

## Prices for Excellent Austrians Abroad

**Although a return is conceivable for many Austrian researchers in the US - most do not see any real opportunities to build working groups in Austria.**

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The topic that Claudia Leeb has dealt with in recent years sounds a bit cumbersome at first glance: "Power and Feminist Agency in Capitalism: Toward a New Theory of the Political Subject". But when the psychologist and political theorist talks about the contents of her research, her eyes sparkle with enthusiasm for the cause. It deals with power structures in capitalist societies that prevent the free development of women, minorities or workers - and with "moments of the limit", in which action is nevertheless enabled. "These are often moments of pain in which one thinks: That's really not okay, how I get treated. And instead of subordinating oneself, one tries to organize with other people in order to do something about it," explains the researcher, who studied in Vienna and New York and has been working at Washington State University for many years.

Leeb was awarded the Ascina Award in the Junior Principal Investigator category (10,000 Euros) for this work last Saturday at the Arit network meeting in Washington. These prizes are awarded annually by the Ministry of Science and the Association Ascina (Austrian Scientists and Scholars in North America) after being evaluated by the Austrian Science Fund FWF. Awards will be given to work by young Austrian researchers created at research institutions in North America.

In addition, two awards each endowed with € 7,500 were awarded for "Young Scientists": One went to Jelena Todoric, who studied at the Med-Uni Vienna and since 2012 works as a post-doc at the University of California in San Diego. She has been able to show that the development of pancreatic cancer, a fatal disease in which there is little progress in treatment, involves a disruption of cell waste disposal (autophagy). This could lead to approaches for a therapy.

The other prize for young researchers went to Andreas Pedross-Engel: The graduate of Graz University of Technology works since 2014 as a post-doc at the University of Washington, he is involved in the development of novel scanners based on "millimeter waves": These rays are unlike X-rays used today, it is harmless to humans.

All three award-winning researchers, as they tell, are always flirting with a return to Austria. However, they see no real opportunities to build their own research groups in Austria - the attractiveness of US universities is unbroken for them. (APA / ku)

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