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Alexis Schwarzenbach currently holds a Swiss National Science Fund post-doctoral research fellowship and is working on his Habilitation exploring the communication, representation and perception of twentieth-century monarchies. His doctoral thesis, 'Portraits of the Nation' (1999), was on the construction of national identities in Belgium and Switzerland. His most recent publication, 'Eine ungewöhnliche Erbschaft', in Katharina Sykora, ed., *Ludwig II. von Bayern, Konstruktion und Rezeption eines Mythos* (2004), examines the changing ways in which the castles of the Bavarian King Ludwig II were used and interpreted by the Bavarian state (it acquired the buildings in 1918).

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