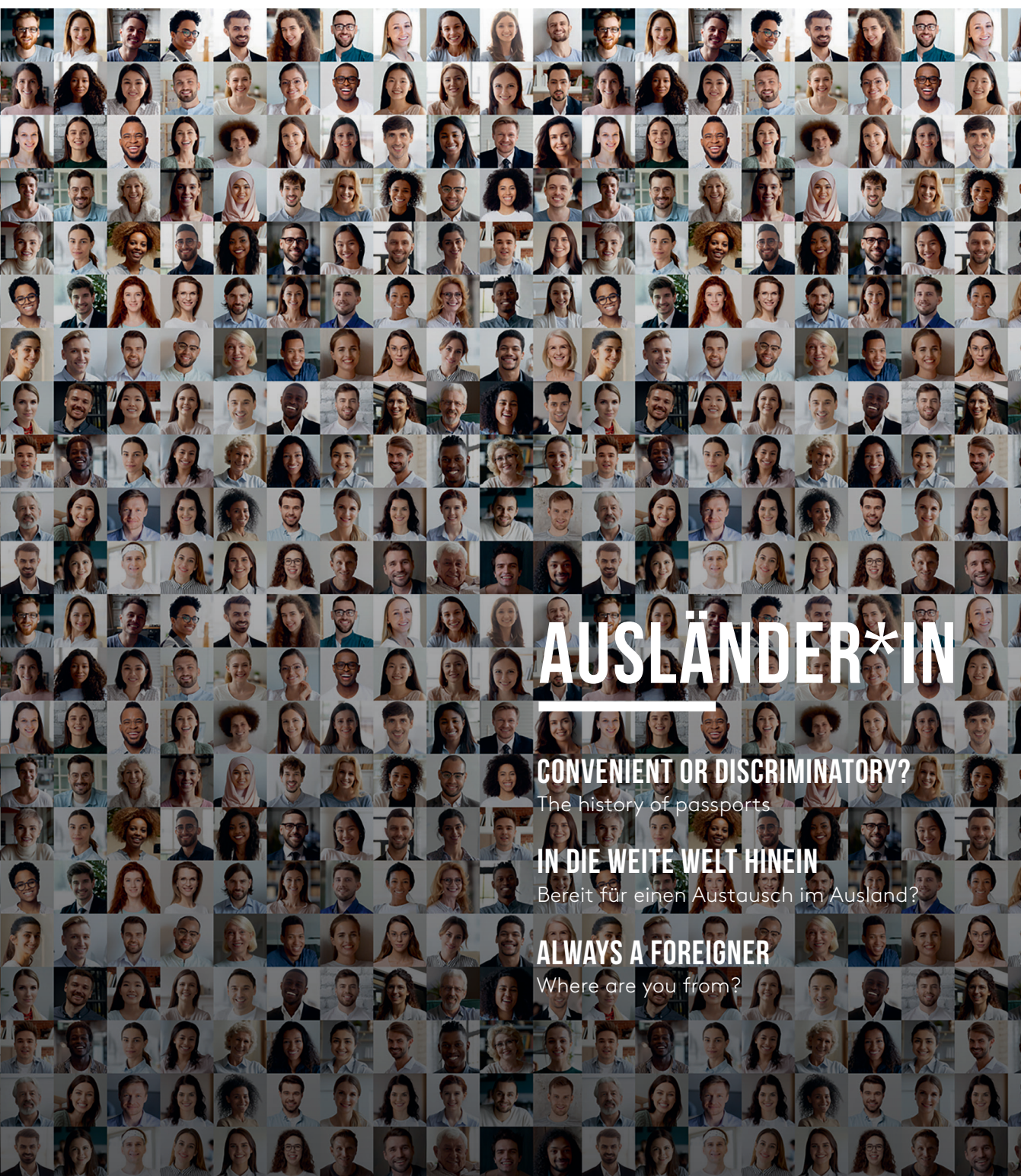


POLYKUM



AUSLÄNDER*IN

CONVENIENT OR DISCRIMINATORY?

The history of passports

IN DIE WEITE WELT HINEIN

Bereit für einen Austausch im Ausland?

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Where are you from?



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EDITORIAL

Welche Farbe hat dein Pass?

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser

Von den 24500 eingeschriebenen Studierenden an der ETH kommen etwa 10 000 nicht aus der Schweiz – sind also Ausländer*innen. Laut dem Bundesamt für Statistik leben in der Schweiz über zwei Millionen ausländische Staatsbürger*innen, was in der Politik immer wieder viel Diskussionszeit in Anspruch nimmt. Es scheint fast so, als wäre man ein anderer Mensch, nur weil der eigene Pass nicht rot ist. Vielleicht sollten wir es einmal so betrachten: Nur in einem ganz kleinen Teil der Welt – im Land, in dem man die Staatsbürgerschaft besitzt – ist man selber wörtlich genommen kein*e Ausländer*in.

Doch auch wenn man nicht aus einem anderen Land kommt, kann man sich fremd und nicht zugehörig fühlen. Was ist es, was uns zu Fremden macht? Gibt es überhaupt noch so etwas wie Ausländer*innen in unserer globalisierten Welt? Die Autor*innen dieser Ausgabe haben sich diese und weitere Fragen gestellt und betrachten das Thema aus persönlicher, historischer oder karikaturistischer Sicht. Vielleicht hilft uns ein Perspektivenwechsel, um unseren Mitmenschen gegenüber verständnisvoller zu sein – unabhängig davon, ob sie die gleiche Staatsbürgerschaft haben wie wir oder nicht.

Navya und Sabrina

Sabrina Strub und Navya Miriam Itty,
Redaktionsleitung Polykum
redaktionsleitung@polykum.ethz.ch

Das Polykum ist ein Magazin des

vseth Verband der Studierenden an der ETH

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Zum Titelbild

Es gibt viele Gründe für Migration – Hunger, Krieg, Vertreibung, wirtschaftliche Not oder auch Neugier, Freundschaft, die Liebe. Streng genommen haben fast alle Schweizer*innen einen Migrationshintergrund: Bis 1848 gab es nämlich nur kantonale Bürgerrechte. Wer von Glarus nach Zürich zog, war «Ausländer*in». Den Schweizer Pass gibt es erst seit 1915.

PRÄSIKOLUMNE

Become Active in VSETH!



Fellow students, dear readers,

In my last column, I wrote about our work during the holidays. There isn't much left of the "undisturbed time" that I mentioned back there: as the semester progresses, the days get fuller with new appointments in our inboxes, planning of events, and spontaneous gatherings and VSETH activities in our homebase – CAB. Nevertheless, we all seem to enjoy the fast-paced environment.

If you are also someone who enjoys the hustle and bustle that comes with being a VSETH board member, I have a proposition for you. But before I dive into that, let me give you some information regarding the structuring of our board: The VSETH board consists of eleven students and an executive secretary.

The students are elected by the Mitgliederrat (I will explain what that is below) for one year and the executive secretary is employed by VSETH. There are several resorts on the board. In addition to the usual presidium and treasury, which are found in most associations, we have five additional resorts:

1. Board members for the resort Internal Affairs are responsible for the coordination of student associations and the recognised organisations of VSETH.
2. In the resort University Politics, the board members participate in exchanges with different bodies at ETH and raise the students' concerns and work to resolve them.
3. The resort Communication take care of the newsletter that you receive regularly and the online presence of VSETH. They also make sure that you get an Erstibag as a new student at ETH.
4. Board members of the resort Projects realises the largest events at ETH such as the Erstsemestrigenfest.
5. The resort Infrastructure is responsible for the management of all kinds of infrastructures, such as our rooms or our IT infrastructure.

Every semester, the Mitgliederrat (MR) takes place where delegates of the student associations and committees decide on important matters of VSETH such as the previous year's financial statement as well as the election of the next board. The next MR takes place on 3 May 2023. If you are interested, contact your student association regarding the availability of places in their delegation.

Now, circling back to the proposition I mentioned in the beginning, our work is not possible without the engagement of motivated students. Are you interested in becoming active in VSETH? From simply helping out at one of our events to assuming a full-time board position for a year – we have something for everyone. Feel free to write to us at hello@vseth.ethz.ch!

We wish you the best for the Easter holidays. We hope you can take the time off and replenish your energy for the next half of the semester!

Best,
Emir

HOPO-KOLUMNE

The Importance of European Exchange

While the discussions on new European agreements stagnate in the Swiss Parliament and Federal Council, ETH and VSETH find alternative ways to exchange with our European counterparts. by Léa Le Bars

We might not be part of Horizon or Erasmus+ anymore, but ETH and VSETH still find ways to collaborate and exchange with other great universities in European countries.

Here are two of our current alternatives:

IDEA League and IDEALiStiC

The IDEA League, founded in 1999, is a strategic alliance between five European universities of science and technology – TU Delft (NL), RWTH Aachen (DE), TH Chalmers (SE), Politecnico Milano (IT) and ETH Zürich. Its purpose is to enable networking, foster innovation, and promote the joint pursuit of ambitious goals. For ETH students in particular, it facilitates access to some of Europe's best engineering and science schools with grants, summer schools, and a joint master's programme in applied geophysics.

Particularly interesting for university politics is IDEALiStiC: the union of the IDEA League Schools Student Councils. It was founded to include the students' opinions and ideas in matters of educational policy and student welfare. Representatives from every school meet once a semester to exchange and work on common problems. The last conference happened just a couple of weeks ago in Aachen (DE). The main topics discussed were 1) how to ensure quality of teaching and 2) performance pressure and mental health. The exchange resulted in concrete action plans for each university like obligatory didactic courses for new professors and lowering the hurdles for crediting extra work. We exchanged on best practices when it comes to student surveys and reflected on our ways of approaching mental health issues.

Léa Le Bars, 23,

VSETH-HoPo board member, had a lot of fun bonding with the Swedish delegation at the last IDEALiStiC in Aachen.

IDEALiStiC is a great example of European exchange and collaboration between school representatives towards common goals.

ENHANCE

Following an initiative from the EU Commission to strengthen European research networks and promote student exchanges, ETH also joined another alliance: ENHANCE. Technically, we are not full members of the alliance, as only universities from EU member states can be members and profit from EU funds. However, ETH's involvement sets a clear sign to continuously present ourselves as a European university, even after our exclusion from Horizon.

ENHANCE is still quite young and there are still many technical details to be figured out. But just as with IDEALiStiC, student involvement is key. Student representatives from all ten universities will meet in a student forum and at the general assembly. The first of these meetings are planned for later this year.



This years IDEALiStiC delegations from RWTH Aachen, TU Delft, Chalmers University, Polytechnico Milan and ETH

VSETH PIN-UP BOARD

TEXTE VON LARA HÖHN, LUCA LIETHA,
SALLY LIU, RICK RÖTHLISBERGER,
GHJULIA SIALELLI & JAN ZWAHLEN



MIRROR COP28 BY SSC

The COP28, the annual session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, will take place in November 2023. The conference will take place in the United Arab Emirates, but we are making it accessible to people here, at ETH, by organising events before, during and after it takes place. Want to participate in shaping the events that will take place? Reach out at info@ssc.ethz.ch.



VORHANG AUF FÜR EINEN GANGSTER

Tiefgründig und provokant entfaltet Bertolt Brechts «Der aufhaltsame Aufstieg des Arturo Ui» eine Geschichte über Macht, Gewalt und Korruption. In diesem Theaterstück folgen wir dem Aufstieg des Kleinganoven Arturo Ui und seinen Schergen, die dank grosser Skrupellosigkeit die Macht in Chicago übernehmen. Brecht zieht hier auffällige Parallelen zum Aufstieg Adolf Hitlers und Al Capones. Erlebt am 6., 7., 10., 13., 15. und 16. Mai Brechts «Historien-face», die durch einzigartige Verfremdungseffekte Ui's brutales Vorgehen offenlegt und ihn so dem Gelächter preisgibt. aktiv.ethz.ch





DON'T MISS OUR FREE STUDENT CONCERTS!

The Musikplattform for ETH and UZH welcomes everyone to the spring semester's edition of the Musikalischer Abend on 25 May! Students will perform various pieces on different instruments. Guests are welcome to enjoy the concert for free at UZH Aula (donations welcome).

WHEN? Thursday 25 May 2023, 19:00-22:00

WHERE? The Aula in the main building of the Universität Zürich:
KOL G 201, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Additionally, we have the following concerts coming up:

- Open Mic Night @ Loch Ness (18 April 2023)
- Battle of the Band (date tbd)
- Pop-Rock-Jazz Concert (date tbd)

For further information, check out our website:
musikplattform.ethz.ch/



TANZQUOTIENT: SPRINGBALL 2023 – GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Ready for an evening full of live music from Polyband and Macadamia as well as food, drinks and dance shows? On 29 April, the Springball will take place! Dancers of all levels are welcome. Salsa and Bachata lovers – we have an extra dance floor for you! During the day there'll be a dance tournament and crash courses to get ready for the ball. Don't miss the chance to become part of our Opening Show or register as a helper (reduced price!). Tickets and further info here: bit.ly/tq-springball2023



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People with diverse cultures, backgrounds and personalities mingle at ETH Zurich. On any given day, you are passing by many of them, without ever knowing them, or their story. For this edition of "People of ETHZ", we asked students from other countries what they thought about Switzerland before coming here and how their view of the country has changed since.

Would you like to share your thoughts in English or German on the topic "Magic/Zauber" in the next Polykum edition? Send an email to: redaktion@polykum.ethz.ch.

PEOPLE OF ETHZ

Before I came to Switzerland, I imagined it more like the countryside or smaller cities in Germany, where people are rather conservative, don't travel so much, etc. I was then surprised by the cultural diversity in Switzerland – there were about 40 people from more than 10 different countries in my master's programme, and when walking along the lake in Zurich, I often hear people talking in English. Of course, this is also an effect of Zurich and ETH in particular, but in general the cities and companies are more international than I expected, and even in the mountains almost everyone speaks English. It's probably because languages play an important role in Switzerland, and maybe people travel more because the trains are so awesome.

So, while the population is still rather conservative as I expected, I really enjoy the international vibe in Switzerland, where you always learn something new about other cultures.

NINA WIEDEMANN (GERMANY)



Alisa Miloglyadova, 22,
BSc Physics, is curious about other people's beliefs.



I barely knew anything about Switzerland back when I came here (e.g. I had no idea what official languages people speak here) therefore I got to absorb everything from scratch, which was nice! I was lucky to take great hip-hop classes by ASVZ, where I found my passion for dancing and met a bunch of good friends. It has enriched my life in Switzerland, as they didn't let this new culture-explorer feel alienation. Since then, I appreciate the quality of life and joys that Switzerland offers. Not only do I take quality lectures from university and mingle with people, but I auditioned also to join a dance crew and we've been doing performances together. We even won 2nd place in a competition last month, isn't this great? My life is full of joy. One thing I realised studying abroad in Switzerland is, wherever you are, if you find your passion, you can be there wholly. But yes, my struggles to survive the high prices of groceries and living expenses here remain unchanged.

HYEBIN LIM (SOUTH KOREA)

ETH-WELT

Before moving here, my friends jokingly called Switzerland a “food desert”. I didn’t believe them. But I have to admit that when I first arrived here, the Swiss food landscape definitely felt foreign to me. Staples such as cheese and bread were rarely a part of my Chinese-Canadian diet, and the things I wanted – such as spicy food – were rarely spicy enough to satisfy my cravings. My culture shock peaked, when the perfect storm of not knowing German, hunger, and a panicked decision led me to order a slice of Pizza Tonno from Migros. I hate tuna.

However, over the last four years, I’ve come to learn more about Swiss cuisine, and grew to not only appreciate, but look forward to dishes such as Fondue (how stereotypical!) and Vermicelles as the weather gets colder, and getting a nice “Basler Käskiechli” during fairs. This delicious culinary landscape around me isn’t so strange now... but I’m still staying far away from Pizza Tonno.

BEICHEN GAO (CANADA)

I was surprisingly unimpressed when I first came here, even though most of the normal things here should have come as a shock. Going for a walk around Käferberg at 2 am? Why not – in the worst case scenario, you get stalked by a weasel. Scanning one’s own groceries before paying in a shop? Well, sure, the cheekiest crime one would be suspected of is weighing organic lemons for the price of normal ones. The nerve!

At times I still catch myself being sarcastic about the deadly seriousness with which the Swiss argue about “first world problems”, about the self-righteousness of all-weather cyclists ranting on about cars, about my friends awkwardly admitting to having shopped not second-hand (just “happened to pass by a sale”). I know this sarcasm of mine is a sign of envy for the sense of responsibility and security one can only grow into, and that I can only pretend to have reached. One day though, this sense of overwhelming normality might just be the reason for me to move out.

As for the change of perception, the only truly dramatic shift happened about two months ago, the day I finally surrendered to wearing corrective glasses. I just stood there smiling like a weirdo, looking over at the beautiful lights on Hönigerberg and seeing all the windows distinctly, for the first time. Passers-by turned their heads too, only to be cheated into looking at the most normal sight a local could think of.

HANNA HUBARAVA (BELARUS)



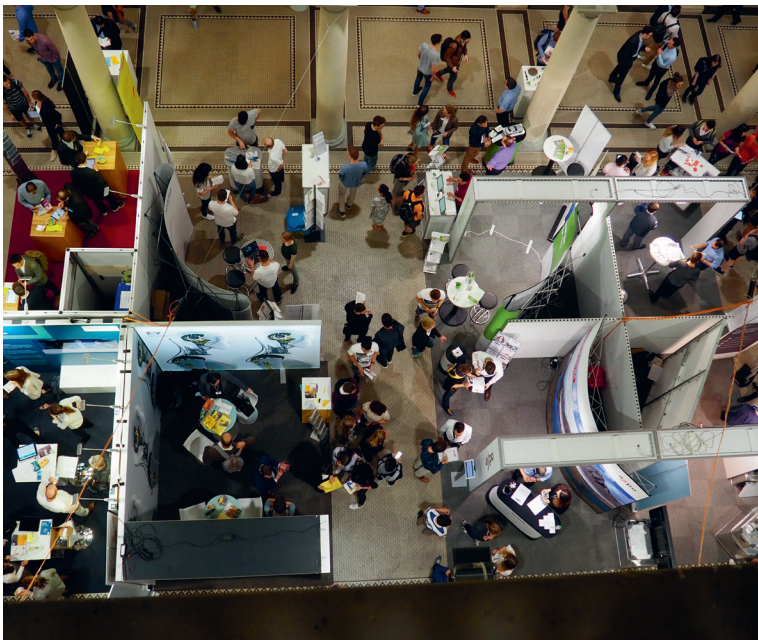
Switzerland is considered a honeymoon destination in India, and so a lot of people didn’t understand why I would come here to study. I was also warned that life here was going to be expensive. I guess that added to the confusion and many thought I probably wasn’t a good student. I came to Switzerland thinking every nook and corner would be dreamy and we would have a view of the Alps from our classroom windows. Over the years, I realised that only 99% of Switzerland is dreamy, the remaining 1% (looking at you, Olten), people are in awe of for all the wrong reasons. I did fear that not knowing the language might hinder my social life. But this was not the case. While knowing the language may have enhanced my social life and given me the confidence to participate in club activities, I still managed to make some good friends and have a fun-tastic social life. I was expecting the Swiss to be cold, but once you get past the neutral shell, they are some of the warmest souls you’ll meet. Blunt, diplomatic but still warm. And is life expensive here? Yes. After a period of internal crying everytime you go grocery shopping or pay for public transport, you get used to it and think it’s not so bad. Then you visit another European country and come back thinking “Yep, definitely an expensive place!”. Overall, one of the best places to be for mountains, lakes, world-class university education and all that cheese.

NIKITA JANAKARAJAN (INDIA)

Get Ready for Your Future

– Polymesse at ETH Zurich from 25–27 April 2023 –
Are you looking for a job after having finished your studies, a master's thesis or an internship?

by Barbara Odermatt



veth
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Polymesse is ETH's largest career fair with more than 140 companies and startups. At Polymesse you will get to know various top national and international employers from all branches. You can make contact with potential employers, expand your network and gather information on companies of interest. Polymesse addresses all students, graduates and PhD students from all fields of study at ETH Zurich. Students from other universities are also welcome.

Polymesse is organised annually by Forum&Contact, a committee of VSETH (Association of Students at ETH Zurich). The organisation committee is a team of 6–8 students, who all organise Polymesse on a voluntary basis in addition to their studies at ETH.

Information and tips for Polymesse

- We recommend you to go well prepared and with a target in mind: Who are you? What do you have to offer? What do you want to know about the companies?
- Check in advance which employers will be present and who are of particular interest to you. Some companies will also hold a lecture of 45 minutes.
- You are welcome to visit the company booths each day between 10am–4pm in the main building and on the Polyterrace at ETH Zentrum. Please note that on each day different companies are on site. There is no need to register in advance, neither for the fair nor for the lectures.

Please visit our website for more detailed information (e-paper fair guide, timetable lectures and more): [polymesse.ch](https://www.polymesse.ch)

From Near and Far: How an Event Can Shape Lives



Itzel from Mexico and Ivan from Russia both live in Zurich and share at least two things: They've participated in the International Science Olympiad, a competition for high school students, and are both involved in organising the International Chemistry Olympiad IChO 2023 in Zurich, an event that is bringing together young people from almost 90 countries and regions. *by Marco Gerber*

Itzel, Ivan, you both participated in the International Science Olympiads during your time at high school. Tell us more about your experiences.

Ivan: I've had a great time participating in two International Biology Olympiads in Taiwan and Singapore. Being part of this international community, meeting students from all over the world and also the local team guides (every participating delegation gets a team guide, usually a local volunteer from the host university) – that was great. I am still in touch with many of them.

Itzel: I've participated twice in the Chemistry Olympiad on a national level in Mexico. In 2008, I qualified for the Mexican delegations which allowed me to participate at the IChO in Hungary, as well as the Ibero-American Chemistry Olympiad (OIAQ) in Costa Rica. I also volunteered as a guide when the OIAQ was held in Mexico and mentored the Mexican teams thereafter. At the Olympiads I've made a lot of friends from near and far. I am still in contact with my Hungarian guide from back then (*laughs*). Also, the IChO definitively helped to shape my career. So, I was very happy when I heard that the IChO 2023 will be held here in Zurich.

How did the Olympiad shape your career exactly?

Itzel: Back then, I knew I was good in science but I did not know exactly what to study. However, the people I met during the Olympiad helped me decide to move from my hometown in Veracruz to Mexico City for my studies in chemistry.

Ivan: My participation has certainly led me to my current job here at ETH Zurich. This is now the fourth International Olympiad that I have helped organise. I was also a trainer of national teams for a while. And certainly, participating in the Olympiads has strengthened my will to pursue an academic career.

You mentioned the many international contacts you've established. How did they influence your lives?

Ivan: I was very excited about the network I built with people from all around the globe. It was the time when



ITZEL

CONDADO-MORALES

Originally from Mexico, she studied Chemistry at UNAM in Mexico City, and received a PhD in Chemistry from the Cambridge University (UK). After that, she did a Postdoc at University Hospital of Zurich and at D-CHAB of ETH Zurich. Since January, Itzel works as a scientist at Numab, a pharma company in Zurich, developing antibodies against cancer.



IVAN ISTOMIN

Originally from Russia, he studied Biophysics, and received a PhD in Biotechnology and Bioengineering from EPFL and is now working at ETH Zurich to organise the International Chemistry Olympiad IChO 2023. Among other tasks, he is responsible for the 200 volunteers that are needed for this international event.

Facebook became a big thing, which made connecting and maintaining contact very easy. It truly feels like a big family; wherever I am, there are always people I can reach out to. With many of my friends from the Olympiads, I also organised meetings and trips together; even the godfather of my daughter is an Olympiad alumnus (*laughs*).

Itzel: I am still in contact with the girl I shared the room during the Olympiad in Hungary. She is from Brazil and later in life went to study at MIT in Boston. It was actually her, who brought up the idea that I could also go abroad for studying, which was something I had never considered before.

Itzel, you registered as a team guide for the IChO 2023. What are your expectations?

Itzel: I expect it to be a very diverting experience. I will get to know young people and hear about their ideas for their future... We will also be able to exchange our experiences at the Olympiads. Back in 2008, when I was participating, we had such a friendly guide. Volunteering and serving as a guide myself now, gives me the opportunity to return that nice experience.

I have been living for three years in Switzerland, and I got married to a Swiss. I feel like Switzerland is my second home now, and I really like this country. So, I hope that I can also show the IChO participants what I like about Switzerland and where they could potentially study in the future. I believe that the science in Switzerland is amazing and that also the quality of life is great, such as all the beautiful nature that Switzerland offers, like the mountains, which invite you to go hiking and skiing. As a Mexican with no snow experience in the past, skiing has become my favourite hobby in winter (*laughs*).

Ivan: For me, it's also about giving back. I am very passionate about teaching and pedagogy. Many societies like the Swiss invest a lot into helping students with weaknesses or learning issues. But there is still a shortage of schools that offer enough of a challenge for kids who are very interested in the sciences and whose



Itzel and Ivan support both as volunteers at the International Chemistry Olympiad 2023 in Switzerland.

talents go beyond of what is being taught at school. The Olympiads help to close that gap, which gives me the motivation to support them.

What would you tell other potential volunteers? Why should they register?

Itzel: (*laughs*) I've already convinced my husband to join. You get to know a lot of different people with many different backgrounds. I told him it's a bit like the Quidditch World Cup in Harry Potter, where teams from many places come together.

Ivan: What I often tell people is that in those ten days you will also see many different places in Switzerland, that you have maybe never heard of or visited before: research institutes, companies and of course several touristic highlights.

And finally: What do you wish the 350 young participants of IChO 2023?

Itzel: Believe in yourselves! It's already great that you are among the selection of your country. If I could go

back in time, I would tell my younger self to really enjoy this event. Do not just try and be good in the exams, but also take the opportunity to get to know as many people as possible. From personal experience I can say that back then, I think I was too focused on winning a medal. I wish I had enjoyed the event more.

Ivan: What Itzel said also resonates with me. I hope that the students will really use this occasion to connect with each other and to stay in

touch after the event. One of our main themes of the IChO 2023 is "Togetherness". And this is what remains after such an event. As a community, we can achieve so much more together than we can achieve alone.

Interview and text by Marco Gerber, Head of the Organising Committee of IChO 2023

International Chemistry Olympiad IChO 2023

The International Chemistry Olympiad will be hosted in Switzerland for the first time ever. Between 16 and 25 July 2023, around 350 young talents from almost 90 countries and regions will meet in Zurich. They will prove their chemistry skills on a paper exam and in the laboratory, connect with people from all around the globe, and get to know Switzerland as their host country. In addition to ETH Zurich and the associated D-CHAB, the organisers also include the Swiss Chemistry Olympiad, the Swiss Science Olympiad and the Swiss Chemical Society.

Meet People from around the Globe. Be a Volunteer!

Do you want to be part of IChO 2023 and participate in some interesting activities around the event? Feel free to join us and register your interest at icho2023.ch/volunteers.

Job Hunting for Students 101

Searching for jobs is a tedious process for everyone, even more so if you are a graduate fresh out of university and going into the “real world”. The Career Center at ETH aims to ease this transition. Lorena Coletti, career advisor, gives a peek into the do’s, the don’ts, and the must-knows of job hunting in Switzerland.

by *ETH Career Center*

Lorena, as a career advisor at ETH Career Center you counsel students, PhD’s and postdocs from diverse countries. What is the most common question you’re asked?

I think the most common question is: “Can you check my CV?”. Our CV checks are always fully booked due to the high demand for professional feedback. For foreigners, there are some special aspects to consider: It’s crucial to include personal data like full contact information (phone number, address, etc.), date of birth, and nationality. Also, it’s common to include a photo. If your CV is the only one without one, it might get lost in the shuffle. A cover letter is not always required. In recent years, the demand for them has decreased. If in doubt, opt for one. It’s an opportunity to make a personal connection with the employer and to stand out from others. Use it to explain how your goals and aspirations align with theirs. Check out our *ETH Application Guide* for more detailed information about application documents.

Talking about application documents. What is this so-called “Arbeitszeugnis” in Switzerland?

The “Arbeitszeugnis”, also called “work certificate” or “reference letter”, is a formal document issued by an employer. Employees are legally entitled to get this document if they have worked for a company for more than three months. It must include the following: start and end date of the job, the role and



LORENA COLETTI

is a career advisor at the ETH Career Center with a combined background in business and psychology. In the last 15 years she has worked in various roles such as client services, project and event management, talent acquisition and academic research. Thanks to her experience in different companies – from start-ups, mid-sized and international corporate companies to university settings – she has a broad knowledge of the Swiss job market. She loves to share her knowledge to support people to evolve in their careers and professional life.

For more information about your application and career planning, check out our website: ethz.ch/students/en/careers/Startseite_CareerCenter.html

activities carried out, an assessment of the quality of the employee’s work and behaviour, and the reason why it has been issued (termination, change of boss, etc.). The most important part of it is the evaluation of the employee’s performance and conduct during the employment. The document should not contain any unclear or coded language.

How important is it to speak German when working in Switzerland?

This depends on the type of job, location, industry, etc. The language(s) spoken in the workplace depends on the region and the company. Some places require fluency in German while others may prioritise English to communicate effectively with colleagues and clients. Speaking the local language can help you better integrate into the culture and society in which you’re living, which can be beneficial personally and professionally. The same applies to the French- and Italian-speaking parts of Switzerland.

There is another important topic when working in Switzerland. As in every country around the world, people cannot just come to Switzerland and work. How does this work?

This is indeed a vast and also delicate topic, especially for non-EU/EFTA citizens. Citizens from EU/EFTA countries must register and apply for a residence permit if they want to stay and work in Switzerland for more than three months. Non-EU/EFTA nationals

need a relevant work permit even for short-term employment. It is up to the future employer to take the necessary steps to obtain a work permit.

As the Career Center is not specialised in law and regulation related topics, we regularly invite specialists to share their knowledge at the “Working in Switzerland” event. We also recommend that third-country nationals reaching out to the local legal authorities or companies specialised in this topic (e.g. a-link, smartpermit, swisspermitsolutions, sigtax, etc.).

Switzerland has one of the highest average salaries, which is certainly a good reason for foreign graduates to stay here and look for a job. What do they have to look out for when it comes to salary?

Salary is often a taboo topic as many people are uncomfortable talking about it. We recommend to wait for the employer to initiate salary discussions, but if they haven't done so by the end of a second interview, you should bring it up. Know your worth and have a

salary range in mind. Do your research using salary calculators, employer rating platforms, and professional associations. Also consider how well your profile fits the position. The salary being negotiated is always the gross salary from which social security and other costs may be deducted. In Switzerland companies commonly pay a 13th month of salary instead of the standard 12 months. To avoid confusion, we recommended to talk about the yearly salary. Look at the entire compensation package (bonus, extra pension, fringe benefits, working hours and vacation days). Also, be aware of regional differences in salary and cost of living. What counts at the end of the day is what you have left to spend after your essential costs.

What about the culture? The Swiss are known to value responsibility, punctuality, detail orientation and hard work. How should people behave when they start a job?

There are some things that are common to the Swiss work culture espe-

cially when it comes to punctuality but also discretion and confidentiality. But having worked in different companies, from start-ups to big corporates in various industries, I've encountered very different cultures. What I recommend is a bit of caution at the beginning. Try to ask questions, observe well and get a feel for how the culture works in your new environment, what the unwritten rules are, and then adapt accordingly.

What is your final advice for those wanting to enter the Swiss job market as a foreign student?

Networking is key. Many jobs are traded on the hidden job market. Employers often look for talents internally. Contacts with existing staff are important and networking via social media or employer branding events like job fairs are also widely used. Just applying to job ads might not be enough. If you get the chance to present yourself and make a good impression, it's more likely that people are open to discuss your profile even if you don't speak German or need a work permit.

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In die weite Welt hinein

Soll man es tun oder nicht? Ins Ausland gehen und für eine Zeit alles hier zurücklassen? Die Möglichkeiten haben sich in den letzten Jahren enorm vervielfältigt und die meisten Studierenden denken zumindest einmal darüber nach, ein Semester im Ausland zu verbringen. Schlussendlich gibt es viele Gründe für oder gegen einen Austausch. Unsere Autorin beschäftigt sich damit, wie man besonders leicht in einem fremden Land ankommen kann.

von Nicole Frischknecht

Mehr als ein Drittel der Studierenden an der ETH kommen aus dem Ausland und immer mehr Schweizer*innen entscheiden sich dafür, ein Semester im Ausland zu verbringen, wenn nicht sogar den ganzen Abschluss an einer ausländischen Universität zu absolvieren. Diese Austausche wurden erst durch Innovationen wie dem Fliegen ermöglicht, aber um einen Austausch in vollen Zügen geniessen zu können, braucht es mehr als nur die physische Anwesenheit. Die Globalisierung, die in den letzten Jahrzehnten ein stärkeres Ausmass angenommen hat, hat das Erlebnis des Studierens im Ausland stark geprägt.

Die Sprache, die alles ermöglicht

Was wohl das Leben in einem anderen Land am meisten vereinfacht, sind unsere fortgeschrittenen Sprachkenntnisse. Englisch wird immer wichtiger in der heutigen, modernen Gesellschaft. Die Sprache ermöglicht das Kommunizieren mit Leuten aus der ganzen Welt. Posts auf Social Media, die international Menschen erreichen, sind in Englisch. Viele Jugendliche lernen die universelle Sprache über die Medien als Ergänzung zur Schule. Kein Wunder, dass es auch immer mehr Anglizismen in unserer deutschen Sprache gibt, und noch mehr in der Umgangssprache. Englisch hat die Globalisierung sehr erleichtert: Es ist viel einfacher, mit Personen am anderen Ende der Welt zu verhandeln, wenn man miteinander kommunizieren kann. Englisch ermöglicht auch,

dass ausländische Studierende an der ETH studieren können. Viele Kurse sind auf Englisch gehalten, so dass sie nicht nur für die deutschsprachigen Studierenden geeignet sind. (Kleiner Insider: auch die Polykum Redaktionsitzungen finden immer auf Englisch statt.) Auch wenn man selbst einen Austausch im Ausland machen will, kann man sich fast darauf verlassen, dass man sich mit dieser Sprache verständigen kann – was schon einmal eine wichtige Rolle spielt bei der Entscheidungsfindung.

Der Einfluss von Social Media

Durch Social Media werden Menschen überall auf der Welt miteinander vernetzt. Durch das Teilen von Lebensausschnitten können aber auch falsche Vorstellungen entstehen, wie das Leben von anderen Personen aussieht. Durch diese Vergleiche kann man mit dem eigenen Leben unzufrieden werden und die Lebensfreude verlieren. Instagram und Co. haben ein gewaltiges Potential, sich negativ auf die mentale Gesundheit ihrer Nutzer*innen auszuwirken. Aber man darf die sozialen Medien nicht nur negativ sehen, sie eröffnen auch viele neue Möglichkeiten: Einerseits können Reisende mit ihrer Familie und ihren Freund*innen aus der Heimat in Kontakt bleiben und andererseits Freundschaften in der neuen Region finden. Es ist einfach für Austauschstudierende, über Instagram-Seiten, die zwar nicht offiziell mit der ETH verbunden sind, Menschen, die an der ETH studieren, wiederzufinden oder anzusprechen. Jemand aus Deutschland, der sich überlegt hat, an die ETH zu kommen, hat mich mal angeschrieben und gefragt, wie das Studieren hier so ist. Ich habe ihm gerne Auskunft gegeben

Nicole Frischknecht, 19,
studiert Gesundheitswissenschaften und Technologie und zieht gerade einen Austausch in Italien in Erwägung.



Eine Kultur muss nicht an ein Land gebunden sein.

und werde wahrscheinlich das Gleiche tun wie er, wenn ich mal in einer ähnlichen Situation bin.

Die sozialen Medien stellen auch eine grosse Informationsquelle dar. Auch wenn jede*r eine eigene «For-You-Page» hat, gibt es gewisse Informationen, die fast alle Nutzer*innen erreichen. Es gibt Trends, die viele beeinflussen – egal, ob es um Mode, Netflix-Serien oder Challenges geht. Diese Infos gehen um die ganze Welt; auch wenn man sich in einem fremden Land befindet, wird man sicher jemanden finden, der dieselben Trends mitbekommen hat. So wird man Gemeinsamkeiten mit Leuten aus anderen Ländern entdecken, die den gleichen Content gesehen haben.

Das Studierendenleben

Aber nicht nur wegen Trends und sozialer Medien wird man gut Bekanntschaften schliessen können. Es gibt viele Arten, Sport zu treiben, und man wird auch im Ausland sicher einen Verein finden, um sein Hobby weiterführen zu können, und Menschen, die die gleiche Leidenschaft teilen, kennenlernen. Auch über akademische Sportangebote, wie unser beliebtes ASVZ, kann man super Leute treffen. Die Vielfalt der Sportangebote hat in den letzten Jahren enorm zugenommen, was mehr Personen die Möglichkeit gibt, mitzumachen. Dazu kommen die verschiedenen Anlässe der Studierendenvereine, die ebenfalls viele Chancen eröffnen, neue Freundschaften zu schliessen.

Die schöne Vielfalt unserer Welt

Immer stärker wird der ganze Globus miteinander vernetzt. Es gibt in vielen Grossstädten eine Chinatown – ein Stadtviertel gegründet von Chines*innen, die in ein fremdes Land ausgewan-

dert sind und einen Teil ihrer Kultur mitgebracht haben. Man sieht Werbung für Schweizer Uhren auf dem Times Square in New York. Man kann in praktisch jedem Land in einem McDonalds essen. Die Globalisierung nimmt einen immer grösseren Teil unseres Lebens ein und eröffnet immer wieder neue Möglichkeiten. Natürlich wollen Reisende den Teil ihrer ausgewählten Destination sehen, den es nicht in jeder anderen Stadt gibt. Aber gerade, wenn man sich in einem Austausch befindet, geben einem solche kulturellen Durchmischungen ein Gefühl der Verbundenheit mit der Welt. Diese Vernetzung macht es heute einfacher, in fremden Ländern die Heimat etwas weniger zu vermissen.

Ein Blick in die Zukunft

Der Trend von Studierenden aus dem Ausland ist in den letzten Jahren gestiegen und wird wahrscheinlich nicht so schnell abflachen. Wieso auch, wenn man diese grossartige Möglichkeit hat? Es wird in Zukunft auch immer leichter und müheloser werden. Durch das Fliegen wird das Reisen bereits jetzt stark vereinfacht, aber das wird nicht immer die verbreitetste Transportmöglichkeit sein. Die Zukunft wird sicherlich neue Innovationen mit sich bringen. Englisch ist so wichtig geworden, dass unsere Kinder vielleicht mal zweisprachig aufwachsen werden. Durch die vielen Vernetzungen lernen wir heute unterschiedliche Kulturen viel früher und besser kennen und sind so offener ihnen gegenüber geworden. Wenn man die Möglichkeit hat, ein anderes Land mehrere Monate lang kennenzulernen, sollte man sie nutzen. Man wird Erfahrungen sammeln, die man nie wieder vergisst. Deswegen ist die heutige Zeit definitiv die richtige, um einen Austausch zu wagen.

Always a Foreigner

“Who am I?” How you answer this question depends, at least in part, on the culture you were born into. But what happens if you are born into multiple cultures? Our author shares her deeply personal story of the conflicts arising from her Chinese and Swiss roots. by Anja Wullschleger

Nationality, ethnicity, and cultural background are all considered key traits when it comes to our identity as people. Whether you are proud of your heritage, consider yourself as part of a group, or are passionate when rooting for national sports teams, how you self-identify can dictate your actions and how you relate to others. What would happen if these traits were “exotic”, controversial, or outright contradictory?

Half Chinese, half Swiss

My mother is a native Chinese, while my father is a native Swiss. After having met at work in Switzerland, they married and had me, a mixed-race baby. Growing up at home, I had a really rich cultural experience, whether it was the food I ate, the contrasting parenting styles or the multiple languages I speak to this day. I didn't notice anything different about it, why would I?

To me, I was completely normal. It was only when I started school that I struggled. There was a language barrier, and I was rather shy. Socially isolated, I was eventually bullied for several years for reasons ranging from being a quiet nerd all the way to being a foreigner. I was asked questions and told things such as “Do you abuse dogs?” or “I'm telling others to not invite you over, because you'll be cruel to their cat and see it as food”, to being chased around during breaks, being hit, expected to fight back using kung-fu, or being yelled at with nonsense passed off as Chinese. Now, I don't think many of my bullies still behave the same. They were kids whose home environment didn't teach them to be respectful of other cultures, and in the remote region where I lived, Asian representation was a dime a dozen.

Where are you from?

Despite being half Swiss, living here my whole life has shown me that the trait different from the norm is always the highlight of who

you are to strangers. Being mixed, many struggle to know my exact ethnicity, yet still make remarks about the differences they notice in me eventually. Guessing where I'm from has started to feel like a party trick. Part of me is coping with it, yet I feel a deep sense of loneliness. My differences are worn on my skin, my face, my eyes, in what I eat, think and speak. Being proud of my heritage has become increasingly difficult through bullying, loneliness, and political tensions between China and the West. The separation of culture, nationality and politics is difficult for most to grasp, and it's only harder being a mix of two opposite ends of the spectrum.

A culture tug of war

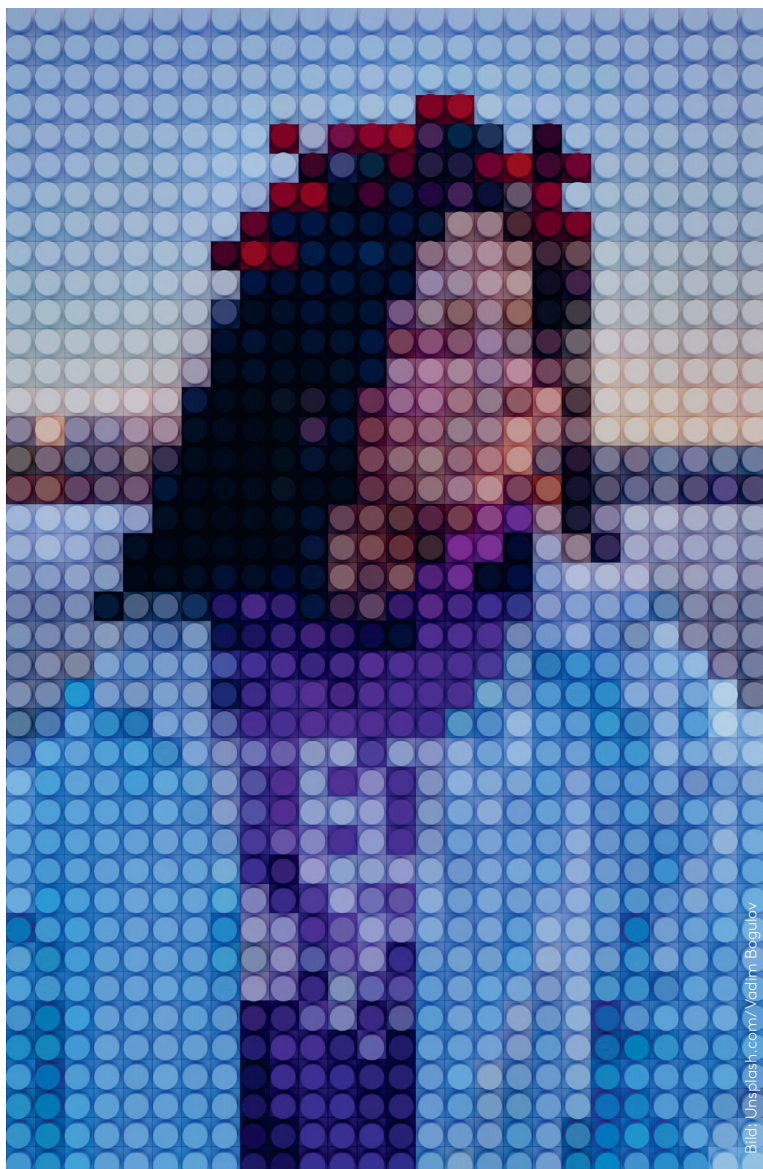
On top of all of that, I face constant pressure from both sides of my family. A father who has racist, conservative, capitalistic, and homophobic ideas, and an anti-communist, yet deeply superstitious, traditional, group and cultural taboo focused mother have left me torn. I know the beauties and downfalls of each side. I know very clearly who my parents are, and so do they, yet neither side has a grasp on who I am. At home, either parent spends significant amounts of time scrutinising my every thought, my preferences, and choices. Small acts are immediately taken as a sign I am more of one than the other. I am the rope in a cultural tug of war, and it's been tearing me apart.

Always a foreigner

Do I feel more at home in China? Absolutely not. As a kid, visiting China felt like a circus show. On the streets, strangers would insist on taking pictures with me, grasp at me, ask me personal details including where I'm from. To people in China, I am a mixed child who's not one of them. My eyes, nose, height, and build are highlights by which they identify and isolate me from them. My ethnic background, ideologies and preferences are a bigger topic of conversation than anything else at family gatherings, overshadowing me as a person, a dehumanising experience. Meeting Chinese students at ETH,

Anja Wullschleger, 21,

Biology BSc, currently writing and participating in student organisations like MeWell or small hobby groups like ETH anime.



The horned man

In short, a horned mythical man from an island moves across the ocean to a land full of opportunities where he becomes the housekeeper for an old god. He is paid well, treated fairly, supporting his family back home, yet a lingering sense of unease plagues his every day. In the god's home, he is isolated from his culture of origin, and he matches his employer's tastes and habits to better fit into the role expected of him. When running errands, the locals can't help but stare at the horn on his forehead, blue skin and yellow eyes with comments ranging from curious questions to rare bothersome assumptions that he's an invasive demon. "I'm treated well, but why does it hurt?" One day the housekeeper visits home. Surely, he'll feel comfortable back with his people. Recognising every street, neighbour, and friend, they comment on his posture and new language quirks. When home at last, he shares what he learned and his father comments that he has to relearn who his son is, who seems like a total stranger and nothing like the young man who sailed off years ago. This comment is not too dissimilar from ones I've received from my closest family members after entering ETH. The horned man is distraught by the sudden distance between him and a family member he was very close with. His homeland doesn't recognise his soul and his new land doesn't recognise his body. Saddened, he stayed quiet on his way back to his job, catering to the old god's dinner party with other deities. Perceiving his sadness, most hesitate to comment until one of them asks him what is bothering him. After hearing his story, each give their words of wisdom.

Words of wisdom

"Differences are neither negative nor positive, isolating or inclusive, they are only so when others or you yourself place them on these spectrums. Being a person with rare experiences can mean isolation, but it can also be an opportunity to realise that we all have the freedom over our identity. You don't have to be a foreigner when home is in your heart. Of course, the pieces of your puzzle won't fit in either land's set, you have to create and find comfort in your very own. Two whole nations versus you, which one is greater is on you. Focus on your own happiness, chase vast concepts or be an ever-changing unique mix that is a person."

Comforted and enlightened, the housekeeper thanked them, joined social circles with other rare fantastical creatures, shared his culture's food and stories to the delight of his curious employer and through his unique expression of his identity was no longer a strange foreign demon, but an optimistic, open-minded and resilient one.

Identities are a complex amalgamation of individual characteristics, historical factors, and socio-political contexts. For marginalised and underrepresented groups navigating in spaces where they are constantly "othered", this activation of identity is an everyday process. For those of us who don't feel this dissonance, it is important to remember: there is privilege in not having to identify.

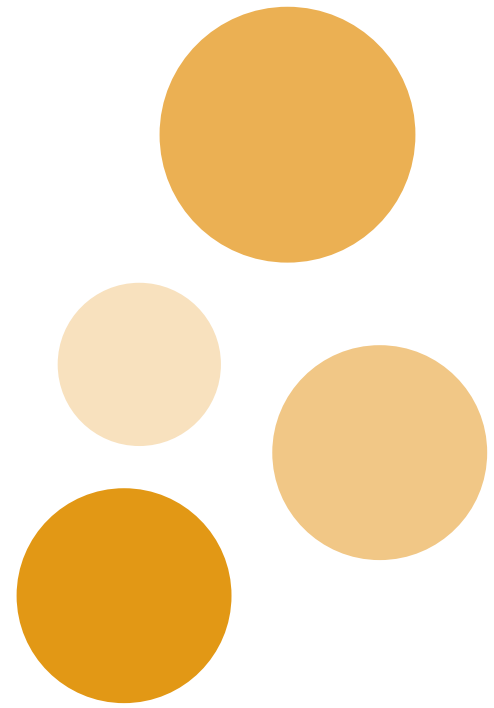
many don't realise I speak the same language. When I reveal my neutral accent, many gawk and I always get the influx of personal questions about it. They are sweet people, just that, like my Chinese family, their group-oriented culture can come off as invasive to Westerners.

My whole life, I'm reminded that being mixed race and multicultural, I have no homeland or people I belong to. I will always be a foreigner. To cope and express my feelings of alienation, I draw and write. In a mental health and traditional folklore focused novel I'm writing, an original character details my experiences with identity and helped capture what's happened, reflect, and come to a conclusion.

Die unge- schminkte Wahrheit über Sternzeichen –

Folge II

Bekannt für seine knallharte investigative Recherche will das Polykum-Team euch nun die einzig unbeschönigte Wahrheit über die Menschheit enthüllen. Mit einem Horoskop, das sich gewaschen hat. Danach werdet ihr eure Mitmenschen mit ganz anderen Augen sehen und ihr Verhalten komplett durchschauen – viel Spass! *von Julia Kamml*



WASSERMANN
21.1. – 19.2.

Der Wassermann würde gerne mit dem Kopf durch die Wand gehen – das kann weh tun. Er ist rebellisch und eigenwillig und hat nahezu pathologische Bindungsängste. Langeweile ist eine Qual für ihn, lieber hat er zehn Projekte gleichzeitig laufen. Sollte ihm etwas zu lange dauern, mutiert der Wassermann zur kleinen Zicke: Er kann äusserst distanziert reagieren, wenn etwas nicht nach seinem momentanen Geschmack läuft, der sich jedoch sehr schnell ändert. Ein Individualist und nichts für schwache Nerven.

Leicht zu identifizieren an:

Seinem genervten oder abschätzigen Blick auf all die langweiligen Durchschnittsmenschen.

Mögliche Todesursache:

Zu stark mit dem Kopf gegen die Wand gerannt.

Julia Kamml, 32,
«gläubige» Katholikin, praktizierende Atheistin
und «ausgebildete» Astrologin
... die Sterne liegen ihr zu Füßen ...

WIDDER

21.3. – 20.4.



Die grösste Angst des Widders ist, dass ihm langweilig werden könnte. Rastlos treibt es ihn in die Welt hinaus. Er liebt seine Unabhängigkeit und will in jedem Fall die Zügel in den Händen halten. Schlechte Seiten hat er natürlich keine, er ist vielmehr unfehlbar und wird sich auch nichts sagen lassen. Und: Nein, er ist doch kein Egoist, wie könnte man nur so etwas denken ...? Niederlagen und negative Erfahrungen gibt es bei ihm nicht, denn sie sind das Einzige, mit dem er nicht fertig werden könnte. Lass dich deshalb nicht auf eine Diskussion mit ihm ein, er hat seine Meinung, und die wird er vehement verteidigen. Generell gilt bei der Wahl seiner Freundschaften: Geben sie ihm nicht in allem Recht oder entsprechen nicht genau seinen Vorstellungen, bleibt er lieber Einzelgänger.

Leicht zu identifizieren an:

Dauernd auf dem Sprung, erzählt er dir permanent von seinen erlebten oder geplanten Abenteuern.

Mögliche Todesursache:

Auf Pumajagd im Amazonas von einer Anakonda erdrosselt.

Hier geht jemand gern komplett realitätsfern durchs Leben und träumt lieber, wie es denn sein könnte. Der Fisch trifft keine Entscheidungen, sie werden vielmehr für ihn getroffen. Dabei lässt er sich gerne von seinem Umfeld oder aktuellen Trends etwas einreden, schliesslich schwimmt es sich leichter mit dem Strom, auch, um dabei Konflikten aus dem Weg gehen zu können und sich einfach mal treiben zu lassen. Sei lieber nicht zu direkt, sonst flutscht dir der Fisch schneller durch die Finger, als dir lieb ist, und verschwindet für immer im Dunkel der Meere. Die Wahrheit übertragen diese Mimosen nämlich nur ganz schlecht und der Boden der Tatsachen ist ihnen viel zu hart – bitte mit Samthandschuhen anfassen.

Leicht zu identifizieren an:

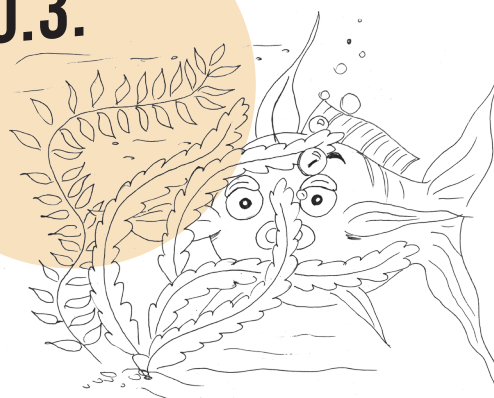
Ihrem verträumten Blick.

Mögliche Todesursache:

Beim Traumtanzen aus dem Fenster gefallen und auf dem harten Boden der Tatsachen gelandet.

FISCHE

20.2. – 20.3.



Wie sein tierisches Pendant graszt der Stier gern auf der fetten heimatlichen Weide und lässt es gemütlich angehen. In der Ruhe liegt bekanntlich die Kraft. Dabei darf es auch ruhig etwas teurer und genussvoller zugehen. Um sich diesen gepflegten Lebensstil leisten zu können, ist der Stier bisweilen bereit, raffgierig sein Geld zusammenkrallen. Er mag recht träge wirken, aber bring ihn nur ja nicht aus der Ruhe oder bedrohe gar sein gepflegtes, konservatives Heim – dann wird er jähzornig und sieht rot. Höchstens ein Torero kann den Stier noch aufhalten, wenn dieser sich etwas in den Kopf gesetzt hat.

Leicht zu identifizieren an:

Bewegt sich eher gemächlich und hat immer etwas zu essen dabei. Geld, das du ihm leihst, siehst du in der Regel nicht wieder.

Mögliche Todesursache:

Bei der Besichtigung seiner zehnten potentiellen Immobilie mit seinem Übergewicht durch den Dachboden gebrochen.

STIER

21.4. – 20.5.



Was es heisst, ausländisch zu sein

Unsere Autorin berichtet über das Gefühl, nirgends richtig dazuzugehören, und wie sie es dennoch schaffte, sich in der Schweiz zuhause zu fühlen. von Joanna Wesniuk

Was macht uns zu Ausländer*innen oder Inländer*innen? Ist es die Sprache, die Hautfarbe oder der Fakt, auf welcher Seite man bei den Sportmeisterschaften und -wettkämpfen mitfiebert? Sind es die Sitten, die Religion oder die Gewohnheiten?

Das Wort Ausländer*in setzt ein Gegenstück voraus, um mit Bedeutung behaftet zu sein: Inländer*in. Es wird nicht sehr häufig benutzt, aber es ist immer da. Das Wort Ausländer*in ist politisch sehr klar definiert, es bedeutet, nicht die Staatsangehörigkeit des Landes zu haben, in dem man lebt. Als Bürger*in hat man Rechte wie etwa das Abstimmungsrecht oder bestimmte Reisefreiheiten, aber man hat auch Pflichten, wie die Männer in der Schweiz in Bezug auf die Militärpflicht. Aber was, wenn nicht alles so ist oder sich so anfühlt, wie es schwarz auf weiss dasteht und wie es der Pass eines Menschen darlegt?

Wieso fühle ich mich zuhause?

Als eine Person mit Migrationshintergrund hat mich diese Frage immer sehr stark beschäftigt. Als Kind fühlte ich mich lange nicht zugehörig in meiner Umgebung. Ich war nie wirklich auf der gleichen Welle wie die anderen Kinder, obwohl fast alle, die ich kannte, ebenfalls Migrant*innen waren und sich somit der gleichen Herausforderung stellen mussten. Immer dachte ich, dass ich mich im Land, in dem ich geboren wurde, besser zurechtfinden würde. Ich müsste die anfängliche Sprachbarriere nicht überwinden, hätte eine stärkere Bindung zu meiner Familie und es wäre grundsätzlich einfacher gewesen. Heute denke

ich nicht mehr so. Und nun stelle ich mir die Frage wieso? Wieso fühle ich mich hier jetzt wirklich wie zuhause? Oder anders: Wieso fühle ich mich nicht mehr so fehl am Platz?

Auf der Suche nach Antworten fand ich auf der Duden-Website die computergenerierten «Typischen Verbindungen» zum Wort Ausländer*in – wahrscheinlich ein Produkt des Trends, immer mehr Dinge einer KI zu übergeben. Offensichtlich wird es mit vorwiegend negativ behafteten Wörtern assoziiert wie «illegal», «kriminell», «heimatlos». Und tatsächlich fühlte ich mich für eine lange Zeit heimatlos. Ich war Ausländerin und nahm nur halbherzig an den Diskussionen über die nächsten Abstimmungen im Geschichtsunterricht teil, denn ich konnte ja nicht abstimmen. Ein Sprachaustausch in der Romandie konnte nicht einmal in Frage gestellt werden, weil wir zu Hause kein Wort Deutsch sprachen.

Oft kam es mir vor, als wäre ich abgekapselt vom richtigen Leben im Hier und Jetzt. Gleichzeitig realisierte ich jedoch, dass ich – so wie ich damals war – nicht mehr einfach in mein Geburtsland zurückkehren und so tun hätte können, als wäre ich dort aufgewachsen. Aber ich wollte nicht in dieser heimatlosen Bubble leben, zwischen Tür und Angel, irgendwo im Nirgendwo, ohne an einem Ort wirklich dazuzugehören.

Lange nahm ich diese zwei Pole der beiden LänderinsbesondereinnerhalbderFamilientradition wahr, etwa wie man Weihnachten feiert, aber auch an meinem immer weniger bemerkbaren Akzent, an der Distanz zu meiner Familie, an der Angst, irgendwann einen Freund zu haben, der vielleicht nicht meine Muttersprache spricht – ja, dass sich unsere Denkweisen zu stark gegenseitig abtossen würden und nicht vereinbar wären. Über die Jahre wurde die magnetische Anziehung der beiden Pole immer schwächer, bis sie heute fast keine Kraft mehr auf mein Leben und meine

Joanna Wesniuk, 23,
hängt am letzten Haar im Architekturstudium
und findet immer x Beschäftigungen neben dem
Praktikum, um noch weniger Zeit zu haben.

Betrachtung ausüben. Es war ein langer und schwieriger Prozess, sich mit diesem Zwiespalt, diesem Zerren von beiden Seiten abzufinden, sich von Gedanken und Ängsten loszulösen.

Das Gefühl, Ausländer*in zu sein

Doch jede*r Migrant*in wird wahrscheinlich eine andere Geschichte zu erzählen haben und nicht jede*r wird – plump gesagt – so einfach mit dieser Situation umgehen können. Mir brennt die Frage unter den Fingernägeln, was einem Menschen das Gefühl gibt, ausländisch zu sein. Womöglich, weil man unfreiwillig in ein anderes Land emigrieren musste oder Asyl sucht aufgrund politischer oder wirtschaftlicher Zustände im eigenen Land? Oder weil die bessere Hälfte ein gutes Jobangebot erhalten hat? Womöglich hat man eine bestimmte Haut- oder Haarfarbe und fällt deshalb visuell auf, oder man kann die Sprache des Landes nicht (so gut) und findet nur schwierig einen Anschluss in der lokalen Bevölkerung. Vielleicht sind es doch die Gewohnheiten, das Temperament oder die Traditionen, die mitgebracht wurden und weiterhin präsent sind, oder es ist der Fakt, dass alle geliebten Menschen in der Heimat geblieben sind. Von Bedeutung ist sicherlich auch die Zeit, die man bereits im Ausland verbracht hat, und wie man sich an das Leben im eigenen oder in einem fremden Land gewöhnt hat oder eben nicht. Ich glaube, es sind all diese Sachen, die zusammenkommen, das Gefühl, sich ausländisch zu fühlen, aufbauen, es mit verschiedenen grossen Bedeutungen und Anteilen füttern.

Jemand hat letztens zu mir gesagt, es sei doch so schön, wenn man ein Schweizerdeutsch aus einem Mix an unterschiedlichen Dialekten rede, weil die Sprache wie eine Biografie eines Menschen sei und eine Geschichte erzähle: wo die Person aufgewachsen ist, wo sie gelebt hat, mit wem sie ihre Zeit verbracht hat. Jede*r von uns kennt doch diese paar Wörter, die man von Freund*innen oder auch von einem bestimmten Ort in seinen Wortschatz aufgenommen hat, die man angefangen hat, zu benutzen, und danach mit der Zeit vielleicht wieder vergessen hat. Ich denke, dieses Mitnehmen von Dingen, von Wörtern von da und dort, verteilt über Raum und Zeit, widerspiegelt in den meisten Fällen auch sehr gut das Leben als Ausländer*in. Man nimmt eine Komponente nach der anderen auf in das eigene Sein, in die Sprache und Gewohnheiten. Man wird durch die Politik eines Landes, die Menschen und ihre Lebensweisen, die Gerichte und sozialen Strukturen beeinflusst. Es mischen sich alte und neue Schichten miteinander, sie werden immer weniger unterscheidbar und wenn man das zulässt, entsteht eine neue Mischung, die einzigartig und einmalig ist.

Alles eine Frage der Perspektive?

An diesem Punkt muss ich ehrlich gestehen, dass diese Vorstellung und der Weg, den ich selber hinter mir habe, im Rückblick romantisiert sind und es ganz klar auch andere gibt. Nicht jede*r wird sich im Ausland hundertprozentig wohlfühlen oder sich mit den Inländer*innen gut verstehen oder die Organisation des Landes gut finden oder die Sprache perfekt beherrschen. Aber ich denke, solange man sich die Mühe macht, zu adaptieren, und das, was man in einem anderen Land antrifft, mit Respekt behandelt, hat man eine gute Chance, sich irgendwann auch zugehörig zu fühlen.

Am Ende ist wohl alles eine Frage der Perspektive. Auch ob man sich als Ausländer*in fühlt oder nicht. Ich kann mit Sicherheit sagen, dass sich meine Perspektive über die Jahre sehr stark verändert hat. Dadurch, dass ich mich in Vereinen und Gruppenaktivitäten engagiert habe, einen Freundeskreis aufbauen konnte, kenne ich die Traditionen und Verhaltensweisen viel besser und fühle mich nicht mehr komplett fehl am Platz. Aber auch wenn dem so ist, ist meine eigene Geschichte noch immer durchflochten von den Traditionen beider Kulturen, meiner eigenen Persönlichkeit, die sich irgendwo im Raum dazwischen entwickelt hat, und den Menschen, denen ich auf meinem Weg begegnet bin. Aber ich fühle mich nicht mehr heimatlos, denn ich weiss jetzt, dass es nicht das Wichtigste ist, sich einem spezifischen Land zugehörig zu fühlen, sondern sich mit lieben Menschen zu umgeben und das im Leben tun zu können, was mir am meisten am Herzen liegt.

Anzeigen: VERBEN ADJEKTIVE SUBSTANTIVE

Schweizer
straffällig
kriminell

abschieben

ausweisen
illegal

einsetzen
Inländer
einbürgerungswillig

Spätaussiedler
einbürgern

heimatlos **Ausländer** überzählig

Ausländerin

Aussiedler
leben
jung

unerwünscht
Asylbewerber
integrieren

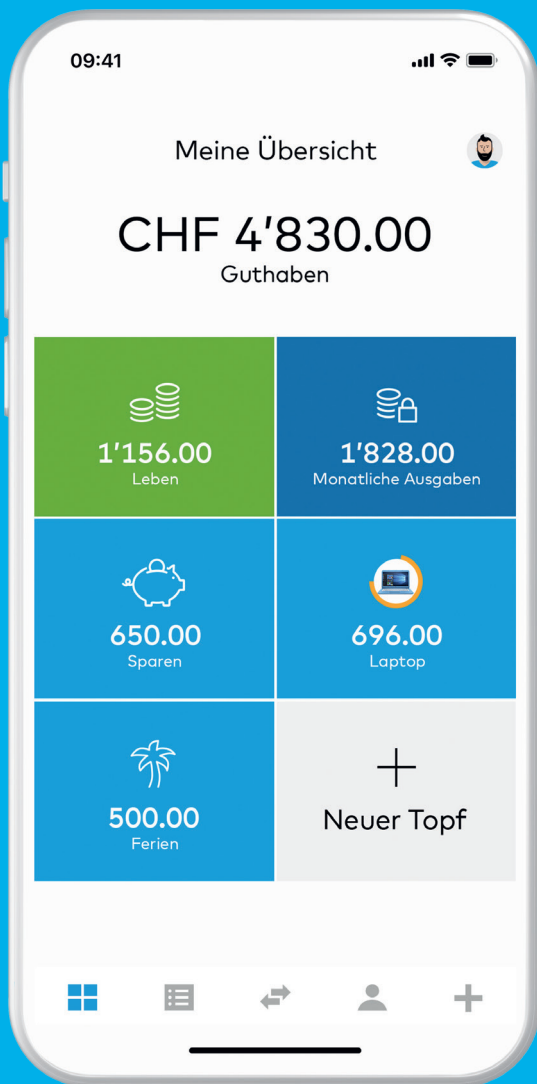
Flüchtling
beschimpfen

Minderheit

Screenshot von duden.de/rechtschreibung/Auslaender

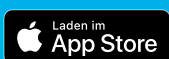
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THE SWISS CITIZENSHIP TEST



Ben Sprenger, 24,
pursuing an MSc in Robotics, Systems and
Control. He's practicing his drawing in the
event someone ever asks him to "draw them
like one of his French girls".

Passports: Convenient or Discriminatory?

Passports are a modern concept. Yet, they carry the marks of long-standing societal inequalities. From being used for leisure travel to excluding communities from their human rights, their power is undeniable. In this article, our author enlightens us on the history of passports, their uses, and a glimpse into a better digital future. by Lukas Valentin Graf

It's barely bigger than a notebook, only a few dozen pages, and in Switzerland its cover is a bold red colour: the passport. As inconspicuous as it may seem, it is crucial at border control, for example, especially if the few pages of paper were forgotten at home. Passports entitle us to cross the border, leaving one country for another – or prohibit us from doing so. The term passport contains the two Latin words “passare” (to pass) and “porta” (gate or door). In the best cases, a passport is a door opener. In the worst, it means that some doors will remain closed. If you had a Swiss passport in 2022 you could travel to 186 countries in the world without restrictions. If you instead held a passport from Afghanistan, Syria or Iraq, this number was hardly more than 30. Thus, depending on which state issued your passport, you might see a lot of open doors, or you might find a lot of them closed or hard to open. Arguably, our passport decides whether we are considered an expat, traveller or tourist, or an illegal immigrant.

A brief history of the passport

In Switzerland, the first passports were handed out in 1910. These were handwritten, easy to fake and soon replaced by more sophisticated models, which then also included a photo of the passport holder. Before the beginning of the 20th century the concept of passports was little known. For instance, to enter the United States, immigrants coming to the Ellis Island had to prove

that they were healthy – identity cards or citizenship documents were not requested. In medieval and early modern Europe, passports were documents to guarantee travellers – mostly pilgrims and traders – permission to cross the territory of neighbouring duchies and kingdoms. These passports were merely individual agreements between secular and/or spiritual rulers and had little in common with modern passports. Rather, they were a kind of letter of protection that allowed people to cross foreign territory without fear of being seen as unwanted and potentially hostile intruders.

At the time when modern national states started to form and nationalistic politics saw a rise, passports became increasingly important – and in many countries even mandatory. They fulfilled two functions: First, passports were used to control who could enter a country and who couldn't. For instance, in the United States, the “Chinese Exclusion Laws” were enforced around 1900 to reduce immigration from China as Chinese immigrants were considered “anti-American”. A second function was to prevent people from leaving a country as it was done in the German states of Borussia and Bavaria. These countries were emigration countries for a long time (like Switzerland, by the way), due to economic, social, and religious factors. Furthermore, passports can also be used to stigmatise people as was the case with the Jews in Nazi-Germany. Belonging to a certain community was recorded in identity documents so that they could be denied certain benefits or rights.

Criticisms

Not surprisingly, criticism of passports is as old as passports themselves. For example, critics noted early on that identity documents were used to privilege certain people or parts of a country's population. In most cases, these were population

Lukas Valentin Graf, 26,

is doing his PhD in Agricultural Sciences. He got a new passport last summer that was seemingly too new for the officers at the Turkish border control who suspected the passport was fake. After showing his (older) identity card in addition, he was finally allowed to enter the country.

strata that were socially benefited, whose comforts were once again confirmed by the freedom of travel made possible by the passport. Other, less well-off sections of humanity were conversely even more restricted in their mobility by the passports than before. Mobility can thus be understood as both a geographical and a social concept. This is particularly important in the context of liberal societies that function according to the merit principle. Simply put, everyone should have the opportunity to achieve social advancement and economic well-being through effort and hard work. However, this principle is violated when origin or ancestry in the form of citizenship, and thus a passport is more decisive than individual effort. Thus, employees in Switzerland who come from so-called third countries are subject to higher requirements for a residence permit than immigrants from the Schengen area. Since origin, like the social status of parents, is not an achievement, one of the fundamental principles of free societies is curtailed in its scope. Of course, this is grossly simplistic and problems of social inequalities are much more complex (thus more difficult to solve), but it should be worth our while to reflect on the meaning, or lack thereof, of passports and state citizenships as we know them today.

The future

Perhaps some of these issues will be solved by advancing technological developments. Perhaps one day we will spend part of our time in virtual worlds where we can effortlessly overcome borders? Or perhaps new borders will be erected in digital worlds or real ones replicated? Truth be told, no one has the answers. With the increasing penetration of all areas of our lives by the internet, it seems only logical that the passport system will also have to adapt to the digitalised world. In Switzerland, for example, there is already a platform called Swiss ID that enables legally valid identification for online services – similar to the way we have to show our IDs at the supermarket checkouts to buy a bottle of wine.

There is lots to look forward to. Will the future of passports be fully digital? For now, it's almost impossible to say, but we can only hope that it will open doors for as many in the world as possible instead of closing them.



How do you move?

Strangers, Again

*A stranger at first, just passing by,
No words exchanged, no reason why,
But then a smile, a simple start,
Led to a chat, a bond of heart.*

*As days went by, we became friends,
Our bond grew strong, it just made sense
We shared our laughter, shared our tears,
Through ups and downs, we conquered fears.*

*Time passes by, too quick to hold,
Our paths diverge, our story told,
We say goodbye, with heavy hearts,
As distance grows, and love departs.*

*And now we're strangers once again,
Our past, a memory, not in vain,
Our time together, a fleeting trend,
As life goes on, our paths extend.*

*But I will cherish what we had,
The moments shared, the good and bad,
And who knows, fate might intervene,
We'll meet again, as strangers, friends, or
anything in between.*

Alisa Miloglyadova, 22,

thinks that some people are meant to be there for a certain period of time in one's life, but then it's the best to let them go.

IMPRESSUM

HERAUSGEBER

VSETH, Verband der Studierenden an der ETH,
Universitätsstrasse 6, ETH Zentrum CAB, 8092 Zürich,
vseth@vseth.ethz.ch, vseth.ethz.ch

REDAKTION

Polykum, Zeitung des VSETH, Universitätsstrasse 6,
ETH Zentrum CAB, 8092 Zürich,
redaktionsleitung@polykum.ethz.ch,
polykum.ch

REDAKTIONSLEITUNG

Sabrina Strub & Navya Miriam Itty

REDAKTION:

Nicole Frischknecht, Marco Gerber, Lukas Valentin Graf,
Emir İşman, Julia Kamml, Léa Le Bars, Alisa Milogly-
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GRAFIK KONZEPT/LAYOUT/GESTALTUNG

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ADMINISTRATION:

Cornelia Kästli, info@polykum.ethz.ch

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- +** You might be a foreigner in Switzerland if...
- ... you forget to weigh your produce 
 - ... you have almost been hit by a tram 
 - ... you have tried to buy pain medication at Migros 
 - ... you don't understand the relationship between coin diameter and coin value 
 - ... you have cried in the street because you could not find the correct address 
 - ... you're not quite sure how to feel about Guggenmusik 
 - ... you notice bündtli everywhere, to the point that you start to wonder if you, yourself, are bündtlig
- © GTV 2023

FOREIGNERS' FRUIT ANALOGIES

by Margaret Oertig-Davidson in *Beyond Chocolate: Understanding Swiss Culture*
 and Diccon Bewes in *Swiss Watching: Inside the Land of Milk and Money*



SWISS : COCONUTS ::

- hard outer shell
- formal public life
- inner private sphere + home for closest friends + family: lifelong, first-name basis relationships



AMERICANS : PEACHES ::

- soft, squishy outer part
- informal, friendly, open, casual
- friends come + go
- smaller inner core of immediate family

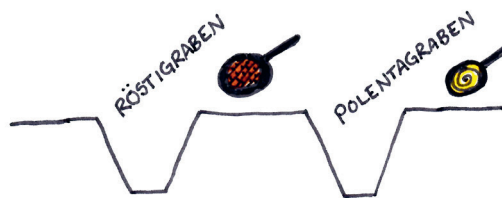
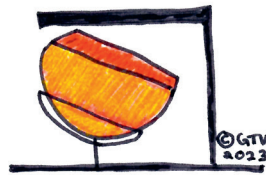


BRITISH PEOPLE : PINEAPPLES

- prickly on the outside
- large, soft zone where colleagues, neighbors, friends mix informally
- firmer center of family

© GTV 2023
 ● Alaskan blueberry
 thin-skinned, sweet, tart

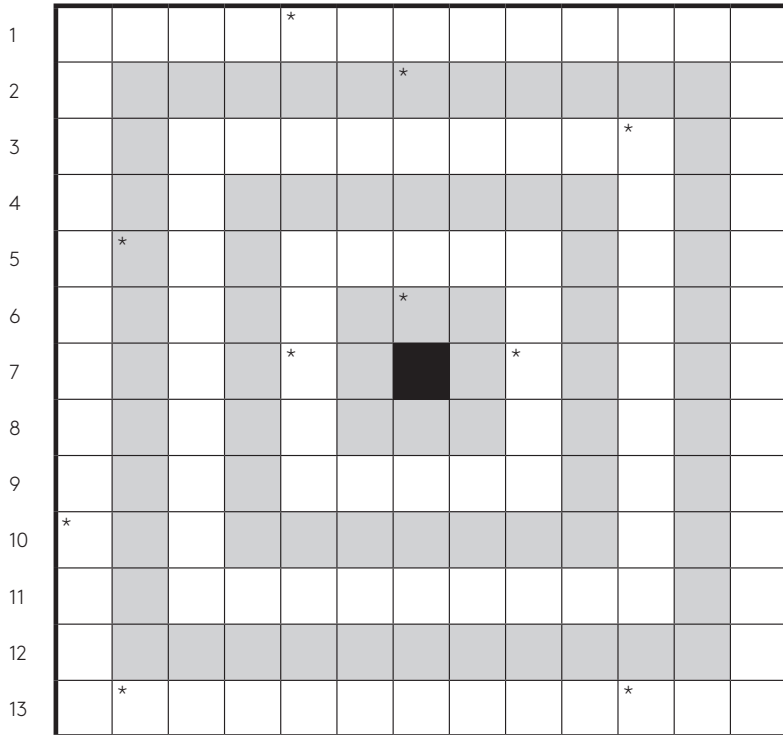
RACLETTE KENNT KEINE GRENZEN



LA RACLETTE NE CONNAÎT PAS DE FRONTIÈRES
 LA RACLETTE NON CONOSCE CONFINI
 RACLETTE N'ENCONUSCHA NAGINS CUNFINI
 RACLETTE KNOWS NO BORDERS

*translated w/ DeepL + try.rumants.ch

Gabrielle Vance, 33,
 PhD Earth Sciences, is an American peach
 and an Alaskan blueberry. See more cartoons
 on Instagram @gabrielle_t_v.

Es gilt: $i = j = 1$ **KRUXEREI**

Ein neuer Fall von den drei Sonderzeichen

von &, ∞ und # (Rätsel, Bilder und Text)

Erklärung

Trage die unter «Zeilen» definierten Wörter waagrecht hintereinander in die entsprechenden Zeilen ein. Das Schema besteht zudem aus 6 konzentrischen Rahmen, welche im Uhrzeigersinn gelesen, ebenfalls Wörter beinhalten. Diese umlaufenden Wörter sind unter «Umlaufend» in korrekter Reihenfolge, aber ohne Angabe des Startpunktes, definiert.

Lösungswort:

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(Felder mit Stern waagrecht fortlaufend)

Zeilen (Waagrecht)

- Den mit BMW | ich am Bahnhof seh.
- Mit Speck und Lauch | im Fernrohr auch.
- Börne und Thiel | begehen ihn viel.
- Sie vermelden Romeo: | Aufgepasst, äs taget scho!
- Klemm's dir unter die Lippe, | es ersetzt 'ne Kippe.
- Pint für den Touri | in Salisbury.
- Frau | in Pau.
- Wo Alpinist | zu Hause ist.
- Babylons Männer und Frauen | würden so chatten ihr Erstaunen.
- Steht der beim Zahni an, | glaubt bald das Portmonee dran.
- Nutzen | in Tucson.
- Mehr sprechen als Singen | von vulgären Dingen.
- Sehnsuchtsgefühl | bei Fensterblick vom Bürogestühl.
- Des Malers erste Wahl: | Vasen oder Früchteschal'.
- Klein, gelb die Kreatur | ikonische Videospiele-Figur.
- Trinkspass | im kleinen Glas.
- Mehr Daten saugen | für anspruchsvolle Augen.
- L'emballage du Toblerone | ab jetzt ohne.
- Schafft Klarheit im Gewühl | der Namen der Molekül'.
- Beim Sex unten | wenn Gentleman.
- Im Aargau verbreitet | als Tablette zubereitet.
- Anerkennt | kein Gottesexperiment.
- Damit fährt Ossi gewandt | zum FKK-Strand.
- Gross-Kleinschreibung schafft: | Viel oder wenig Kraft.
- Den gab es schon | bei der Schlacht von Marathon.
- Kante | wo Aunt Tante.
- «Ich spiel» | sagt der Ädil.
- Im Drucker gequält | im Herbst es fällt.
- Einschreiben | Credits einverleiben.
- Macht für Fondsinvestierer | das Zocken attraktiver.
- Wird jemandem, weil | sie ihm/ihr gebührt, zu Teil.
- Gabel- und Lenker- | Zusammenhänker. (VORBAU)
- Diese | heisst Alexander oder Luise.
- Trauben | klaben.
- 'n Art Gorilla in weiss | liebt es nicht heiss.

Umlaufend (Uhrzeigersinn)**1. Rahmen (aussen)**

- Gibt's in Trinklokal | und Gymnastiksaal.
- Wo Iggy Pop und David B. | wohnten zusammen in 'ner WG.
- Wanderer finden sie doof: | Kläffer auf dem Hof.
- Lebt im Zeichen von IHS, | sagt auch zum Papst «yes».
- Vom Tiger: ein Lied | Golden: Bond-Satellit.
- Bruder der Gomez? | Element des Mondes.
- Auf Fürstentums Äcker, | in der Pflanze lecker.
- One-Foot | Fast-Food.

2. Rahmen

- In der römischen Republik | Mittelpunkt der Politik.
- Der höchste wohl | im Südtirol.
- Fach, | wo Gestank und Krach.
- Botschaft | mit Niederschlagskraft.
- Pyramide und Kurgan | als solches dienen kann.
- Als Raumfahrer oft düst' | zu Knipseinsatz in Steinwüst'.
- Erfolgt schnell und ohne Kitsch | dank Bostitch.
- Zusammen mit dem Hai: | eine eig'ne Witzkategoriei.

3. Rahmen

- Wo Schekel Stutz | a.k.a. al-Quds.
- «Eden war schon mehr fun», | seufzte dieser Mann.
- Darauf man sitzt | und bei Verstopfung schwitzt.
- Mit Bögen verzück' | Strasse oder Geleisbrück'.
- Ski-Anti-Talent? | Dein Sturz wird erst hier end'.
- Zwei Backen | auch zum Kacken.

4. Rahmen

- Das Gerät teilt dir mit, | ob du bist fit.
- Hat Freiheit | oder Dummheit.
- Ne tolle Sach | für's Pfahlbau-Dach.
- Jährliches Muss | von zwanzig Schuss.
- Dieses -meal kannsch | oft haben zum Bruch.

5. Rahmen

- Lt. Dan versteht nicht mehr die Welt, | weil Forrest die Medaille erhält.
- Trivial-schwülstige Opulenz | oder doch der Schönheit Essenz?.

6. Rahmen (innen)

- Dank der Notiz | wird Prüfung ein Witz.
- Fast niemand mag | sie im Bundestag.

