List of Contributors

Annalisa De Cia is an astronomer at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) (Germany). Between 2020 and 2024 she was an assistant professor and then invited professor at the University of Geneva, leading the Interstellar One research group, funded by a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Previously, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at ESO (Germany and Chile), at the Weizmann Institute of Science (Israel), and at the University of Iceland (Iceland), where she also obtained her PhD in 2011. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Bologna (Italy) and the University of Calgary (Canada). Her scientific interests gravitate around the evolution of galaxies and the Universe, especially from a chemical perspective, using facilities such as the ESO Very Large Telescope and the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope. She has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed astronomical papers, including a first-author publication in *Nature*. She is also the principal investigator of a Large Programme for the Hubble Space Telescope, one of only a handful approved worldwide for 2024. Annalisa is also a mother of two children.

Gina Garland is head of the Soil Ecology of Agricultural Landscapes group at ETH Zürich. Her ever-expanding research interests lie at the interface between soil, microbial, and plant interactions within agroecosystems. Specifically, Gina explores how different agricultural practices impact soil health and environmental sustainability across various global contexts. An avid traveler, she has worked both practically

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and scientifically with farmers across California, New Mexico, Malawi, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, France, and Spain, and continues to learn from these priceless cultural exchanges. Her ultimate goal is to sustainably improve crop yields and global food security by harnessing natural biogeochemical processes. When she is not in the office, Gina enjoys spending time outside with her partner, two children, family and friends, and new puppy.

Sara Hellmüller is a research professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Her research focuses on peace and conflict studies, in particular United Nations (UN) peace and security engagements, mediation, peacekeeping, local and international peacebuilding (especially in Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)), knowledge production on peace, and Switzerland's peace policy. Prior to her current role, she was a senior researcher at the Center for Security Studies (CSS) at ETH Zürich, senior researcher at swisspeace, and lecturer at the University of Basel. She also held visiting positions at the University of Oxford, the University of Montreal, Columbia University, and the University of Bunia in DRC. She has (co-)led several multi-year research projects, including on belligerents' consent to UN peace missions (2025–2029), on Switzerland's first membership on the UN Security Council (2023–2025), on the impact of changing world politics on UN peace promotion (2020–2024), and on the role of norms in peace mediation (2015–2019). Sara is deeply committed to transformative science by combining in-depth empirical research with the application of her expertise in practice. She has conducted several mandates, for instance for the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs or the United Nations, in support of peace processes.

Camilla Jandus is an assistant professor and the head of the Targeting of Cytokine Secreting Lymphocyte (TCSL) group at the Department of Pathology and Immunology (PATIM) at the University of Geneva. She is also adjunct scientist at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR), Lausanne Branch. She earned her medical degree in 2003 from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bern, after a training at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. From 2004

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to 2008 she completed her MD-PhD training at the LICR in Lausanne, under the mentorship of Professor Romero. She then undertook a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Pharmacology Institute in Bern. In 2012, she was appointed associate investigator at the LICR in Lausanne, where she was promoted to Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) professor in 2019. Since 2020 she has held a tenure-track assistant professorship at PATIM in Geneva. Her primary research is on T cell- and innate lymphoid cell-mediated immune responses to human tumors, with the aim of developing strategies to enhance existing immunotherapies for patients. Recently, she has expanded her research to investigate how neural derived stimuli shape immunity, including anti-tumor immune responses. Camilla is from Bellinzona, married, and a mother of three children.

Lucia Kleint completed her PhD at ETH Zürich and then spent several years conducting research in the US. She returned to Europe with a Marie Curie Fellowship to work on the Solar Orbiter satellite, among other things. She then headed the German Solar Observatory on Tenerife and successfully led the optical redesign of the largest solar telescope in Europe. Thanks to a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation, she became an assistant professor of computer science at the University of Geneva and joined the University of Bern in July 2022 as an assistant professor and vice director of the Zimmerwald Observatory. She was able to expand her research group in 2024 with the receipt of a SERI-funded European Research Council (ERC) consolidator grant. In 2024 she was promoted to associate professor of astronomy, and since 2025 she is the director of the Zimmerwald Observatory. Lucia is interested in the physics of the Sun, astronomical instrumentation, and machine learning, and she combines these fields to study eruptions on the Sun and their effects on the Earth.

Stefanie Knopp is an epidemiologist with a primary interest in neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which mostly affect vulnerable population groups in the Global South. Her main areas of research concern the diagnosis, epidemiology, and control of parasitic worm infections

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in Sub-Saharan Africa. Assisting and leading research projects in Africa since 1999, Stefanie has vast experience working with local research and field teams, project managers, and international stakeholders and implementing large-scale projects, including multidisciplinary operational research studies and randomized clinical trials. As an implementation scientist aiming to improve interventions for the control and elimination of NTDs, she closely collaborates with local ministries of health and supports and advises NTD control programmers in the implementation of mass drug administrations, vector control, and behavior change interventions. Since 2021, Stefanie is assistant professor at the University of Basel and leads the Helminth Interventions research group at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. Together with her team, she aims to contribute evidence for innovative intervention tools and strategies that can help reduce and eliminate NTDs. The research group focuses on the application and rigorous validation of new diagnostic tools and integrated intervention strategies that can help program managers effectively gain and sustain schistosomiasis control and break transmission.

Stefanie Mahrer is assistant professor for modern history with teaching engagements at the Universities of Bern and Basel. Her research focuses on historical and cultural networks, with particular emphasis on (forced) migration, biographical studies, and the integration of micro and macro perspectives in historical analysis. She holds a PhD (2011) in Jewish studies and a *venia legendi* (2019) in general modern history (both University of Basel). She is currently serving as co-project leader for the *Modern Zug Canton History* project (2024–2032), a major initiative dedicated to researching, documenting, and publishing the history of the Canton of Zug. Her scholarship engages with the history of forced migration during the Nazi era and beyond, applying an intersectional approach to explore how gender, class, and age shape individual experiences. Additionally, she investigates the role of friendship and social networks in historical contexts. Through her interdisciplinary work, Stefanie bridges personal narratives with broader historical structures, shedding light on the complexities of migration, identity, and collective memory. Her research

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provides nuanced insights into historical processes, emphasizing how individual experiences intersect with larger socio-political transformations.

Elizabeth Mesok holds a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation at the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Basel, where she leads the Gender, War, and Security research group. A feminist theorist of war, security, and peace, Elizabeth relocated to Switzerland from the US in 2016, which led to her broadening her research interests from the US military to include the development, humanitarian, and security sectors, peace operations, and counterterrorism agendas and practice. She holds a PhD in American studies and an MA in politics from New York University and was a postdoctoral fellow in global American studies at Harvard University. Since relocating to Switzerland, she has taught at the University of Basel and the Geneva Graduate Institute, and has been invited to speak to policymakers, military personnel, and foreign diplomats across Europe on topics related to gender, peace, and security. She is completing her first book, *Gender is a Weapon: Liberalism, Feminism, and the US Military*, and lives in Basel with her husband, daughter, and cat.

Catalina Pimiento is a Colombian paleobiologist with a lifelong passion for sharks. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá before moving to Panama, where she worked as a laboratory assistant at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. From 2008 to 2015, Catalina completed a master's degree and then a PhD at the University of Florida. Her postgraduate research focused on the extinction mechanisms of Megalodon. In 2015, Catalina received a Forschungskredit postdoctoral fellowship from the University of Zürich, where she discovered a previously unknown extinction event during the Pliocene that resulted in the loss of one third of the marine megafauna. In 2017, she obtained a Humboldt fellowship to work at the Naturkunde Museum in Berlin, uncovering the evolutionary pathways to gigantism in sharks. In 2018, she was awarded a Marie Curie – COFUND fellowship to work at Swansea University, where she forecasted marine megafaunal

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extinctions during the Anthropocene and proposed a novel conservation index to safeguard their functional diversity. In 2020, Catalina received a five-year PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation to investigate the extinction mechanisms of sharks over the past 145 million years. She is currently an associate professor in conservation paleobiology at Swansea University.

Meike Ramon is a professor of applied data science at the Bern University of Applied Sciences and head of the Applied Face Cognition Lab. She is an expert panel member for Innosuisse, the Swiss Federal Innovation Agency, and a board member of the Association for Independent Research. Her research focus is on cognitive neuroscience and vision and is centered around face processing. She uses various methods and paradigms to study identity processing and develop translations into applications and policy. Meike is a member of the European Association for Biometrics (EAB), Europol Platform for Experts (EPE), and Europol Data Protection Experts Network (EDEN), and she is a node leader of the Swiss Reproducibility Network. She is an advisory board member for the multi-centric project Increasing Eyewitness Identification Accuracy in Lineups Using 3D Interactive Virtual Reality (3DIL). A longstanding scientific advisor for the Berlin Police, Meike co-developed the Berlin Test for Super-Recognizer Identification (beSure®), a bespoke tool involving authentic police material. With a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation, she founded the Applied Face Cognition Lab, which she previously led in Switzerland at the University of Lausanne and the University of Fribourg.

Macarena Toll-Riera did her PhD at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2012), which included a predoctoral stay at the University of Pennsylvania (2011). Then she did a first postdoc at the University of Oxford and a second one at the University of Zürich. In 2019 she received a PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation and started her group at ETH Zürich. In 2024 she joined the Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (IBE) in Barcelona as a "Ramón y Cajal" group leader. Her research is focused on the study of evolutionary adaptations, specifically

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the molecular mechanisms underpinning their origin as well as their evolution, using experimental and computational approaches.

Petra Vetter is a cognitive neuroscientist and currently assistant professor at the department of psychology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Originally trained as a biochemist at the University of Halle, the University of Montpellier, and the Free University of Berlin, she won competitive scholarships to specialize in cognitive neuroscience with a master's at Imperial College London and a PhD at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London. She did postdoctoral fellowships (partly with competitive grant funding) at the University of Glasgow, the University of Geneva, and New York University. She obtained her first faculty position as lecturer (assistant professor equivalent) in psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London and then moved to the University of Fribourg with a highly competitive PRIMA grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) (ERC Starting grant equivalent). Subsequently, she was also awarded a highly competitive SNSF Consolidator grant (ERC Consolidator grant equivalent), which currently funds her research group, in addition to other national and international grants. Petra's research focuses on how the human brain creates our visual and multisensory perception of the world both during intact sight and during blindness. She has a daughter and lives in Zurich.

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