

WZB, Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin
Prof. Juan Carlos Castillo
Department of Sociology
Faculty of Social Sciences
Universidad de Chile



via email: juancastillov@uchile.cl

Berlin, March 2025

Nomination for the Scientific Advisory Board of the WZB

Dear Professor Castillo,

Encouraged by my colleague Heike Solga, I would like to approach you today with a request.

Last summer, I began my term as president of the WZB Berlin, an interdisciplinary publicly funded social science research institute.

At the WZB, researchers from various disciplines – primarily sociology, political science, economics, and law – study the developments, problems, and potential for innovation within modern societies. Our research is theory-driven, problem-oriented, often long-term, and mostly based on international comparisons.

In the years to come, important decisions will have to be made on the further development of the WZB: First, we aim to systematically and sustainably expand the WZB's research collaboration with scholars from the Global South beyond our existing projects. Second, two political science departments will come to an end within the next two years, and two more sociology departments will be closed with the retirement of their directors in the following two years. The announcement of new departments provides an opportunity to rethink the institute's thematic focus.

Throughout all these developments, the WZB is accompanied by an excellent Advisory Board, which assesses the ongoing research work and advises the management and the Board of Trustees. The internationally renowned researchers support our work, inspire us, and provide us with new perspectives, while also sharpening our awareness of current and future topics and challenges.

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Especially in view of the challenges that lie ahead, it would be a great addition for the WZB to win you as a member of the Advisory Board, and I would be delighted if you could imagine becoming involved in this body that is so important to us.

Our Advisory Board usually comes together once a year in the fall for a two-day meeting in Berlin. The membership is limited to four years; a reappointment is possible. Please find a list of current members attached. Your first term of office could begin in August 2025, with the first meeting of this term taking place on November 6-7, 2025.

I would be very grateful if you could let me know in the course of March whether you would be available to serve on the Advisory Board. The Board of Trustees decides on the final appointment of Advisory Board members in June.

I would also be happy to talk to you on the phone in case you have any questions.

I am very much looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln

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