

Press release
January 31, 2017

Christian Schwägerl is the MPIWG's new Journalist-in-Residence

The journalist and book author Christian Schwägerl is the new Journalist-in-Residence at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) in Berlin. The aim of the MPIWG's Journalist-in-Residence program is to strengthen the links between journalism and science.

Christian Schwägerl is a journalist and book author. He served as a culture and science staff correspondent for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in Berlin from 2001 to 2008 and as a political correspondent for DER SPIEGEL from 2008 to 2012 before deciding to become a freelance writer. His book "Menschenzeit" (published in German in 2010, and in a revised and updated English version in 2014 as "[The Anthropocene](#)" by Synergetic Press) helped to establish the Anthropocene Project (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, HKW). He co-directed and co-curated the "Welcome to the Anthropocene" exhibition at the Deutsches Museum in Munich. His two other books are "11 Looming Wars," on new conflict risks (2012, C. Bertelsmann Verlag, with A. Rinke) and "[The Analogue Revolution](#)" on the emergence of what he calls "technature" (Riemann, 2014). Most recently, Schwägerl co-founded [RiffReporter](#) (as in coral reef), a cooperative of Germany's leading freelance journalists in the fields of science, society, environment, and technology. This project aims to develop a shared production and publishing platform that helps freelance authors to grow bonds with paying readers around important special topics. RiffReporter seeks inspiration from the diversity and niche-richness of natural reefs and their ability to be productive in a nutrient-poor environment. During his stay at the MPIWG, Schwägerl will explore the early history of coral reef research and examine its relevance for today's "media ecosystem."

By offering this fellowship, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science aims to support high-quality journalism in the field of the history of science, to promote the public dissemination of topics in the history of science, and to further strengthen the dialog that the history of science enables among the humanities and the natural sciences. The program is designed to sustainably enhance the communication of research to the general public.

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