

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2022 IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Since its first annual meeting on 9 November 2009, the 20th anniversary of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall, the Falling Walls Science Summit has continuously developed into a world forum for science. Some of the most important researchers and thinkers of our time gather at Falling Walls to discuss breakthroughs with global leaders in science, business, politics, the arts and society, answering the core question of the Summit: "Which are the next walls to fall in science and society?"

As part of our Global Call for Nominations and search for the **Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year**, we invite leading actors in science and academia worldwide to nominate the latest breakthroughs and outstanding science projects in 10 different categories, Social Sciences and Humanities being one of them. In 2022, our distinguished jury for Social Sciences and Humanities, chaired by Björn Wittrock, will select 10 excellent winners in this category and award one of them with the title of 'Breakthrough of the Year in Social Sciences and Humanities'.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The institutions and functioning of human society and the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society, (e.g. politics, economics, philosophy)
In this category, we are looking for individual scientists as well as research groups of outstanding quality who:

- have made excellent, ground-breaking, recent achievements in their respective fields, nationally and internationally, and who stand out for their innovative strength;
- promise to have a significant long-term impact on the research landscape and to contribute towards solving global challenges, such as having a positive effect on nature and humanity, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;
- translate scientific topics and their complexities in a way that makes them accessible and attractive to large sections of society.

Past speakers include outstanding experts in social sciences and humanities such as Jagdish N. Bhagwati, Sarah Chayes, Angela Merkel, Saskia Sassen and Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus. Last year, the title 'Breakthrough of the Year in Social Sciences and Humanities' was awarded to Dilip Menon (University of Witwatersand), who developed a paracolonial framework that goes beyond the nation state, and that looks at the ways in which humanity's destiny is framed by shared heritages through oceanic connections. The jury concluded that his works is "encouraging genuine, attentive engagement with oceanic, non-Western forms of thinking."

You can submit a nomination or nominate yourself by visiting our [website](#).

BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR 2021 IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



DILIP MENON
Breaking the Wall to a Paracolonial
Paradigm




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FALLING WALLS SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES WINNERS 2021

CHRIS BAIL – DUKE UNIVERSITY

Breaking the Wall of Polarisation on Social Media

Chris Bail analysed polarisation on social media and proposed new apps and technologies to tamp down extremism.

SVEN BECKERT – HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Breaking the Wall to a Global History of Capitalism

Sven Beckert re-charted the global history of capitalism from an actor-centric perspective with emphasis on state and the countryside.

KORAY CALISKAN – THE NEW SCHOOL

Breaking the Wall to More Comprehensive Human Perception

Koray Caliskan analysed cryptocurrencies using big data analysis, sociological surveys and anthropological fieldwork.

ELENA ESPOSITO – BIELEFELD UNIVERSITY / UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

Breaking the Wall to Harmonious Human-Virus Co-existence

Elena Esposito explored the social consequences of giving up the principle of shared uncertainty in favour of algorithmic systems.

MICHÈLE LAMONT – HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Breaking the Wall to Universal Dignity

Michèle Lamont presented research on the concept of worthiness and its re-definition in the post-Covid New Gilded Age.

SABINA LEONELLI – UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Breaking the Wall to Understanding Data

Sabina Leonelli pioneered the epistemology of data and data science with focus on responsible use of data.

DILIP MENON – UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND

Breaking the Wall to a Paracolonial Paradigm

Dilip Menon put forward a theory of the paracolonial history view of the Global South.

NAOMI ORESKES – HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Breaking the Wall of Science Skepticism

Naomi Oreskes investigated the reasons behind science skepticism and possible remedies against it.

DAVID RAND – MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Breaking the Wall of Online Misinformation

David Rand investigated why people share misinformation to provide scalable attention-based interventions that social media platforms could implement.

BO ROTHSTEIN – UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Breaking the Wall to Effective Anti-Corruption Policy

Bo Rothstein presented a theoretical reconceptualization of corruption to motivate new anti-corruption policies.