Hegau Bodensee Seminar
in cooperation with the Zukunftskolleg at the University of Konstanz

University Day 2026
"Science: Knowledge production for the future"

Friday, 20 November 2026, 9:00-13:00,
Zukunftskolleg (Y building), University of Konstanz

The Zukunftskolleg is an Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at the University of Konstanz. It offers 2-year and 5-year fellowships for early career researchers (Postdocs). The Zukunftskolleg's 5i strategy fosters early independence with an international, intergenerational, intra-university and interdisciplinary angle. With its ZUKOnnect Fellowships (Zukunftskolleg Konnect Fellowships), the Zukunftskolleg supports early career researchers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, who do research that fits to one of the thirteen departments at the University of Konstanz.

1) Workshops

- ✓ 3 interdisciplinary workshops à approx.10 pupils offered by ZUKOnnect Fellows from different disciplines
- ✓ Common language: English

2) Wrap-up / Transfer

- ✓ After the workshop, the participants will receive a question / task of the Fellows which they have to prepare on sight and present to the audience.
- ✓ The Zukunftskolleg will write a report about the University Day which will also be published on the ZuKo website.
- ✓ Both the participants and the workshop organizers will receive a certificate.

Workshop 1

Ahsan Tanveer (ZUKOnnect fellow from Pakistan / Department of Biology)

“From Fish to Robots: Exploring Collective Intelligence”

About the workshop:

How do fish coordinate their movements, and what can robots teach us about animal behavior? This demonstration introduces students to research at the intersection of animal behavior, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

Using the virtual-fish setup, students will see how researchers investigate interactions between real and virtual fish to understand collective behaviour. We will also introduce the flow-tunnel setup for studying fish swimming and, finally, demonstrate small mobile robots in a motion-capture environment to illustrate how principles observed in fish schools can be translated into robotic systems.

The demonstration offers an accessible introduction to how researchers combine biology, robotics, and artificial intelligence to understand collective intelligence.

Workshop 2

Pradeepa Basnayake (ZUKOnnect Fellow from Sri Lanka / Department of Sport Science)

“Physical Activity and Health for Teenagers”

About the workshop:

Regular physical activity is essential for maintaining overall health and well-being, including concentration, sleep, and healthy development during adolescence. However, prolonged sitting and sedentary behaviour can limit opportunities for physical activity. Therefore, this workshop aims to help teenagers understand the benefits of physical activity and explore simple, enjoyable ways to incorporate movement into their daily lives.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. recognize the health outcomes of prolonged sitting and sedentary behaviour.
2. explain the benefits of physical activity for physical and mental health.
3. demonstrate simple physical activities that can be performed safely at home or in school.
4. identify practical ways to become more physically active in daily life.

Agenda:

a) Icebreaker: How active are we?

b) Short talk: Physical Activity and Health: Move more, feel better!

c) Activity: Move or sit?

d) Group work: Design an active day

e) Practical session: Simple movements for daily life

f) Q & A and closing

Preparation:

- Comfortable clothing suitable for movement/exercise
- Comfortable footwear

Workshop 3

Samwel Lwiza (ZUKOnnect Fellow from Tanzania / Department of Politics and Public Administration)

"From Classroom to Paycheck: What Does Your Starting Point Have to Do With Your Future?"

About the workshop:

What if two teenagers are equally talented, equally motivated, and willing to work just as hard, but do not have the same opportunities to go to school? Do they really have the same chance of reaching their goals?

In this interactive session, we will explore this question by looking beyond Europe at the lives and opportunities of young people in Tanzania, a very different educational and economic context. Rather than listening to a traditional lecture, participants/teenagers will become investigators and decision-makers themselves. Through questions, discussions, and real-life scenarios, they will explore the difference between **inequality of effort** and **inequality of opportunity** and discover how something as simple as access to education can influence the jobs people can access and, eventually, how much they earn. This raises another important question: **Can public policy help create more equal opportunities?** Using Tanzania as a case study, teenagers will learn about the introduction of fee-free primary and secondary education, and why the government introduced these policies. They will then become decision-makers themselves through a simple game: Given a limited budget, they will decide how they would invest it to give young people a fairer chance in life.

The session will also bring the discussion back home. What do where we are born, our family background, our school, and the opportunities around us have to do with our future? And what should a fair society guarantee before we judge people by their achievements?

The aim is for teenagers to leave with a new way of looking at inequality, not simply as a question of who is more talented or works harder, but also as a question of **who gets the opportunity to develop their potential in the first place**. The goal is to help them see a different part of the world, understand why governments invest in education, and reflect on a question that is relevant everywhere: **If we want people to succeed through their own effort, shouldn't everyone have a fair chance to get started?**