so far been rejected. The university is now offering it as a separate academic course for the time being. The modules are also offered individually as workshops.
- * [Information about the course here](#)
 * [Interview by Iris Kunze about the course here](#)



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Upgrade of IFIS' website

It has already been announced several times... in August 2020 we have finally implemented it: the revision of our website, consisting of an upgrade from Drupal 6 to Drupal 8, combined with a graphical and functional upgrade. At www.ifis-freiburg.de, as well as via www.integrale-studien.de or www.integral-studies.org you can now find our content in an updated and clearer form, bilingual and compatible with mobile devices.

For users, the new site offers several practical advantages:

- **Language selection** (German/English) via the country flag in the upper right corner. The permanent content is available in two languages; colloquia or publications in their respective language.

- **Registration for our colloquia** is now possible directly via the website, not only for the next colloquium, but for all colloquia that already appear in the calendar.
- The whole **website can be searched** for topics, keywords, names, etc. via a search function.

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Yoga auf dem Dach

A huge thank you goes to our webmaster, [Marco Bienlein](#), for his well thought-out conception, his competent implementation and his always professional support during the whole process...

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Cooperation with Allwedo: „Building bridges in times of Corona“

Together with the Freiburg Alliance for Value-Oriented Democracy ([Allianz für wertorientierte Demokratie \(Allwedo\)](#)), IFIS organized an [online dialogue process on the Corona crisis](#) on December 11, 2020, with the aim of overcoming the social rifts and discussion blockades on the topic of dealing with Corona. On the part of IFIS, Elke Fein was involved in the preparation and co-moderation of the event. Among other things, elements of the collaboratory method were incorporated, which the team around Allwedo took up positively.

With around 50 participants, we engaged in a predominantly personal exchange over a period of 3 hours, in which critical voices in particular were able to have their say. As a result, the continuation of a similar dialog format on a regular basis was suggested by all.

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New IFIS members briefly presented



Indra Adnan (London) was co-opted as an associate member in 2019 to allow her to work more intensively on the LiFT *Politics* project than would otherwise have been possible after Brexit. Indra is Co-Initiator of „[The Alternative UK](#)“ – part of a global network of political platforms originating with Alternativet in Denmark. Indra launched The Alternative UK together with author and musician Pat Kane in March 2017 with the support of Uffe Elbaek, leader of Alternativet, the fastest growing party in Denmark with 10 seats in Parliament after only five years. See also [Uffe Elbaek's report about this in IFIS' special issue](#).

Indra is concurrently a journalist (The Guardian, Huffington Post), a psychotherapist (Human Givens Institute), founder of the Soft Power Network (consulting to Finnish, Brazilian, Danish and British governments), Buddhist, Futurist, School Governor and Mother. Sie war außerdem rund zehn Jahre lang Gastgeberin des integralen Salons in London. She also hosted the integral salon in London for about ten years.

Her commitment is to grassroots politics that release the power of people and communities in ways that sustain the planet. Recent publications include: *Is The Party Over?* (2016), [New Times](#), the e-book [Soft Power Agenda](#) and, in IFIS' special issue, [The Feminization of Politics](#) (2020).

In the context of the LiFT project, Indra coordinates the English-language part of the publication "[Portraits of Pioneers](#)". As already mentioned, Harald Schellander from the Institute for Future Competencies is responsible for the German-language part of the publication.

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Dr. Katrin Muff is an old acquaintance and friend of IFIS – the first contact was through the core group of Integral Politics Switzerland 2008ff. Then she was a partner in the LiFT project with the Business School Lausanne from 2013 to 2018. She is also actively involved in the LiFT *Politics* project. Since 2019, she has been coordinating the sub-project "The Collaboratory for Governments" there – now as an associate member of IFIS.

Katrin is a leadership expert, consultant and business coach in the field of sustainability management and stakeholder engagement processes. After many years of working for international companies such as Schindler, Alcoa and P&G, she served as the Dean of [Business School Lausanne](#) (BSL) for about ten years, where she implemented numerous integral innovations, including a holacracy implementation. Today, she holds various teaching positions and is the founder and coordinator of the [Positive Impact Space](#).

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Claudia Döring is an urban sociologist and artist in Munich. She came to Integral through her participation in the Social Architects training in 2015 and has since been an active member of SoArCo (Social Architects community of practice). Claudia's private initiative "[Stuhldiesteln](#)" offers "future conversations on the Sidewalk", which she sees as a contribution to an "integral (re)appropriation" of public space. An interview on this is available as the [7th Pioneers of Politics video](#) (in German) on the [IFIS YouTube channel](#).



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3. Events and activities 2021

General assembly 2021

IFIS General Meeting No. 14 will take place in Freiburg on 18.2.2021 (hybrid or online, if applicable). All members (full, associate and sustaining members) as well as the advisory board of the institute are invited. If desired, interested parties can also be granted a visit.

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Online Colloquium schedule

In the new year, our monthly online colloquium will again offer a variety of impulses for cross-disciplinary, cross-sector and cross-field dialogue and cordially invites integrally interested theorists and practitioners.

In addition to our ongoing topic of integral politics, the main focus is on the search for an integrally informed approach to the upcoming major social transformations – which have been increasingly brought to public attention not least by the Corona crisis.

An overview of all dates can be found on our website in the section "[Activities](#)".

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LiFT 3.0 – *Politics Workshops 2021*

After the somewhat reduced public event calendar in 2020 (due to Corona), we hope to be able to physically hold the public workshops planned by the LiFT project again in 2021. The date for the "**Days of the Political Future**" has already been set: **from June 10-13, 2021**, pioneers of innovative, cooperative and integral politics from the German-speaking region will meet in Carinthia, Austria (probably in Arnoldstein).

A similar workshop with English-speaking and international pioneers is planned for late summer/fall 2021 in southern Sweden/Denmark. Further information on both dates will be published soon on the IFIS website under "[Events](#)" and on the [LiFT website](#).

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Two-day workshop on Theory U at Jahnishausen

Due to Corona, two alternative dates have been scheduled to compensate for the workshop on Theory U with Dr. Elke Fein at Lebensgemeinschaft Jahnishausen that had to be cancelled in October 2020: June 5-6 and/or September 4-5, 2021. Which one it will be is still open at this point in time.

The workshop will include a more detailed introduction to the theory behind the "U" as well as a practical application based on a current topic in order to make it possible to experience the connections between presence and communication qualities. The field qualities described by Scharmer will be experienced in practice and appropriate facilitation techniques will be practiced.

Further information will be posted asap at: <https://www.ifis-freiburg.de/en/activities/events>.

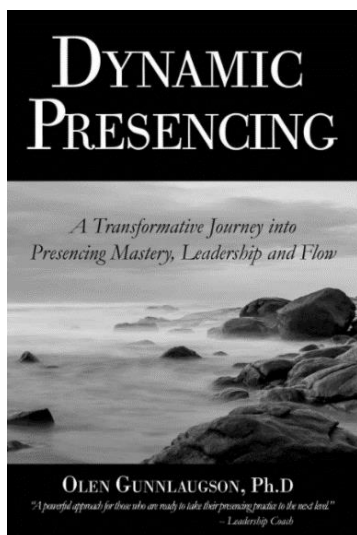
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4. Miscellaneous

This time we received three reading tips from our members:

Recommended Reading 1: [Dynamic Presencing](#) by Olen Gunnlaugson

Dynamic Presencing: A Transformative Journey into Presencing Mastery, Leadership and Flow, Vancouver: Trifoss Business Press (2020)



By Bettina Geiken & Collin Bootsveld

This book is about building skills for human thriving – it is a course in perceiving the world as it is, not as it should be.

Many may have heard the term "presencing" before, as part of Otto Scharmer's work around Theory U. In a very short time, this work has brought *presencing*, as the basis for conscious creation and co-creation, into the consciousness of hundreds of thousands of people. In fact, this ability is not a luxury for the few, it is actually vital to address the current and upcoming challenges facing humanity and to co-create a regenerative lifestyle for our planet.

For us, the phenomenon of *presencing* (short for presence + sensing) is the foundation of all consciousness practices and wisdom traditions. However, the actual individual experience of presencing often remains unclear, vague or blurred. In many wisdom traditions and lineages, it takes many years of practice to "reach" certain states of consciousness.

The most important contribution of this book is that it describes the finer details of *presencing* with great granularity, taking the reader through a relatively simple journey. It feels as if the author has been able to stop time and then highlight in slow motion five distinct phases of this process and practice.

Mental activity ceases and the inherent subtle state of perception of each individual consciousness comes to the fore. The book guides the reader to explore these perceptual states of awareness in depth, from the mundane self, to the witness who observes, to the being who connects to his or her unique self, and finally to the source of all that is.

In this sense, *Dynamic Presencing* provides the foundation for developing the skill of *presencing* until it becomes second nature. This book presents an approach to directly experiencing and perceiving what is, without first describing or categorizing how the world should be. It is an invitation to draw on the actual "data" one receives through the innate capacity of one's felt being to sense and perceive "the inner or outer world as it is." In our restless times, this can be a challenge, but the author shows a feasible way to practice and embody this.

In fact, our bodies become great allies and antennae for perceiving subtle signals from beyond the mind, an element also known as intuition or direct knowing. As the author points out, embodiment in the sense of "making it second nature" is the key to learning these skills. Compared to this, a mere "toolbox" approach to Theory U makes it difficult to tap into the "future" field or to achieve the same depth of insight, ideas, and knowledge that are possible when the practitioner masters the skill of dynamic *presencing*.

Interestingly, the presence of the author himself seems to shine through all the chapters, bringing his words to life. The more we read, the more we feel connected to the ground of being from which these words come. At the same time, the book is also characterized by academic qualities such as structure, scaffolding, and stringency.

In addition, Gunnlaugson presents a whole series of drawings that capture the essence of the different phases of *presencing* in a sober yet beautiful way. In short: a highly recommended read!

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Recommended Reading 2: [Sozial-ökologische Utopien](#), ed. by Benjamin Görgen und Björn Wendt

Recommended by Iris Kunze

"Books which the world needs are rare enough. This one is one of them: It is time to dare more utopia. After all, who actually wants to live in a society that systematically has to harm third parties in order to maintain its mode of production and consumption? Well, I certainly don't," says Stephan Lessenich.

This anthology introduces the significance of utopian thinking for socio-ecological transformation processes and provides an overview of various concrete socio-ecological utopias of the present, within or beyond the paradigm of growth and capitalism.

It includes contributions by Michael Brie, Helen Britt and Tobi Rosswog, Daniel Buschmann and Christina Plank, Rolf Cantzen, Klaus Dörre, Martin d'Idler, Felix Ekardt, Christian Felber, Daniela Gottschlich and Christine Katz, Matthias Grundmann and Steffen Andreae, Friederike Habermann, Jens Köhrsen, Lena Bloemertz, Annika Sohre and Simon Sohre, Iris Kunze, Alexander Neupert-Doppler, Matthias Schmelzer and Andrea Vetter, Bernd Sommer and Harald Welzer, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Björn Wendt and Benjamin Görgen.

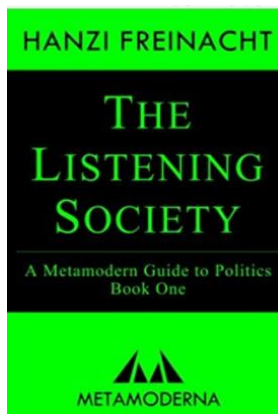


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Recommended Reading 3: The Listening Society/Nordic Ideology, by Hanzi Freinacht

By Elke Fein

Over the last 2-3 years, a lively discussion has developed around the books of the Swedish-Danish authors writing under the pseudonym *Hanzi Freinacht*, as well as a community of adherents. Under the label "[metamodernism](#)", "Hanzi" takes up aspects of the integral model and of adult development research and embeds them in a broader discussion, predominantly anchored in humanities and the social sciences.



One reason why "Hanzi" apparently decided to do without the term integral, even to caricature it at times, is the perception that the dimension of "spirituality" in the integral universe is hard to convey to people with a scientific background. That's why "Hanzi" presents his work as being scientifically based and positions his metamodernism in an academic discourse. This, however, does not prevent him from addressing mainstream post-modern thinking with bitter irony and bold mockery – a stark and deliberate contrast to the sometimes flowery and "spherical" style of, for example, Ken Wilber.

So what to make of Hanzi Freinacht's metamodernism? I published a detailed review of the first volume of the *metamodern book series*, "[The Listening Society](#)" (2017) in [Integral Review](#) in the summer of 2020. Here is the [link to the review](#).

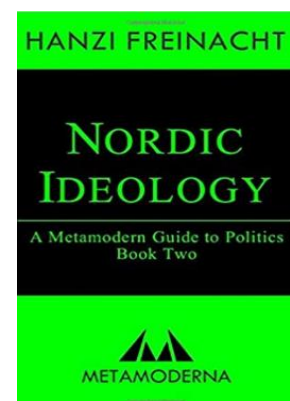
For the work on integral politics, moreover, the second volume "[Nordic Ideology](#)," published in 2019, is particularly inspiring. While "The Listening Society" is aimed more at the postmodern mainstream, "Nordic Ideology" is a book "for friends". It is therefore less polemical and more substantive and constructive.

In this volume, the two authors, alias Hanzi Freinacht, sketch out a model of six political fields or patterns, which in their view, would produce a more complex version of Montesquieu's principle of the separation of powers if they are combined with each other. Taken together, 1. democratization politics, 2. community politics, 3. existential politics, 4. emancipatory politics, 5. empirical politics, and 6. politics of theory would offer optimal synergies, which Hanzi calls "Montesquieu 2.0."

In this context, the idea of development in all quadrants, also plays a central role in the process of coming up with the aforementioned sextet (even though Hanzi seems to try to not mention Wilber's model and rather traces the quadrants back to sociological predecessors).

The title "Nordic Ideology" stems from the claim that the political culture and reality in the Nordic/Scandinavian countries is already closest to this ideal, which is why a practical implementation of metamodern politics is most likely to occur there.

A similarly detailed appreciation of the second Hanzi volume as compared to that of the first one published in *Integral Review* is beyond the scope of this newsletter. However, it feeds into the work on the basic [principles and resources of integral politics](#) that is currently done in the context of the LiFT *Politics* project.



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Call for donations and invitation to participate

Despite big projects and bold visions, IFIS is still a relatively small association, whose day-to-day operation is mainly based on voluntary work and financed by membership fees and donations. If you would like to support our work, we would therefore be very pleased.

You can support IFIS with a [donation](#) or through a variety of [membership options](#).

Bank account for donations and donations button: <https://www.ifis-freiburg.de/en/ifis/donations>

via Betterplace:

My donation (1/2)

Choose donation interval

one-time monthly yearly

Choose amount

50 €

Select payment method

Direct Debit PayPal Credit Card

Wire transfer

IFIS is a non-profit association. **Donations are fully tax deductible.** We will gladly send you a donation receipt upon request.

- If you would like to help advance the goals of IFIS yourself, whether as a researcher and/or a practitioner,
- if you are committed to a more integral way of exploring and changing the world,
- if you would like to support more comprehensive and sustainable solutions on both a large and small scale,

you can do so either as a **full member**, **associate member** or **supporting member (donor)** of IFIS. It is up to you to decide the level of your involvement. We look forward to hearing from you.

[For more information on membership types check out our website here.](#)

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In conclusion::Knowledge, wisdom and the game of life

The first teaching of wisdom is:
there is no such thing as knowledge.
There are only infinite perceptions
of the infinite divinity

Late I have learned,
that wisdom is born when logic dies.
Before this liberation, I possessed only knowledge.

True knowledge is not attained by thinking.
It is what you are; it is what you become.

What the soul sees and has experienced,
that it knows;
the rest is appearance, prejudice and opinion.

Everything perfect in word and deed
comes from the depth of eternal silence.

Sri Aurobindo

Allow yourself to be completely still and relaxed.
Let everything be as it is,
let it go, over and over again.
Don't hold on to anything –
that is the doing of being....

One World in Dialogue, 2020



Young souls play hard to get.

Mature souls, play hard.

But old souls just play...

La, la, la – The Universe

*Source: Mike Dooley:
Notes from the Universe*

With that, we wish all readers a happy, healthy, successful and inspiring 2021!

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