DISCOVERING THE FUTURE
Frescos in the baroque festive hall of the Academy.
The Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖeAW) is legally tasked with "promoting science in every way". Founded as a learned society in 1847, it presently has over 760 members and about 1,800 employees dedicated to innovative basic research, the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and knowledge transfer – with the goal of promoting scientific as well as overall social progress.

REPRESENTING SCIENCE
The members of the Academy constitute the learned society and confront important future-oriented questions in an animated cross-disciplinary exchange while offering advice to politics and society, as well as informing the public about important scientific discoveries. Its commissions are dedicated to questions of high scientific and/or social relevance.

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Ulrike Diebold
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OEAW’s learned society constitutes a forum of renowned domestic and foreign academic researchers and encompasses nearly all scientific disciplines. More than 760 members promote the advancement of science, research and society through interdisciplinary, trans-institutional and international practice.

The OEAW provides unique focal points in and for research through an interdisciplinary exchange within the learned society. Members populate new insights from science and research within society through a varied event program.

Based on its diverse competencies, OEAW’s learned society provides information on scientifically and socially relevant questions. The learned society advises decision-makers from politics and society by providing scientific statements on important matters and is thus engaged in science for policy activities.

The learned society is comprised of full members, honorary members, domestic and foreign corresponding members and members of the Young Academy. The members – with the exception of honorary members of the Academy and the members of the Young Academy – are part of the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences or the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, depending on the respective scientific discipline.

When electing members, it is ensured that these fittingly meet the high requirements of personality, scientific work and reputation in the scientific community in terms of the Academy’s tasks, and that the scientific disciplines are represented in a balanced manner.
THE COMMISSIONS

Based on the initiative of its members, the OEAW establishes commissions that consist of members of the Academy and external experts.

The tasks of the commissions include research on defined thematic areas, the establishment of new scientific fields, the coordination of scientific co-operation as well as scientific advice and knowledge transfer to the public. The commissions of the OEAW deal with topics such as climate and air quality, migration and integration, biodiversity as well as historical and cultural questions while also taking interdisciplinary aspects into account.

COMMISSIONS OF THE DIVISION OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

- Commission for Astronomy
- Commission for Geosciences
- Climate and Air Quality Commission

COMMISSIONS OF THE DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Commission for Migration and Integration Research
- Commission for the Legal History of Austria
- Schubert Research Center
- Study of Islam in Central Eurasia
- The North Atlantic Triangle: Social and Cultural Exchange between Europe, the USA and Canada
- Transformation of Empire in Ancient Afro-Eurasia
- Vanishing Languages and Cultural Heritage

COMMISSIONS OF THE ACADEMY AS A WHOLE

- Commission for Cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence
- Commission for Geographic Information Science
- Commission for Interdisciplinary Ecological Studies
- Commission for History and Philosophy of Sciences and Humanities
- Commission for Science Ethics

COMMISSIONS AT THE AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

- Austrian IIASA Committee
- Commission for the Coordination of Nuclear Fusion Research in Austria
- Austrian Fusion Programme “Fusion@ÖAW”

THE YOUNG ACADEMY

In addition to the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, the Young Academy forms the third pillar of OEAW’s learned society. Comprised of excellent junior researchers from all disciplines, the Young Academy also strengthens innovative research, optimizes research conditions and promotes young scientists.

The work of the Young Academy is performed in jour fixes, which are held on a regular basis; it hosts thematic workshops and organizes other mostly interdisciplinary events.
The OeAW operates 26 research institutes for innovative basic research; about 1,800 women and men are employed at several locations throughout Austria.

OeAW institutes cooperate nationally, EU-wide and internationally with university and non-university partners.

**AREAS OF OEAW RESEARCH**

**HUMANITIES, CULTURAL STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**
- Archaeology and classical studies
- Asian studies and social anthropology
- Digital humanities and cultural heritage
- Historical sciences
- Cultural research
- Social sciences

**MATHEMATICS, NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES**
- Life sciences
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Space research
- Materials sciences

**OTHER RESEARCH AREAS**
- Technology assessment
INSTITUTES FOR HUMANITIES,
CULTURAL STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CLASSICAL
STUDIES

AUSTRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE – OEAI

The core task of OEAI is the study of human history from the Quaternary Period to modern times, taking into account material archaeological sources and written traditions.

ASIAN STUDIES AND SOCIAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES – IIS

The research endeavors of IIS are geared towards philological-historical and cultural topics while exploring exemplary cultural processes within Asian cultures influenced by Iran.

INSTITUTE FOR THE CULTURAL
AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF
ASIA – IKGA

Culturally and geographically, the research objective of IKGA encompasses East, South and Central Asia. Its research projects include topics from the scholarly disciplines of Indology, Tibetology, Sinology, Japanology, Buddhism studies and religious studies.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL
ANTHROPOLOGY – ISA

ISA explores present and past “consensus and conflict” in Western, Central and South-Eastern Asia and the southerly Mediterranean region – primarily through ethnographic field research on site, but also by examining historical sources.

HISTORICAL SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR HABSBURG AND
BALKAN STUDIES – IHB

IHB is dedicated to the historical research of the Habsburg Monarchy, its successor states and the Balkan region. The Institute conducts original research for the purpose of investigating, securing and interpreting cultural heritage.

INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL
RESEARCH – IMAFO

IMAFo explores and evaluates medieval heritage and researches basic questions related to historical identity formation, community concepts and social integration based on examples from the Middle Ages.

CULTURAL RESEARCH

AUSTRIAN CENTRE FOR DIGITAL
HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL
HARITAGE – ACDH-CH

ACDH-CH performs basic research in the humanities. Its long-term projects aim at developing and preserving cultural heritage and research in the methodological and theoretical paradigms of digital documentation, processing, research and visualisation of the digital humanities.

INSTITUTE OF CULTURE STUDIES
AND THEATRE HISTORY – IKT

IKT explores the action mechanism of cultural systems in an interdisciplinary manner for establishing, transmitting, but also instrumentalizing collective memory and identity (in particular through narration, staging and translation).
INSTITUTES FOR MATHEMATICS, NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES

LIFE SCIENCES

CORI – CARL AND GERTY CORI INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR AND COMPUTATIONAL METABOLISM

CORI is researching metabolic processes to contribute to a deeper understanding of widespread diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

CEMM – RESEARCH CENTER FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE

CeMM is working on decoding molecular causes of illnesses with the long-term goal to contribute to a tailored preventative and predictive medicine of the future.

IMBA – INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY

IMBA performs basic research in the areas of molecular biology and biomedicine while focusing on molecular cell processes and organisms in order to decode fundamental causes of various illnesses.

GMI – GREGOR MENDEL INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR PLANT BIOLOGY

GMI is one of the few basic research institutes worldwide that deals with plant biology as an integral component of life sciences, based on the realization that plants play an important role as a model for understanding organisms.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

VIENNA INSTITUTE OF DEMOGRAPHY – VID

As part of the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, VID researches Austria’s demography, the economic impact of societal aging and comparative international demography.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN TORT LAW – ETL

Operated by the OeAW in cooperation with the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, ETL provides comparative legal research on basic issues of tort law and other law-related fields.

INSTITUTE FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY MOUNTAIN RESEARCH – IMR

IMR is committed to the exploration of the human-environmental relationship in the mountainous regions of the world while taking global change (climatic change, globalization) into account; it also conducts long-term research on monitoring and scenario development.

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL RESEARCH – ISR

ISR deals with the analysis of structures and dynamics in contemporary society within an urban and regional context and analyzes populations and societies within the framework of a natural, physically developed and social environment.

INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES – CMC

Operated by the OeAW in cooperation with University of Klagenfurt CMC explores the change in the media landscape and its impact on society and politics from an international comparative perspective. It focuses on the content and effect of media-transmitted communication as well as on the conceptualization of political order and the role of science within the public discourse.
IT explores the impact of new technologies on the environment, the economy and society. Results from its scientific work support politics, administration and the public in technological political matters.
Within the framework of its career model, OeAW’s research institutes offer varied opportunities for young researchers including a tenure-track option for junior group leaders.

The OeAW promotes talents outside of its own research institutes by awarding fellowships.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

The OeAW offers nine fellowship programs to young researchers. The fellowship programs are aimed at young researchers who want to complete their doctorate or perform a research project in Austria or abroad.

The Academy’s fellowship programs are focused on individual personal promotion – the outstanding qualification and scholarly potential of the applicant as well as the project quality are evaluated in the selection process.

The fellowship programs are financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy as well as through private sponsors and companies.

**PRAE-DOC**

OeAW’s programs DOC and DOC-team offer young doctoral candidates the possibility to focus on their dissertation and participate in research stays abroad.

Within the framework of DOC-team, doctoral candidate groups from various disciplines study complex questions and problem areas that can only be answered or resolved through inter- or transdisciplinary work.

The program Chemical Monthly Fellowships supports the completion of a doctoral thesis in chemistry.

**POST-DOC**

Post-DocTrack is a newly established program for young researchers who have completed their doctoral thesis or PhD in the humanities or social sciences. The program supports the publication of the doctoral thesis as well as the preparation of research proposals for further funding.

**PROMOTION OF WOMEN**

The goal of the program L’ORÉAL Austria is to encourage and promote the research careers of female doctoral candidates and scientists in the disciplines of medicine, natural sciences or mathematics.

**MOBILITY PROMOTION**

Most programs support longer research stays abroad as well as international cooperation; three fellowship programs specifically finance research stays in the USA, Italy and Greece.

**PRIZES**

The OeAW promotes and recognizes outstanding scholarly achievements of both younger and established researchers by offering several awards.

**STUDIENSTIFTUNG**

The Studienstiftung of the OeAW aims to support young people who want to take responsibility in various areas of society in the future. Scholars and public figures accompany and support the personal and intellectual development of particularly talented students.
FORUM FOR PUBLIC DISCOURSE

The OeAW inspires a fascination for research and knowledge acquisition through a broad spectrum of events. Besides individual public presentations by renowned speakers from Austria and abroad, discussion forums and other event formats, OeAW’s lecture series focus specifically on communicating current scientific insights in a generally comprehensible manner. The OeAW works specifically with schools in order to reach young people. Moreover, OeAW’s institutions and commissions regularly participate in large-scale public research events such as the Lange Nacht der Forschung [Long Night of Research].

Special publication series such as “Akademie im Dialog – Forschung und Gesellschaft” [Academy in dialogue – Research and Society] address socially important issues and put forth scientific perspectives and insights.

BAS:IS LIBRARY, ARCHIVE, COLLECTIONS

The publicly accessible library of the OeAW accommodates academic papers from all parts of the world, including numerous scientific rarities and unique items.

The archives have stored the files of the OeAW since its founding as well as more than 50 scientific estates. The collections include, among other things, the Woldan collection with about 11,000 historical geographica and cartographica.

PHONOGRAMMARCHIV

The Phonogrammarchiv is tasked with creating, collecting and exploring scientific audio and video recordings from all disciplines and without regional limitations. It also ensures long-term storage and the permanent availability of these recordings.

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PRESS

OeAW’s internationally oriented publishing house publishes research results from the humanities, cultural studies, social sciences and natural sciences.

The publishing house operates a digital publication portal for storing, managing, processing and distributing research results in full text (http://epub.oeaw.ac.at).
A LIVELY PLACE OF RESEARCH

The listed building complex of the Academy campus forms the historic Old Vienna University District. It was built in the 17th century together with the Jesuit Church around Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz and extended over the centuries by the New Assembly Hall, today’s main building of the OeAW, and a library building. With the completely renovated campus, the Academy has brought one of Vienna’s most traditional knowledge spaces into the 21st century – and made it accessible to science and the public.

The quarter between Postgasse and Bäckerstrasse in Vienna’s city center was revitalized by the OeAW in cooperation with the Bundesimmobilienfonds (BIG) to revive the long scientific tradition of this area. Its history dates back to the 14th century and the founding of the University of Vienna in 1365, and today the campus is once again a vibrant place for research and exchange with the public.

Since 2022, the Postal Savings Bank on Georg-Coch-Platz, one of Vienna’s best-known Art Nouveau buildings, has extended the new research mile in downtown Vienna. A showpiece is the former library of the Old University with its 240 square meter baroque ceiling fresco by Anton Hertzog. Here, on 350 square meters with an imposing gallery, thousands of books of the Academy’s library – accessible to scientists and the public alike.