TRADITION – INNOVATION – AUTONOMY
INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

FIRST PROGRAMME PHASE 2007-2012
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Preface

With the successful application for its Institutional Strategy ›Tradition – Innovation – Autonomy‹ in the first programme phase of the Excellence Initiative (2007-2012), the University of Göttingen in 2007 opened a new chapter in its long history as one of the leading comprehensive universities in Germany. Under the presidency of my predecessor Prof. Dr. Kurt von Figura the university’s local cooperation with non-university research institutions entered a new era – an era of high innovation resulting in the Göttingen Research Campus and the opening up of the university’s decision-making to external expertise. This Göttingen Research Campus can function as a role model in Germany. One of the major achievements of the first Institutional Strategy was the successful attraction of excellent scientists and scholars within the measures Brain Gain, Brain Sustain, Lichtenberg-Kolleg and Göttingen International. This booklet gives an impression of the development of the measures, people and scientific achievements within our Institutional Strategy from November 2007 until November 2011.

The further development of this Institutional Strategy in the second programme phase of the Excellence Initiative (2012-2017) was submitted as a renewal proposal on 1 September 2011. In this process all measures have been carefully evaluated, re-shaped and further developed and complemented by new key measures. I especially like to thank the former president, Prof. Kurt von Figura, for the impressive achievements in the first round. And I am grateful for the commitment and support I experienced from the Göttingen University and all partner institutions on the Göttingen Research Campus – ranging from scientists and scholars to students as well as administrative staff, without all of whom the development of our renewal proposal would not have been possible. I hope that this booklet offers its reader a glimpse of that unique ›Göttingen spirit‹.

Professor Dr. Ulrike Beisiegel
President of the University of Göttingen
The first Institutional Strategy »Tradition – Innovation – Autonomy« (2007-2012) of the University of Göttingen is based on the university’s unique strengths, which include a long research tradition in a remarkable diversity of disciplines, a close collaboration with non-university research institutions, and the autonomy the university enjoys as a public law foundation. These merits are reflected in the title of the Institutional Strategy concept: Tradition – Innovation – Autonomy.

Recruiting the best young researchers, retaining top-level scientists, developing international networks, and intensifying the collaboration with non-university research institutions – these are the aspirations outlined in the strategy paper. The overall goal is to create a new form of what the University of Göttingen was known for in the years prior to 1933: a world-class university attracting and retaining highly talented researchers working together in a climate of cooperation and discourse and inspiring each other on the new heights of scientific excellence.

Four measures are defined within the framework of the Institutional Strategy:

- **Brain Gain** – recruiting the best
- **Brain Sustain** – retaining the best
- **Lichtenberg-Kolleg** – fostering innovative research in the humanities and social sciences
- **Göttingen International** – intensifying international relations by strengthening the university’s global network
Göttingen Research Campus

The Institutional Strategy concept significantly enhances the collaboration of university and non-university research institutions in Göttingen at all levels. The Göttingen Research Campus includes institutes from several large German research associations such as the Max Planck Society, the Leibniz Association and the Helmholtz Association. In detail the members are:

**Academy of Sciences and Humanities**
Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen

**Max Planck Society**
Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry
Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization
Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine
Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

**Leibniz Association**
German Primate Centre

**Helmholtz Association**
German Aerospace Center

**Further Institutions**
Laser Laboratory Göttingen
Herzog-August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel

Göttingen Research Council

The university has committed itself to opening its decision-making to external competence available at the Göttingen Research Campus and therefore founded the Göttingen Research Council in 2006. It is a novel decision-making board which consists of eight members representing the university and eight members of the non-university institutions.
The Council’s tasks include the identification of research foci suitable for joint research and teaching as well as the advancement of young scholars and scientists. Last but not least, the Göttingen Research Council has a pivotal role in coordinating and assessing the measures Brain Gain and Brain Sustain.
1. Göttingen Academy of Sciences
2. MPI for Biophysical Chemistry
3. MPI for Experimental Medicine
4. MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization
5. MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity
6. MPI for Solar System Research
7. DPZ German Primate Center
8. DLR German Aerospace Center
9. Laser Laboratorium Göttingen

Research Institutions
Brain Gain – Courant Research Centres

Shortly before his death in 1972, Richard Courant was asked about the unique spirit, both human and scientific, that characterized his Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University. Courant’s answer was, »It is Göttingen. Göttingen is here.«. With the newly established Courant Research Centres, the University of Göttingen is striving to once again bring this spirit back to life. Existing expertise in selected fields of research will be enhanced by these interdisciplinary centres consequently broadening the research profile of the university. Here excellent international junior scientists will find a research environment that is based on a free exchange of ideas both within and between the disciplines and that is noted for its close collaboration with senior fellows.

The University of Göttingen is breaking new ground with this measure by offering a tenured junior professorship to young scientists, thus giving them early independence as well as a reliable career perspective. The relatively high percentage of applicants from abroad emphasizes the intense international appeal and competition over these positions.

Until now seven Courant Research Centres with a total of nineteen junior research groups have been set up at the Göttingen Research Campus. The university is confident that this blend of highly talented junior researchers and the outstanding senior researchers mentoring them will generate power for innovation.
Courant Research Centres founded in 2007

**CRC Nano-Spectroscopy and X-Ray Imaging**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Tim Salditt
Faculty of Physics
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-physik

**CRC Higher Order Structures in Mathematics**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schick
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-mathematik

**CRC Geobiology – Development of Early Life and Organic-matter-controlled Rock- and Mineral-forming Processes**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Joachim Reitner
Faculty of Geoscience and Geography
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-geobiologie

**CRC Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing and Transition Countries: Statistical Methods and Empirical Analyses**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Stephan Klasen, Ph.D.
Faculty of Economic Sciences
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-peg

**CRC Evolution of Social Behaviour: Comparative Studies of Human and Non-human Primates**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Julia Fischer
Faculty of Biology including Psychology
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-social-behaviour

Courant Research Centres founded in 2009

**CRC Education and Religion from Early Imperial Roman Times to the Classical Period of Islam (EDRIS)**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt, Faculty of Theology
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-edris

**CRC The Multi-layered Text Protocol: Micro and Macro Level Structures in Written Discourse**
Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Anke Holler, Faculty of Humanities
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-textstrukturen

* Richard Courant (*1888, †1972), head of the Mathematical Institute in Göttingen between 1920 and 1933, set up the world-famous Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University.
Dynamic processes at the molecular scale in complex environments are important in a multitude of research fields from protein folding to functional materials. Owing to their short wavelength and relatively weak interaction with matter, x-rays offer a unique potential to reach high resolution and chemical sensitivity not only on the surface, but in bulk samples, while being compatible with various environments. Thus, the structure and dynamics of the underlying processes can be unravelled and the resolution of present day analytical techniques in space and time can be significantly increased with respect to current capabilities to cover the relevant scales of space, time and energy.

Ambitious research goals are now fuelled by the significant progress in time-resolved x-ray sources in particular the free electron laser. In addition to large scale instruments, laser driven short pulse x-ray table top sources for the EUV/XUV and the hard x-ray regime are available as compact in-house instruments in the CRC main lab. Towards the goal of significantly enhanced analytical capabilities, x-ray optics, instrumentation and methodology will be advanced. A synergistic research roadmap includes time-resolved spectroscopy and structure analysis, x-ray spectro-microscopy, lens-less imaging, data reconstruction and inverse optical problems, magnetic scattering and microscopy, as well as source, optics and detector development.

The University of Göttingen and its partner groups at the Laser Laboratory Göttingen, at the University of Applied Sciences Göttingen, as well as at the various Max Planck Institutes in Göttingen participate in the a centre, which has a large impact for neighboring research groups in condensed matter physics, chemistry, materials science, structural biology, geo science, environmental science and medicine. The centre builds on existing and proposed programmes, including the Collaborative Research Centres (Sonderforschungsbereich, SFB) SFB 602 »Complex Structures from Atomic to Mesoscopic Scales«, SFB 755 »Nanoscale Photonic Imaging«, SFB 803 »Functionality controlled by organization in and between membranes«, SFB 937 »Collective behavior of soft and biological matter« as well as the DFG Research Centre »Molecular Physiology of the Brain« (CMPB) including the Excellence Cluster »Microscopy at the Nanometer Range«.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Tim Salditt
Institute for X-Ray Physics, Faculty of Physics
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-physik

Research Groups

Nanoscale Imaging of Cellular Dynamics
Professor Dr. Sarah Köster

Nano-Optics and Ultrafast Dynamics
Professor Dr. Claus Ropers

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Stefan Herminghaus – Dynamics of Complex Fluids,
Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization

Prof. Dr. Hans-Ulrich Krebs – Institute for Materials Physics,
Faculty of Physics

Dr. Thomas Kurz – III. Physical Institute – Biophysics and Complex
Systems, Faculty of Physics

Dr. Klaus Mann – Laser Laboratory Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Tim Salditt (Coordinator) – Institute for X-Ray Physics,
Faculty of Physics

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Physics, Faculty of Physics

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Systems, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry

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Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology

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Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

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Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Edgar Weckert – HASYLAB, DESY, Hamburg
Born in 1979 in Reutlingen, Sarah Köster studied physics at the University of Ulm before proceeding to postgraduate work at the University of Ulm, Boston University (USA) and the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization in Göttingen. She received her Ph.D. in 2006 from the University of Göttingen. Her thesis was awarded the physics faculty’s »Berliner-Ungewitter-Preis« as well as the Max Planck Society’s »Otto-Hahn-Medaille.« In October 2010 she was awarded the »Helene-Lange-Preis« by the University of Oldenburg and the EWE AG. After postdoctoral studies at Harvard University, she was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen in 2008, where she currently leads the Junior Research Group »Nanoscale Imaging of Cellular Dynamics« in the Courant Research Centre »Nano-Spectroscopy and X-Ray Imaging.« In March 2011 she received a tenured W2 Professorship at the University of Göttingen. Köster’s research aims to understand dynamic processes and mechanical properties in living cells and in vitro model systems. Investigation of cell mechanics and dynamics are, in turn, important prerequisites for a better understanding of cell function and form the basis for biomedical applications. Imaging of biological systems is one core topic of Köster’s work. In this respect, the research group is ideally integrated in the Courant Research Centre, as well as the Göttingen Research Campus in general.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- »Cytoskeletal force generation and transduction in blood platelets (Project A12)« in DFG Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 937 »Collective Behavior of Soft and Biological Matter« (2011-2014)
- »Microfluidic approach to aggregopathy-related proteins«, Workpackage 2 in Research Area A2 (Quantitative Molecular Microscopy) in DFG Research Centre Molecular Physiology of the Brain (CMPB) (2010-2014)
Research Group: Sarah Köster
Claus Ropers, born in 1977 in Stade, Germany, studied physics at the University of Göttingen and the University of California, Berkeley. Conducting his doctoral studies at the Max Born Institute (MBI) in Berlin, he received his Ph.D. from the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and was awarded the »Carl-Ramsauer-Preis« for his dissertation. After a year as project leader at the MBI, he was appointed Junior Professor at the Courant Research Centre »Nano-Spectroscopy and X-ray imaging« at the University of Göttingen. In November 2011 he received a tenured W2 Professorship at the University of Göttingen. As a regular guest scientist, Ropers also maintains strong connections with the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on ultrafast processes in nanostructures and solid state systems. To this end, his group develops and investigates novel experimental techniques for the observation of ultrafast dynamical behaviour on the nanoscale. As a recognition for his achievements in the field of metallic nanostructures Ropers was awarded the »Nanowissenschaftspreis« by the Working Group of the Centers of Competence of Nanotechnology in Germany (AGeNT-D) in 2008. His research greatly benefits both from the research infrastructure provided by the Courant Research Centre (CRC) as well as from the expertise of various scientists working on the Göttingen Research Campus. The strength and potential of the Göttingen Research Campus became clear to him in a recent process of bringing together local researchers from various scientific fields for an interdisciplinary project in the field of time-resolved electron imaging.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- Individual Project (RO 3936/1-1) in DFG Priority Programme (SPP) 1391 »Ultrafast Nanooptics« (2009-2012)
- Individual Project in DFG Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 755 »Nanoscale Photonic Imaging« (2011-2014)
Research Group: Claus Ropers
In the last century, the identification and use of mathematical structure was of particular importance, and at the beginning of the twentieth century, the area of algebra was revolutionized in Göttingen. Today we live in a time in which very different fields of mathematics converge and exchange techniques and ideas. In this process, new challenges arise; for instance, if the »flexible« world of topology and geometry is used in the »rigid« world of number theory. Even now, we still lack a true understanding of the encompassing structure which makes this an efficient process. A further example of this unique convergence and exchange is the close relationship between mathematics and physics. In principle, this has always been symbiotic; physics is the most important trigger for inner-mathematical developments, and mathematics has always provided the »language of physics«.

One of the most urgent fundamental questions of today’s theoretical physics is a common theory of gravitation (Einstein’s relativity) and quantum physics. It is very likely that completely new mathematical structures are necessary to make this possible. These are just two examples of how mathematics is helping to explore new frontiers. We are convinced that the development and study of new »higher order structures in mathematics« is necessary to provide the solutions to problems occurring along the way.

The Courant Research Centre »Higher Order Structures in Mathematics« consists of almost a dozen professors and further associated expert researchers. The key pillars are the three junior research groups that – focused individually on specific questions – together push research forward. Prof. Hannah Markwig heads the group »Tropical Algebraic Geometry«, focused on how to apply »flexible« geometry to »rigid« areas such as number theory. One of the long-term goals is to understand more about mirror symmetry (motivated by string theory in physics). The group »Topology and Differential Geometry« is lead by Prof. Chenchang Zhu and studies »distributed symmetries« in geometry, in particular their analytical aspects. The group’s goal is the classification and application of these symmetries in, and later, also outside of mathematics. The group »Non-commutative Geometry and Mathematical Physics«, led by Prof. Dorothea Bahns, uses new methods, such as so-called non-commutative geometry, to develop mathematical models that should, in the long run, help to unify quantum physics and Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

The Courant Research Centre »Higher Order Structures in Mathematics« offers new possibilities in Göttingen for an intense interaction between the modern areas of mathematics and theoretical physics and serves as an important stepping stone for a completely new kind of collaboration between the faculties of mathematics and physics.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schick
Institute for Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-mathematik

Junior Research Groups

Mathematical Physics and Noncommutative Geometry
Junior Professor Dr. Dorothea Bahns
Tropical Algebraic Geometry
Professor Dr. Hannah Markwig
(was appointed W2 professor at Saarland University in March 2011)
Topology and Differential Geometry
Junior Professor Dr. Chengchang Zhu

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Laurent Bartholdi – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Valentin Blomer – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Jörg Brüdern – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Ralf Meyer – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Prof. Dr. Preda Mihailescu – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Karl-Henning Rehren – Institute for Theoretical Physics,
Faculty of Physics
Prof. Dr. Thomas Schick (Coordinator) – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Ingo Witt – Institute for Mathematics,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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Université Paris 6, France
Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tillmann – Mathematical Institute,
University of Oxford, UK
Born in 1976 in Nürnberg, Germany, Dorothea Bahns studied physics and mathematics at the University of Freiburg, and received her Ph. D. in Mathematical Physics from the University of Hamburg in 2003. She then took up postdoctoral and guest researcher positions at the university »La Sapienza« in Rome, at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Potsdam, and the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo (Canada) before being appointed Junior Professor in Hamburg in 2005. She joined the Courant Research Centre »Higher Order Structures in Mathematics« as leader of the Junior Research Group »Non-commutative Geometry and Mathematical Physics« in Göttingen in 2008.

Although rooted in physics and motivated by a desire to understand the small scale structure of the universe and its backreaction with quantum theory, Bahns’ research also includes abstract mathematical questions in microlocal analysis, combinatorial algebra and (noncommutative) geometry. The funds available to her in Göttingen to organize conferences, to travel, and to extend invitations to scientific guests are a cornerstone for her work in the international community. In addition, she has found the centre and the university very supportive regarding her parental part-time work.

Above all, however, having always worked in an interdisciplinary field, she appreciates the exceptionally earnest and effective intercourse between physicists and mathematicians at the Courant Research Centre.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- ESF Support grant
  (Workshop funding; ESF 3090)
Born in 1980, Hannah Markwig studied mathematics at the TU Kaiserslautern and at the University of California Berkeley before completing her Ph.D. in Kaiserslautern in 2006. She moved to Minneapolis (USA) to take up her postdoctoral studies at the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, and in 2007, she moved to Ann Arbor (USA), where she was a Postdoc Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan.

In spring 2008, she was appointed Junior Professor to lead the Junior Research Group »Tropical Algebraic Geometry« at the Courant Research Centre »Higher Order Structures in Mathematics« in Göttingen. In March 2011 Hannah Markwig left Göttingen to take up a full professorship at Saarland University. Tropical algebraic geometry is a new and active field of research combining methods from combinatorics and algebraic geometry. Tropical geometry has had particular success in the field of enumerative geometry. Markwig’s research group profited from the constructive work environment in Göttingen focused on research and from connections to the other groups in the Courant Research Centre, in particular for discussions regarding mirror symmetry, a common interest for all groups.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- DFG *Individual Grant* (MA 4797/1-1; 2009-2012)
- DFG »Heinz Maier-Leibnitz-Preis« (2010)
Research Group: Hannah Markwig
Born in China in 1977, **Chenchang Zhu** earned the gold medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) with a perfect score at the age of 18. She then continued in mathematics and obtained her B.S. in the field at Beijing University in 1999 and her Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley under Prof. Weinstein in 2004.

Moving to Europe to first assume a post-doc position at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Zhu then became an Assistant Professor (Maitre de conferences) in the mathematics department of the University of Grenoble, France, in 2006. In 2008, she joined the University of Göttingen as a Junior Professor in the Courant Research Centre »Higher Order Structures in Mathematics«, leading the group »Topology and Differential Geometry« where her current research focuses on higher categorical structures in geometry.

### Selected Publications


### Third Party Funded Projects

- DFG *Individual Grant* »Actions of 2-groupoids on C*-algebras« (ME 3248/1-1; together with Prof. Dr. Ralf Meyer; 2009-2011)
Junior Research Group: Chenchang Zhu
CRC Geobiology – Development of Early Life and Organic-matter-controlled Rock- and Mineral-forming Processes

The major scientific interest of the Courant Research Centre Geobiology – »Development of Early Life and Organic-matter controlled Rock- and Mineral-forming Processes« is the interplay of life forms with inorganic substances. Today’s extreme environments, such as the deep biosphere, are important analogs of the earliest environmental conditions on Earth, and are therefore a central topic for researchers at the Centre. Prokaryotic extremophiles inhabiting these environments have evolved enzymatic pathways that enable the use of inorganic substances as energy sources. A detailed knowledge of these »chemoautotrophic« mechanisms will shed light on some of the biosphere's earliest metabolic pathways.

The Centre is also concerned with key innovations that led to the evolution of true animal body plans. Most animal phyla are thought to have first appeared after the last global »Snow Ball Earth«-glaciation ca. 630 million years ago. The 60 million year period between the »Snow Ball Earth«-glaciation and the »Cambrian Explosion,« which saw the widespread onset of biomineralisation, is an intriguing and enigmatic time.

The Centre is investigating the molecular and genetic details of biomineralisation strategies from various animal phyla with the hope of understanding how this key animal trait evolved. The rise of complex animal life on early Earth was also intertwined with that of plant life. The evolution of living plants is commonly studied from a morphological or molecular point of view. Rarely are the two approaches integrated, and rarer still is the integration of data from extant plants with fossil material.

The Centre’s researchers aspire to unravel the origin and early diversification of the major groups of land plants and to identify key innovations that facilitated their evolution. In addressing all of the above questions the CRC Geobiology employs an integrated approach, including techniques from paleobotany, geochemistry, genomics, phylogenetics, and more.

All three Junior Research Groups (led by Junior Professors Dattagupta, Jackson and Schmidt) investigate special aspects of the topics mentioned above, collaborate with the Centre’s Principal Investigators, and benefit from the Centre's cooperation with the DFG Research Unit 571 »Geobiology of Biofilms«. One of the major benefits of the Centre is the possibility it provides for doing »high-risk«, cutting-edge research.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Joachim Reitner – Department of Geobiology,
Center for Geosciences, Faculty of Geosciences and Geography
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-geobiologie

Junior Research Groups

Geomicrobiology and Symbiosis
Junior Professor Dr. Sharmishtha Dattagupta
Evolution of the Metazoa
Junior Professor Dr. Daniel Jackson
Evolution of Landplants & Development of Terrestrial Ecosystems
PD Dr. Alexander Schmidt

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Thomas Friedl – Department of Experimental Phycology,
Albrecht-von-Haller-Institute for Plant Sciences, Faculty of Biology
Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Fritz – Department of Molecular Genetics
and Preparative Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology
Prof. Dr. Bent Hansen – Department of Isotope Geology,
Faculty of Geosciences and Geography
PD Dr. Jochen Heinrichs – Department of Systematic Botany,
Albrecht-von-Haller-Institute for Plant Sciences, Faculty of Biology
PD Dr. Michael Hoppert – Department of General Microbiology,
Institute of Microbiology and Genetics, Faculty of Biology
Prof. Dr. Burkhard Morgenstern – Department of Bioinformatics,
Institute of Microbiology and Genetics, Faculty of Biology
Prof. Dr. Hubertus Porada – Center for Geosciences,
Faculty of Geosciences and Geography
Prof. Dr. Joachim Reitner (Coordinator) – Department of Geobiology,
Center for Geosciences, Faculty of Geosciences and Geography
Prof. Dr. Volker Thiel – Department of Geobiology, Center for
Geosciences, Faculty of Geosciences and Geography

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Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA
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University of Bonn
Prof. Dr. Karsten Pedersen – Department of Cell and Molecular
Biology, Göteborg University, Sweden
Prof. Dr. Erko Stackebrandt – German Collection of
Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig
Prof. Dr. Tof F. Stuessy – Department of Systematic and
Evolutionary Botany, University of Vienna, Austria
Geomicrobiology and Symbiosis

Sharmishtha Dattagupta, born in 1976 in Kolkata, India, completed her bachelor’s (Chemistry) and master’s (Biotechnology) degrees in India before moving to the biology department at Pennsylvania State University (USA) to obtain her doctoral degree. After completing her doctoral dissertation in 2006, she joined the geosciences department as a post-doctoral researcher. In August 2008, she was appointed Junior Professor at the Courant Research Centre »Geobiology« at the University of Göttingen, where she currently heads the Junior Research Group »Geomicrobiology and Biosignatures in the Deep Biosphere« and investigates animal-bacterial symbioses. Dattagupta is interested in the ecological and evolutionary ramifications of symbiotic interactions, and focuses on symbioses found in sulfur-rich environments. Conducting interdisciplinary research, she benefits greatly from collaborations within the CRC »Geobiology« as well as with members of the Faculty of Biology.

Selected Publications


Junior Research Group: Sharmishtha Dattagupta
Evolution of the Metazoa

Daniel J. Jackson completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne (Australia) in the field of invertebrate zoology, before moving north to conduct his PhD work at the University of Queensland. During this time he developed applied and molecular techniques to study the developmental biology of the tropical abalone, a marine snail of significance to aquaculture and evolutionary biology. His discoveries of novel shell forming genes allowed him to secure an 18 month postdoc in Göttingen to follow a similar line of research in a coralline sponge, an evolutionarily ancient animal. Returning to Australia in early 2007 as an International Fellow he studied the genetics of pearl production before being appointed as a Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen in Summer, 2008. His group is primarily focused on elucidating the molecular mechanisms that diverse animals use to make shells, spicules, skeletons and spherulites – the biominerals that supported the radiation of animal life during the early Cambrian 540+ million years ago.

Selected Publications


Alexander R. Schmidt studied biology at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. Since his early research work, the now 37-year-old has been delving into botany, ecology and palaeontology. After obtaining his doctorate, Schmidt joined the staff of the »Museum für Naturkunde« (Berlin) to conduct his post-doctoral research. Leader of the Junior Research Group »Evolution of Landplants and the Development of Terrestrial Ecosystems« since summer 2008, he and his team investigate how evolution occurred in the interplay between plants, animals, and fungi. Fossil organisms preserved in amber are an essential basis for this research. Citing Göttingen’s diverse spectrum of research in the biological and earth sciences, Schmidt considers Göttingen the ideal setting for his work.

**Selected Publications**


Reducing poverty in developing countries, the central challenge to meet the internationally agreed upon Millennium Development Goals, requires a better understanding of poverty dynamics and the policy drivers affecting poverty reduction. Research at the Courant Research Centre »Poverty, Equity, and Growth in Developing and Transition Countries: Statistical methods and Empirical analyses« focuses on the statistical and econometric analysis of the dynamics of income and non-income poverty and inequality, as well as the policy determinants of poverty change. The research is organized in three focal areas. The first area, poverty measurement and analysis, including examinations of the behavioral drivers of poverty change, encompasses the Junior Research Group »Development Economics«. The second area, including the Junior Research Group »Agricultural Economics«, focuses on the transmission of prices, policies, and technologies and their impact on poverty in rural areas of developing countries. The third area, including the Junior Research Group »Statistical Methods«, considers methodological issues and studies ways to model drivers and poverty dynamics using advanced statistical methods.

Apart from the three Junior Research Groups, the centre includes four post-doctoral researchers and five Ph.D. students supervised by Principal Investigators at the CRC. A particular strength of the centre is that it combines, for the first time, researchers from the faculties of agriculture and economics focusing on developing countries allowing them to closely collaborate with Principal Investigators working on statistical methods from the faculties of mathematics and economics. In doing so, the centre has become Germany’s largest concentration of internationally visible researchers on poverty and development economics.

The research cooperation enabled by the centre, in addition to the three tenure-track professorships, has been instrumental in promoting a range of new collaborative research ventures, including the Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkolleg, GRK) GRK 1644 »Scaling Problems in Statistics« (since October 2010), GRK 1666 »Transformation of Global Agri-Food Systems« (since April 2011), and GRK 1723 »Globalization and Development« which will start in April 2012. Researchers in the Centre participate in a Collaborative Research Centre initiative (SFB 990) »Ecological and economic trade-offs in lowland transformation systems in Indonesia« which was evaluated onsite in September 2011. Receiving international recognition, several of the centre’s researchers have also been invited to join policy initiatives, including support for the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, the US National Academy of Sciences and German development cooperation on the measurement of poverty, hunger, inequality, and human development. Lastly, the Centre also has worked on promoting teaching and capacity-building, including the introduction of a new English-language MA Programme in Development Economics at the University of Göttingen in October 2011, a series of short courses for senior policy makers in Zambia on poverty analysis, and a postgraduate training programme at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia.
Coordinator

Prof. Stephan Klasen, Ph.D.
Theoretical Economics and Development Economics, Faculty of Economic Sciences
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-peg

Junior Research Groups

Development Economics
Junior Professor Dr. Marcela Ibañez Diaz

Statistical Methods
Professor Dr. Tatyana Krivobokova

Agricultural Economics in Developing and Transition Countries
Junior Professor Dr. Xiaohua Yu

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Brümmer – Agricultural Market Analysis, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Prof. Dr. Carola Grün – Development Economics, Faculty of Economic Sciences
Prof. Stephan Klasen, Ph.D. (Coordinator) – Theoretical Economics and Development Economics, Faculty of Economic Sciences
Prof. Dr. Thomas Kneib – Statistics, Faculty of Economic Sciences
Junior Prof. Dr. Jann Lay – Development Economics, Faculty of Economic Sciences
Prof. Dr. Axel Munk – Institute for Mathematical Stochastics, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim – Agricultural Market Analysis, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Prof. Dr. Ashok Rai – Indian Economic Development, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Centre for Modern Indian Studies
Prof. Dr. Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel – Agricultural Policy, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Junior Prof. Dr. Meike Wollni – International Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Scientific Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Christopher Barrett – Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, USA
Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun – International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, USA
Prof. Dr. Ludwig Fahrmeir – Statistics – Methodology and Applications in Economics, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Prof. Dr. Irene Gijbels – Department of Mathematics, KU Leuven, Belgium
Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Sadoulet – Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Prof. Dr. Petra Todd – Department of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, USA
Development Economics

Born in 1973 in Bogota, Colombia, Marcela Ibanez-Diaz completed her master’s degree in Economics at the Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) where she worked as a researcher and lecturer for several years before proceeding to doctoral studies at Gothenburg University (Sweden). In fall 2009, Ibanez-Diaz was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen where she now leads the Junior Research Group »Development Economics« in the Courant Research Centre »Poverty, Equity, and Growth in Developing and Transition Countries.«

Her research aims to understand the determinants of pro-social cooperative behavior. She combines survey and experimental data to investigate, theoretically and empirically, the effect of incentives, norms, and institutions on behavior in developing countries. Research interests include a wide range of policy relevant issues such as: participation in illegal activities, the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies, informal insurance networks for the poor, and redistributive preferences.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

Econometrics and Statistical Methods

Born in 1974 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Tatyana Krivobokova studied applied mathematics at the National State Kazakh University before she moved to Germany, where she obtained her master's degree in Financial Mathematics in Kaiserslautern and her doctoral degree in Statistics in Bielefeld. After a one year post-doctoral fellowship at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), she joined the University of Göttingen to lead the Junior Research Group «Econometrics and Statistical Methods» in July 2008. In 2010, she was appointed Professor (W2 with tenure-track) as part of the university’s response to an outside offer for a professorship. Krivobokova’s research focuses on developing methods and theory for nonparametric smoothing techniques, in particular low-rank spline smoothing. In general, nonparametric techniques allow to estimate a relationship between variables without making an assumption on the form of the dependence. In other words, one lets the data »speak« and is able to extract the information hidden in the data efficiently. Areas to which she applies her new methods include the determinants of undernutrition, the modelling of price transmissions, and pro-poor growth in developing countries, among others. Krivobokova’s Junior Research Group profits significantly from a wide spectrum of expertise and the collaboration within the Courant Research Centre itself, which provides inspiration for new problems and applications, as well as from contacts with colleagues in the Department of Mathematics, the Center for Statistics, and Max Planck Institutes.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- Member of the DFG Research Training Group (GRK) 1023 »Identification in Mathematical Models – Synergy of Stochastic and Numerical Methods«
- Member of the DFG Research Training Group (GRK) 1644 »Scaling Problems in Statistics«
- DAAD travel grant for the project »Semiparametric Mixed Effects Models: A new class of multi-level models in Biometrics, Econometrics and Small Area Statistics«
Research Group: Tatyana Krivobokova
Agricultural Economics

**Xiaohua Yu**, born in Jiangsu Province, China, in 1979, leads the Junior Research Group »Agricultural Economics« at the Courant Research Centre »Poverty, Equity and Growth in Developing and Transition Countries«, where he was appointed Junior Professor in April 2009. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Renmin University of China (2001), a master's degree in Natural Resource Economics from Kyoto University (Japan, 2005), and a dual-title Ph.D. degree in Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics and Demography from the Pennsylvania State University (USA, 2009).

His main research interests include consumer economics, contract economics, development economics, and applied econometrics. Under Yu's leadership, the Junior Research Group »Agricultural Economics« primarily investigates the linkages between smallholders and consumer markets as well as the ongoing transformation of the food supply chain and the corresponding impacts on rural livelihoods in developing economies. The ongoing research on these issues is both theoretically and empirically oriented and is conducted in close collaboration with colleagues from the Faculties of Agricultural Sciences and Economic Sciences at the University of Göttingen.

**Selected Publications**


**Third Party Funded Projects**

Junior Research Group: Xiaohua Yu
How evolutionary and cultural mechanisms interact to shape human social behaviour remains poorly understood, in large part due to the historical lack of cooperation between the social and life sciences. Research at the Courant Research Centre »Evolution of Social Behaviour«, aims to bridge this gap by integrating contributions from primatology, anthropology, and psychology. The two innovative features of this interdisciplinary research initiative are, first of all, the reliance on evolutionary theory to provide the main theoretical framework, and secondly, the expectation that studies of the same questions in humans and non-human primates will help to identify fundamentally shared traits as well as to the particularities of human social behaviour. Members of the CRC focus on central questions that affect the human condition, including gender differences and roles, cooperation and prosocial behaviour, group coordination and group performance, non-verbal behaviour, and physical attraction. These topics correlate with the research goals of the two Junior Research Groups »Evolution of Cooperation and Prosocial Behaviour« and »Social Evolution in Primates«, which, together with the two affiliated Emmy Noether Research Groups »Primate Sexual Selection« and »Evolutionary Psychology«, build the core of the CRC.

The questions requiring interdisciplinary research between primatologists, anthropologists, sociobiologists, and psychologists are those that consider the differences between human and non-human primate social behaviour and how human social behaviour has evolved. Specifically, this means that collaborative approaches for assessing the adaptation and selection of social behaviours can be fruitful in defining their contributions to the general fitness of both human and non-human primate species. This interdisciplinary research approach is an especially important contribution to evolutionary theory because comparisons between different kinds of primates – specifically comparisons that include humans – would allow for determining convergent developments in social behaviour. The jointly run facilities and the exchange of knowledge within the CRC facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation and first-class training of junior researchers.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Julia Fischer
Cognitive Ethology
German Primate Centre and Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-social-behaviour

Junior Research Groups

Social Evolution in Primates
Junior Professor Dr. Julia Ostner
Evolution of Cooperation and Pro-Social Behavior
Junior Professor Dr. Dirk Semmann

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Margarete Boos – Social & Communication Psychology, Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology
Prof. Dr. Julia Fischer (Coordinator) – Cognitive Ethology, German Primate Center
Prof. Dr. Peter M. Kappeler – Behavioural Ecology & Sociobiology & Anthropology, German Primate Center
Prof. Dr. Hannes Rakoczy – Biological Developmental Psychology, Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology

Prof. Dr. Stefan Schulz-Hardt – Economic & Social Psychology, Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology
Prof. Dr. Michael R. Waldmann – Cognitive and Decision Psychology, Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology

Emmy Noether-Junior Research Groups

Dr. Antje Engelhardt – Primate Sexual Selection
Dr. Bernhard Fink – Evolutionary Psychology of Human Physical Appearance and Body Movement

Scientific Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Brauner – Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College, USA
Prof. Dr. Redouan Bshary – Institut de Biologie, Eco-Ethologie, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Prof. Dr. Robin Dunbar – Institute of Cognitive & Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, UK
Prof. Dr. Joanna Setchell – Department of Anthropology, Durham University, UK
Prof. Dr. Joan Silk – Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Born 1970 in Munich, Julia Ostner studied biology at the University of Göttingen. After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Würzburg in 2003, she proceeded to postgraduate work at Stony Brook University (New York) funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

In 2005, she returned to Germany as an independent research group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. In summer 2008, she was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen, where she currently leads a Junior Research Group focusing on the evolution of sociality in primates. Research in her group aims to understand the conditions and mechanisms favoring the evolution of friendship, conflict management, coalitions, and alliances in our closest living relatives for much of what constitutes today’s humans as social beings is an inheritance from the times of the ancestors of Homo sapiens.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects
- Third party funded projects: Member of the Leibniz Graduate School »Foundations of Primate Behavior«, Leibniz Association
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship »Coalition formation in primate males: from evolution to proximate mechanisms and back«
Evolution of Cooperation and Pro-Social Behavior

Since the beginning of his scientific career, Dirk Semmann has focused on experiments dealing with cooperative behavior in humans. His strong interest in the field led to a diploma thesis in Biology at the University of Hamburg and his dissertation at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Evolutionary Biology in Plön. Here, his primary focus lay in the question as to why people help others even if they cannot expect any direct benefit in return. Able to show that reputation plays a decisive role, Semmann continued his experimental investigation into human cooperative behavior during his post-doctoral studies at the MPI for Evolutionary Biology before proceeding to the University of Vienna with a scholarship from the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Since May 2008, he leads the Junior Research Group »Evolution of Cooperation and Pro-Social Behavior« at the Courant Research Centre »Evolution of Social Behaviour«. The group profits strongly from interdisciplinary work and discussions on the topic of cooperation, as well as from the helpful advice and support of the senior scientists within the CRC.

Selected Publications
Junior Research Group: Dirk Semmann
CRC Education and Religion from Early Imperial Roman Times to the Classical Period of Islam (EDRIS)

The Courant Research Centre »Education and Religion« (EDRIS) is devoted to the comprehensive study of »Education and Religion from Early Imperial Roman Times to the Classical Period of Islam.« It provides the basis for the interdisciplinary collaborative work of three Junior Research Groups who focus on three closely interconnected areas of study defined both culturally and chronologically. The examination of educational concepts and methods and their interaction with religious beliefs regarding the Greco-Roman, Christian, Jewish, and Islamic cultures covers the time between the first century CE and the thirteenth century CE. As such, this research is immediately relevant for a period and geographic area of fundamental importance for the rise and growth of both Western and Islamic civilizations, each of which is in some way an interpreter and a continuer of Hellenism. Hence, the distance from Rome to Baghdad represents an intellectual journey through a series of successive and interrelated enlightenments.

The systematic and multidisciplinary analysis of uncovering key concepts, theories, and philosophies of education and wisdom, whose influences are still at work in present-day discourses and intercultural presuppositions, will not only serve to substantially enrich discussion in our culturally diverse modern societies, but will also be of considerable significance in light of the many current debates on a potential »clash of civilizations.« It will thus lead to a better understanding of the cultural and intellectual foundations of the Western and Islamic worlds during their shared past. In essence, the Courant Research Centre »EDRIS« will significantly contribute to the establishment of a sound footing on which to build our »shared future.« Furthermore, the centre will tackle a range of crucial, yet sorely understudied topics in the humanities. This innovative enterprise will create a new focus for scholarship in the humanities in Göttingen, as well as open up new possibilities for collaboration with internationally renowned academic institutions located both in Germany and abroad.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt, Church History,
Faculty of Theology, www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-edris

Junior Research Groups

Piety and Paideia. Religious Traditions and Intellectual Culture in the World of the Roman Empire (from the first to the fourth centuries CE)
Junior Professor Dr. Tobias Georges
Education at the Crossroads: Pagan, Jewish, and Christian Discourses in Late Antiquity (from the fourth to the ninth centuries CE)
Junior Professor Dr. Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler
Revelation, Reason and Identity. Education in Early and Classical Islam (from the seventh to the thirteenth centuries CE)
Junior Professor Dr. Jens Scheiner

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Lale Behzadi – Arabic Studies, University of Bamberg
Prof. Dr. Reinhard Feldmeier – New Testament Studies,
Faculty of Theology
Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt (Coordinator) – Church History,
Faculty of Theology

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther (Vice-Coordinator) – Arabic and Islamic Studies, Faculty of Humanities
Prof. Dr. Rainer Hirsch-Luipold – New Testament Studies, University of Bern
Prof. Dr. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath – Classical Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Scholarly Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Therese Fuhrer – Institute of Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures, Freie Universität Berlin
Prof. Dr. Dr. Alfons Fürst – Institute of Early Church History, University of Münster
Prof. Dr. Wadad Kadi – Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, USA
Prof. Dr. Angelika Neuwirth – Institute of Semitic and Arabic Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Günter Stemberger – Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Vienna, Austria
Prof. Dr. Tor Vegge – Institute of Religion, Philosophy and History, University of Agder, Norway
Prof. Dr. Konrad Vössing – Institute of Ancient History, University of Bonn
Piety and Paideia. Religious Traditions and Intellectual Culture in the World of the Roman Empire (1st-4th century CE)

Born in 1972 in Schwalmstadt, Germany, Tobias Georges studied Protestant theology at the universities of Munich, Marburg, and Erlangen. After being ordained a minister in the Lutheran Church in Bavaria, he completed his doctorate in Church History at the University of Halle where he also worked as a research assistant. Following his time in Halle, Georges held a position as lecturer at the University of Erlangen, and in fall 2009, he was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen where he currently heads the Junior Research Group »Piety and Paideia: Religious traditions and Intellectual culture in the world of the Roman Empire (1st-4th century CE)« within the Courant Research Centre »Education and Religion.«

In April 2010, he completed his habilitation at the University of Halle. Georges’ research group focuses on schools as institutions of higher education within different religious traditions, namely the Christian, Jewish and pagan realm, during the second and third centuries, and examines how the different realms interrelate and how religious identities are formed at the schools. The Courant Research Centre combines many different fields of specialization and thus offers Georges and his team an ideal platform for discussing new ideas in an interdisciplinary context.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- Temporary Post-Doc Position funded by the »Fritz Thyssen Stiftung«, project: »Tertullian im Gespräch mit Heiden, Christen und Juden – eine von der Interpretation des Apologeticum ausgehende Untersuchung seiner Argumentationsstrategien«
Education at the Crossroads: Pagan, Jewish, and Christian – Discourses in Late Antiquity

Born in 1979 in Bucharest, Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler studied history of religions, theology and philosophy in Bayreuth, where she earned her Ph.D. in the history of religions in 2005. She then pursued her research at the universities of Bayreuth, Göttingen and Ohio State University (USA) before being appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen in December 2009. Her research interests include various fields in the study of religion such as religious education, rituals and meaning, religion and philosophy, conversion, or the construction of sacred space, focusing on the European history of religions. Tanaseanu-Döbler’s research group examines the interplay between religion, education, and identity-building in Late Antiquity; it questions the widespread view of late antique religious traditions as monolithic groups with clear-cut borders, concentrating on the interactions of individual actors within various shared frames of reference such as classical education, Neoplatonic philosophy or Biblical exegesis.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- DAAD travel grant for the XXth IAHR World Congress
Jens Scheiner was born in 1976 in Hermannstadt. In 2004, he received his first university degree (M.A.) from the University of Tübingen where he studied Islamic Sciences, Social and Economic History, and Public Law. Building upon his studies, he began writing a source-analytical study on the Islamic conquest of Damascus for which he studied in Hamburg and Chicago (USA). He successfully completed this work, composing a dissertation at the Radboud University Nijmegen (Netherlands). In the following years, he was a lecturer and research assistant at the Institute for Islamic Studies at the Free University of Berlin and held courses at the Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg. He started his current work as Junior Research Group Leader at the Courant Research Centre »Education and Religion« (EDRIS) in February 2010. Scheiner’s research focus lies in the history and culture of the Middle East from Late Antiquity to classical Islamic times. Apart from holding regular presentations on topics such as Islam in history and the present, education in the Islamic world, or the presentation of Islam in American movies, Scheiner also teaches numerous courses on the various aspects of the Islamic culture.

**Selected Publications**


Junior Research Group: Jens Scheiner
How do we read and interpret texts? As we all know, »reading« a text involves much more than simply scanning words and computing the literal meanings of sentences. From the psycholinguistic point of view, text comprehension is an instance of cognitive information processing based on the interaction between the text structure and the recipient’s cognitive structure. Research in literary studies, as well as in linguistics, has revealed that readers use inferencing at many levels in order to fully comprehend texts. In order to do this, the reader has to be able to convert a sequence of sentences into a coherent text, i.e. to identify semantic relationships among text ideas and to build a mental representation showing connectedness.

In the Courant Research Centre »Text Structures«, scholars of linguistics, literary studies, and psychology work together to spur on current research in the area of text analysis from different perspectives. In combining principle-based linguistic approaches and narratological methods of text analysis, the researchers strive to develop a comprehensive platform for the description of all linguistic and narratological levels of text structure and their reciprocal interpretive effects. While the description and theoretical analysis of isolated levels of text structure has matured substantially over the last thirty years, we possess but anecdotic observations about the interaction between different levels and the surplus literary effects created by such interactions.

Three Junior Research Groups collaborate within the CRC »Text Structures«; two are theory-oriented and the third is empirically focused. The two theory-oriented research groups will aim to develop the Multi-layered Text Protocol, a comprehensive platform which traces text structures at all linguistic and narratological levels. This platform will serve to protocol textual categories such as common ground, discourse referents, salience, perspectival parameters, temporal and aspeccual parameters, information structure, narrative perspective, mode, focalization, thematic structure, and genre specific patterns in a horizontally and vertically structured way. The empirically focused research group will investigate dependencies between factors at different levels of the Multi-layered Text Protocol and uses experimental methods of empirical narratology and psycholinguistics to validate hypotheses about interactions at various levels.

As a starting hypothesis, it is assumed that lower linguistic levels are independent factors which influence high level literary factors such as mode, focus, perspective, and narrative structure. In view of the highly subjective categories under investigation, however, we envisage a close collaboration between the three groups in which the empirical research group will offer feedback to the theory-oriented research groups and instigate a cyclic process of optimization and verification of the levels and categories of the Multi-layered Text Protocol.
Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Anke Holler
Department of German Philology, Faculty of Humanities
www.uni-goettingen.de/crc-textstrukturen

Junior Research Groups

Theoretical Linguistics
Junior Professor Dr. Victor Edgar Onea Gáspár

Analytic Literary Theory
Junior Professor Dr. Tilmann Köppe

Experimental Psycholinguistics
Junior Professor Dr. Annekathrin Schacht

Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Regine Eckardt (Vice-Coordinator) – Department of English Philology, Faculty of Humanities
Prof. Dr. Anke Holler (Coordinator) – Department of German Philology, Faculty of Humanities
Prof. Dr. Uta Lass – Experimental Psychology, Georg-Elias-Müller Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology
Prof. Dr. Markus Steinbach – Department of German Philology, Faculty of Humanities
Prof. Dr. Simone Winko – Department of German Philology, Faculty of Humanities

Scholarly Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Peter Bosch – Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück
Prof. Dr. Cathrine Fabricius-Hansen – Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, University of Oslo, Norway
Prof. Dr. Monika Fludernik – English Department, University of Freiburg
Prof. Dr. em. Norbert Groeben – University of Cologne/Heidelberg
Prof. Dr. Reinhold Kliegl – Cognitive Psychology, University of Potsdam
Prof. Dr. em. Marga Reis – Department of Linguistics, University of Tübingen
Prof. Dr. Pienie Zwitserlood – Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Neurosciences, University of Münster
After having finished his studies and doctoral dissertation at the University of Heidelberg in 2005, Victor Edgar Onea Gáspár has concentrated his research on the semantics-pragmatics interface at the University of Stuttgart, as a member of the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 732 »Incremental Specification in Context«. In particular, he has studied the interpretation of Hungarian and Mongolian focus, the scopal and epistemic properties of indefinites in Russian and Romanian, and the conventional meaning of German discourse particles. Since October 2010, he is the leader of the Junior Research Group »Theoretical Linguistics«, which aims at a better understanding and formal modeling of the linguistic properties of larger texts with experimental and mathematical methods. The crucial question to be pursued in the research group is how, on the one hand, linguistic form influences the computation of discourse structure and how, on the other hand, discourse structure influences the interpretation of linguistic utterances. The collaboration with the literature and the psychology project provides significant interdisciplinary benefit.

Selected Publications


Junior Research Group: Victor Edgar Onea Gáspár
Tilmann Köppe was born in 1977 and studied German Literature, Theology, Philosophy and Aesthetics in Göttingen and Southampton (UK). He received his doctoral degree in 2007 and subsequently worked as a Junior Research Fellow at the School of Language and Literature, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS). In fall 2010 he was appointed Junior Professor at the Courant Research Centre »Text Structures« and now leads the Junior Research Group »Analytic Literary Theory«. The general objective of analytic literary theory is the combination of insights from traditional literary theory, analytic philosophy, psychology and linguistics in order to shed light on structural and functional features of literary texts. The research group is devoted to the analysis of higher-order properties of narrative texts with a special focus on the phenomenon of narrative perspective/focalization. A comprehensive study of focalization needs to explicate the concept and its various cognates, model the theoretical structure of its dependence on lower-level textural structures, clarify the heuristics and justification of ascriptions of focalization within the practice of interpretation, and inquire into the various (causal) reception-effects of focalized texts. A close cooperation with the models of theoretical linguistics and the empirical methods of experimental psycho-linguistics is therefore mandatory.

Selected Publications

Third Party Funded Projects
- Member of the network »Grundbegriffe der Erzähltheorie/Foundational Concepts of Narratology« funded by FRIAS (2012).
Junior Research Group: Tilmann Köppe
Experimental Psycholinguistics

Annekathrin Schacht, born in 1976, studied Psychology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU). After receiving her PhD from the HU in 2008, she acquired and conducted the research project »Emotions in Word and Face Processing« (together with W. Sommer), funded by the Cluster of Excellence »Languages of Emotion«. From 2009 to 2010 she worked as Interim Professor for Psychology of Motivation and Emotion at the University of Potsdam and as Guest Professor for Cognitive Neuroscience at the HU. Schacht’s main research interests focus on emotional aspects in language and face processing, and in cognitive conflicts. Recently, her scientific work has been awarded the »Förderpreis 2010« by the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. In winter 2010, she followed an invitation to a three-month Young Visiting Professorship at the Swiss Center of Affective Sciences in Geneva, Switzerland.

Schacht was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen in October 2010, where she is now leading the Junior Research Group »Experimental Psycholinguistics«. The research of her group aims to examine the mechanisms underlying the activation of semantic content in reading as well as its consequences for readers’ behaviour and feelings, by combining behavioural and neuroscientific methods.

Selected Publications


Junior Research Group: Annekathrin Schacht
With its unique Free-Floater concept the university is able to offer talented young scientists from various disciplines a reliable and attractive career perspective independent of existing collaborative structures. Proposals for the establishment of independent Free-Floater Junior Research Groups (JRG) were invited without constraints on their topics, regardless whether they were in line with trends or matched the development programme of the university. Nevertheless, they significantly contribute to the strategic development of the university’s research profile and its faculties. The Free-Floater Junior Research Group Leaders receive a tenured junior professorship, just as their colleagues at the Courant Research Centres. Eight Free-Floater Junior Research Groups have been established at the university until now.
Free-Floater JRGs established in 2008

Music, Conflict, and the State
Faculty of Humanities
Junior Professor Dr. Morag Grant
www.uni-goettingen.de/de/81652.html

Ethnic Educational Inequality
Faculty of Social Sciences
Professor Dr. Cornelia Kristen
(was appointed W3 Professor at the University of Bamberg in August 2010)
www.uni-goettingen.de/en/84831.html

Nominal Phrases in Intensional Contexts
Faculty of Humanities
Junior Professor Dr. Magdalena Kaufmann
zis.uni-goettingen.de/mschwager/
www.uni-goettingen.de/de/137546.html

Discrete Differential Geometry
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Professor Dr. Max Wardetzky
num.math.uni-goettingen.de/~wardetzky/
(was appointed W2 Professor at the University of Göttingen in November 2011)

Free-Floater JRGs established in 2009/2010

Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry
Faculty of Chemistry
Junior Professor Dr. Ricardo Mata
www.uni-goettingen.de/computational-chemistry

Applied Synthetic Biology
Faculty of Biology including Psychology
Junior Professor Dr. Heinz Neumann
www.uni-goettingen.de/synthetic-biology

Language Acquisition
Faculty of Biology including Psychology
Junior Professor Dr. Nivedita Mani
www.uni-goettingen.de/language-acquisition

Biodiversity, Macroecology and Biogeography
Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology
Junior Professor Dr. Holger Kreft
www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversity
Music, Conflict and the State

Born in 1972 in Lanarkshire, Scotland, M. J. Grant studied music at the University of Glasgow before proceeding to postgraduate work at King’s College London and at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Following completion of a doctoral dissertation, she moved to Berlin and worked for several years as a translator and freelance musicologist. In spring 2008 she was appointed as junior professor at the University of Göttingen as leader of a Free-Floater Junior Research Group investigating the role of music in conflict situations. The group promotes and conducts research into the role(s) of music in promoting, facilitating and perpetuating violent responses to conflict, particularly in the case of inter- and intrastate wars. The group hopes to develop a musicological perspective on the dynamics of armed and violent conflict, and how music may play a role in regulating but also intensifying such conflicts. Individual research projects currently include contexts as diverse as twentieth-century Sierra Leone, Portuguese colonies in South-East Asia in the early modern period, and eighteenth-century Britain. The group promotes further research on the topic including by organising international conferences and workshops. In 2011, the group expanded the focus of their work to include a new project looking at the use of music in connection with torture and other forms of cruel, unusual and degrading punishment.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- “Music, Terror and Manipulation under the Greek Junta”, Intra-European Fellowships (IEF) to Dr. Anna Papaeti, EU (2011-2013)
- International scientific conference »The Soundtrack of Conflict: The Role of Music in Radio in Wartime and in Conflict Situations«, DFG / MWK (2011)
- International scientific conference »Music as an instrument of torture – Scope, impact and countermeasures«, DFG / MWK (2011)
Born in 1972 in Pforzheim (Germany), **Cornelia Kristen** studied social sciences at the University of Mannheim and at Indiana University Bloomington (USA). After graduating, she joined the »Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES)«. With a Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Union she continued her research at the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Research and Methodology (ICS) in Groningen (Netherlands), and received her doctorate in Sociology at the University of Mannheim. She then held a research position at the University of Leipzig until her appointment at the University of Göttingen in 2008 as leader of a Free-Floater Junior Research Group.

Kristen’s team investigates the emergence of inequalities in education focusing on immigrants and ethnic minorities, but also on social inequalities in education. The group also addresses questions in the fields of migration and immigrants’ and their children’s integration. Additionally, Kristen co-directs several national and international comparative projects. She accepted a call for a full professorship of »Sociology/ Social Structure Analysis« at the University of Bamberg which started in August 2010.

**Selected Publications**


Magdalena Kaufmann (formerly Schwager) was born in Vienna in 1978 and studied linguistics, German philology and computational science at the University of Vienna, the Technical University of Vienna and Università Roma Tre (Italy). She then proceeded to the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, where she received her doctoral degree in linguistics and subsequently worked as a post-doctoral researcher. In summer 2008, she was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen where she currently heads a junior research group on the interpretation of nominal phrases in intensional contexts, i.e. linguistic environments that are used to describe possibilities, wishes, desires, or goals rather than actual situations. The special focus of the group is to bring together linguistic and philosophical insights on the interpretation and use of natural language expressions and to provide a better understanding of how the choice of nominal expressions depends on both the actual context of communication, as well as the content of the attitudes that are being reported. Schwager’s study is informed by cross-linguistic empirical investigations into how different languages realize particular meanings and seeks to use and develop formal methods to appropriately model the observed effects. Her research at the University of Göttingen profits in particular from the interaction with the Principal Investigators in the CRC »Text Structures«, the close interaction between linguists and other scholars at the university and non-university institutions, as well as the possibilities for exchange and collaboration offered by the Lichtenberg-Kolleg.

Selected Publications
Free-Floater Junior Research Group: Magdalena Kaufmann
Born in 1973 in Berlin, Max Wardetzky studied mathematics at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin before moving to College Park (USA) to continue his graduate studies. He then entered the computer graphics industry and worked for two years at mental images GmbH (Berlin). Returning to academia, Wardetzky received his Ph.D. from the Freie Universität Berlin in 2006. Two years later, he was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen where he currently heads the Free-Floater Junior Research Group »Discrete Differential Geometry.« In November 2011 he received a tenured W2 Professorship at the University of Göttingen.

Wardetzky and his team study discrete counterparts of classical differential geometry, connecting novel theoretical insights with efficient and robust algorithms for applications in physical simulation, computer graphics, and geometry processing.

Selected Publications


Third Party Funded Projects

- BMBF Joint Research Project »GeoMec – Diskrete Geometrische Strukturmechanik für Anwendungen in virtueller und erweiterter Realität« (2010-2013)
- Gift from Adobe Incorporated (15,000 USD, 2010).
Research Group: Max Wardetzky
Ricardo A. Mata was born in 1981 in Lisbon, Portugal. He studied chemistry at the University of Lisbon, followed by graduate work at the University of Stuttgart, where he received his doctoral degree in 2007. Later that year, he was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship and returned to the University of Lisbon as a member of the Group of Mathematical Physics. In fall 2009, he was appointed Junior Professor and leader of the Free-Floater Junior Research Group »Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry« at the University of Göttingen. His research focuses on the development of new computational approaches for the study of molecular reactivity and weak interactions in biomolecules. The group aims to provide accurate in silico predictions for complex reactions in enzymatic systems and to provide atomic-scale descriptions of life processes. The Göttingen Research Campus offers him and his team excellent conditions in this specific area, with significant expertise in the field of biophysics and top notch research groups working with single molecule experiments.

Selected Publications


Heinz Neumann, born in 1974, studied chemistry in Darmstadt and Tübingen and received his Ph.D. for his work on membrane fusion under Prof. Dr. Andreas Mayer (Lausanne). In 2006, he moved to Cambridge (UK) to work with Dr. Jason Chin on the directed evolution of the translational machinery. In fall 2009, he was appointed Junior Professor at the University of Göttingen, where he currently heads the Free-Floater Junior Research Group »Applied Synthetic Biology.«

The group’s aim is to investigate the dynamic mechanism of genetic inheritance by employing the novel tools from synthetic biology that Neumann developed in his postdoctoral studies. His group is funded by the Emmy Noether-Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and associated to the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) »Integrative Structural Biology of Dynamic Macromolecular Assemblies« (SFB 860).

Selected Publications


* equally contributing authors

Third Party Funded Projects

► DFG Emmy Noether-Programme
  »Using genetic code expansion to investigate the functional dynamics of proteins« (NE 1589/1-1; 2009-2012)
Holger Kreft was born in 1976 in Waldbröl (Germany). He studied biology and geography at the Universities of Bonn and Boston (USA) supported by scholarships from the »Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst« and the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes). He received his Dr. rer. nat. in 2007 from the University of Bonn. A postdoctoral fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation brought him to the University of California San Diego. Coming to the University of Göttingen in December 2009, he was appointed head of the Free-Floater Junior Research Group »Biodiversity, Macroecology and Conservation Biogeography.«

His research aims at documenting, analysing, and modelling spatial patterns of biodiversity from local to global scales and recent research focus lies on macroecological and mechanistic models of island biodiversity. Kreft’s scientific work has been awarded with the Wilhelm Pfeffer Prize (German Botanical Society), the Merian Award (German Society for Tropical Ecology), and the Alwyn Gentry Award (Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation). Profiting from collegial interaction with strong ecological research groups in the faculties of biology, forest sciences, and agriculture, Göttingen offers Kreft and his team a unique academic environment for interdisciplinary biodiversity research.

Selected Publications


* equally contributing authors

Third Party Funded Projects

- DFG Individual Grant for Dr. S. Cabral, Project »Modelling spatial dynamics of vacsular epiphytes (MODVE)« (2010-2013)
- Co-operative project »Regionalisierung globaler Klimabasisdaten« between Universities of Göttingen and Zurich (2010-2011)
- DBU Scholarship (2011-2013) to C. Meyer
Language Acquisition

Born in Chennai, India, in 1980, Nivedita Mani studied English literature at the University of Delhi before completing an M.A. in Literary Linguistics at the University of Birmingham (UK) and further postgraduate (M.Phil) and doctoral work in General Linguistics & Phonetics at the University of Oxford (UK). Thereafter, she worked in the Department of Experimental Psychology (2006-2008), before moving on to a British Academy postdoctoral fellowship grant at University College London.

In January 2010, she took up a Free-Floater Junior Professorship at the University of Göttingen and founded the Junior Research Group »Language Acquisition«. Mani’s work examines the mechanisms underlying infants’ acquisition of their native language, as well as adults’ processing of their first and second languages. For her infant research, she has started a new infant language testing facility at the university, WortSchatzInsel, which will examine language development during the first three years of life.

Selected Publications


Institutional Strategy Office

The Institutional Strategy Office coordinates the measures of the DFG funded future concept (ZUK 45/1) at the University of Göttingen. The Office is directly responsible for the coordination of the measures Brain Gain (Courant Research Centres, Free Floater Junior Research Groups) and Brain Sustain (Sabbaticals, New Professorships, Flexible Fund). In addition, the Institutional Strategy Office initiates pilot projects supporting scientists and scholars at the Göttingen Research Campus (e.g., leadership training, mentoring programme). Functioning as a central unit and interface in which all aspects of the Institutional Strategy are integrated, the Office serves as the main contact for the Presidential Board, the Göttingen Research Council (GRC), the faculties, non-university research institutions, administration, and scientists and scholars. Moreover, the Institutional Strategy Office is responsible for the financial management and governance of all measures of the Institutional Strategy, as well as for preparing and conveying the annual progress report to the German Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat, WR).

Contact
Dr. Reiner Mansch, MBA (Director)
reiner.mansch@uni-goettingen.de
www.uni-goettingen.de/institutional-strategy-office

Communication – Leadership – Career Development
An in-house training series for junior professionals

Since Junior Professors and Junior Research Group Leaders face a variety of challenges in their first leadership position, the Institutional Strategy Office set up a training programme tailored to the needs of this target group. This programme was initially offered exclusively to those Junior Professors recruited within Brain Gain, but the programme was later opened up to cater for all Junior Group leaders at the Research Campus. Leading a junior research group nowadays requires much more than excellent scientific skills. The University of Göttingen therefore set up a leadership competency scheme including workshops for skills and proficiency training in the areas of communication, management and career development. As part of the programme, individual coaching can be provided to the participants. The coaching is meant to support young academics in their leadership role and strengthen self-confidence as a group leader.

Contact
Dr. Kerstin Mauth
kerstin.mauth@uni-goettingen.de
www.uni-goettingen.de/training-series
Mentoring programme for female doctoral and postdoctoral researchers on the Göttingen Research Campus

As part of the Institutional Strategy the University of Göttingen is offering a mentoring programme for 20 doctoral and postdoctoral female researcher, designed to accompany young women through early phases of their career development and provide them with structured consultation. It is a contribution to increasing the number of women in leading positions at universities and non-university institutions.

The mentoring programme has started in March 2011 and consists of three components: mentoring, networking, training programme. It includes one-to-one mentoring for postdocs, group mentoring for doctoral researchers, a training programme for advancing professional and personal development, as well as information and networking events devoted to career related topics.

The mentors are professors on the Göttingen Research Campus who are active in related fields of research, suited to the needs of the selected mentees in the programme. The mentors are provided with individual coaching and workshops to increase their awareness of gender aspects in career development. Thus the mentoring programme is meant to develop individual careers as well as the organization as a whole.

Contact
Dr. Manuela Kaiser-Belz
manuela.kaiser-belz@uni-goettingen.de
www.uni-goettingen.de/mentoringzuk
The measure *Brain Sustain* enhances the conditions for supporting and retaining outstanding researchers at the Göttingen Research Campus. The measure makes use of three flexible instruments.

**Sabbaticals**

Outstanding researchers at the Göttingen Research Campus can apply for periods of leave from teaching and administrative duties for up to two semesters in order to concentrate exclusively on their research. The university in total granted 46 sabbaticals to distinguished scholars.

**New Professorships**

The university established two new professorships in strategically important fields in order to complement initiatives for joint large scale research projects.

- **Molecular Biology of Plant-Microbe-Interaction**
  Prof. Dr. Jan Schirawski (October 2009)
  Faculty of Biology including Psychology
  [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/127761.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/127761.html)

- **Sensory Processing in the Retina**
  Prof. Dr. Tim Gollisch (August 2010)
  University Medical Centre

**Flexible Fund**

These resources are intended for unforeseen expenditures necessary to support established or developing high priority research areas and to enhance the appeal of offers made by the University of Göttingen. So far, mainly large scale equipment improving research infrastructure has been funded upon decision by the presidential board and the Göttingen Research Council.
Professors who were granted a sabbatical from Brain Sustain

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim
Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development

Prof. Dr. Teja Tscharntke
Department of Agroecology

Faculty of Biology incl. Psychology

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Braus
Department of Molecular Microbiology and Genetics

Prof. Dr. Ralf Ficner
Department of Molecular Structural Biology

Prof. Dr. Julia Fischer
Cognitive Ethology/Ecology

Prof. Dr. Stefan Scheu
Department of Animal Ecology

Faculty of Chemistry

Prof. Dr. Claudia Steinem
Institute for Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry

Prof. Dr. Franc Meyer
Institute of Inorganic Chemistry

Faculty of Economic Sciences

Prof. Dr. Kilian Bizer
Department of Economic Policy and SME Research

Prof. Stephan Klasen, Ph.D.
Theoretical Economics and Development Economics

Prof. Dr. Robert Schwager
Department of Public Finance

Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology

Prof. Dr. Andrea Polle
Forest Botany and Tree Physiology

Faculty of Geoscience and Geography

Prof. Dr. Martin Sauter
Department of Applied Geology

Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dr. Regina Bendix
Department of Cultural Anthropology/ European Ethnology

Prof. Dr. Hiltraud Casper-Hehne
Department of Intercultural German Studies

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Detering
Department of German Philology – German Literature

Prof. Dr. Regine Eckardt
Department of English Philology – English Linguistics
Professors who were granted a sabbatical from Brain Sustain (continued)

Faculty of Humanities (continued)

Prof. Dr. Thomas Haye
Department of Latin Philology of Middle and Modern Ages

Prof. Dr. Manfred Hildermeier
Department of History

Prof. Dr. Frank Kelleter
Department of English Philology – North American Studies

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lauer
Department of German Philology – German Literature

Prof. Dr. Heinz-Günther Nesselrath
Institute for Classics

Prof. Dr. Frank Rexroth
Department of Medieval and Modern History

Prof. Dr. Hedwig Röckelein
Department of Medieval and Modern History

Prof. Dr. Simone Winko
Department of German Philology – German Literature

Prof. Dr. Annette Zgoll
Department of Ancient Near-Eastern Studies

Faculty of Law

Prof. Dr. Eva Schumann
Institute of Legal History, Legal Philosophy and Comparative Law

Prof. Dr. Gerald Spindler
Department of Civil Law

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Prof. Dr. Valentin Blomer
Mathematical Institute

Prof. Dr. Axel Munk
Institute for Mathematical Stochastics

Faculty of Physics

Prof. Dr. Stefan Dreizler
Institute for Astrophysics

Prof. Dr. Konrad Samwer
Physical Institute I

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schmidt
Physical Institute III

Prof. Dr. Annette Zippelius
Institute for Theoretical Physics
Professors who were granted a sabbatical from Brain Sustain (continued)

**Faculty of Theology**

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Feldmeier  
New Testament Studies

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Kratz  
Old Testament Studies

Prof. Dr. Thomas Kaufmann  
Church History

Prof. Dr. Hermann Spieckermann  
Old Testament Studies

Prof. Dr. Martin Tamcke  
Ecumenical Theology and Oriental Church and Mission History

**University Medical Centre Göttingen**

Prof. Dr. Matthias Bähr  
Department of Neurology

Prof. Dr. Peter Falkai  
Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

Prof. Dr. Gerd Hasenfüß  
Department of Cardiology and Pneumology

Prof. Dr. Tobias Moser  
Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Prof. Dr. Peter Rehling  
Department of Biochemistry II

Prof. Dr. Lorenz Trümper  
Department of Hematology and Oncology

Prof. Dr. Claudia Wiesemann  
Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine
Lichtenberg-Kolleg

The Lichtenberg-Kolleg was established to strengthen the international visibility of the Göttingen Research Campus in the humanities and social sciences, and to initiate, facilitate and nurture innovative research in these fields.

The Lichtenberg-Kolleg presents the opportunity for scholars from different disciplines, universities and academic cultures to meet and converse. This is achieved by inviting Fellows from around the globe working in different fields; it is achieved through their encounters on an almost daily basis in the library, at the offices and at common meals; and it is achieved through the weekly colloquia, the workshops and other forms of meetings, arranged or by chance.

The Lichtenberg-Kolleg is open not only to highly experienced and internationally renowned individuals but also to pioneering young researchers. This applies also to the invitation of guests to the colloquia and workshops, where doctoral students and post-docs enrich the discussion.

Cross- and interdisciplinary interaction has been fostered by the combination of inviting Fellows with related research topics, on the one hand, and others with divergent research foci, on the other. Fellows working on related research topics, however, come at least from different disciplines. The combination of affiliated and different topics, of scholars with different backgrounds and completely heterogeneous expertise and scholarly interests encourages reflection upon the limits underpinning one’s own models of assumptions and methodological approaches. We have experienced openness and willingness to engage in this process. Another incentive for interaction is the fact that Fellows’ research
topics are generally linked to research interests of local researchers. The system of recruitment of Fellows relies on proposals of the latter and on applications expressing special interest in cooperating with scholars in Göttingen: this system has proved successful. It has ensured that the dialogue between Fellows and colleagues of the Göttingen Research Campus is automatically inherent to the programme.

**Research Foci**

After the establishment of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg in October 2008, members of the preparation committee, convenors of past workshops and other interested colleagues worked in concert to specify these ideas as research foci. A consensus was reached to concentrate on »Religion in Modern Cultures« and »Cognition/Practice/Norm: Different Rationalities in the Culture of Sciences and Humanities«.

With regard to the focus on religion, it has to be noted that the original topic »Religion in Modern Cultures« has been extended to cover religion in all epochs, esp. Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The overarching topic »Cognition/Practice/Norm: Different Rationalities in the Cultures of Sciences and the Humanities« has generated five main subfields: (a) Knowledge Culture of Mathematics and its Positions in the System of Academic Disciplines, (b) The History and Philosophy of Science: Academic Collections and their Role in the History of Sciences and Humanities, (c) Processes of Enlightenment and Rationalization, (d) Rationality, Autonomy, Trust, and Norms in Medical Treatment, and finally (e) Specific Interdisciplinary Research in Linguistics.

**Activities**

The colloquium, a regular weekly event, is a core item on the Lichtenberg-Kolleg’s agenda of scholarly activities. This gathering – involving primarily Fellows and Associates, but with the occasional participation of further guests – is designed to facilitate an ongoing academic exchange among the researchers active at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg with respect to the research topics.

Starting in January 2008, interdisciplinary workshops were held during the preparatory phase of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg. These workshops provided the opportunity for interdisciplinary research groups from the Göttingen Research Campus to discuss selected research topics with scholars invited from Germany and abroad. Similar conferences have been held in 2009, 2010 and 2011, also featuring research projects of younger, emerging scholars working at the Göttingen Research Campus. Doctoral candidates and early-career researchers are also invited on the basis of the topic concerned and hence the graduate schools and research groups are informed accordingly, as are the faculties.

Public lectures hosted by the Lichtenberg-Kolleg are designed to spark interest among the general public in Göttingen in the work and projects pursued here. Outstanding scholars speak on topics of particular current relevance or of profound interest in language that can be understood also by non-experts. The lectures are followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

**Impacts**

Research at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg has invigorated various parts of the Göttingen Research Campus. Associates of the Lichtenberg-Kolleg successfully applied for third party funding, e.g. the VolkswagenStiftung research group: »Autonomy and Trust in Modern Medicine«. The Lichtenberg-Kolleg has also exerted strong impact on the development of the focal research area »Religious Studies«. Similarly, Fellows working in Linguistics and Philosophy contributed significantly to the spreading of new research ideas into areas of Philosophy, Neurosciences and Mathematics.
Leadership

Director
Prof. Dr. Dagmar Coester-Waljen, LL.M. (Univ. of Michigan)

Deputy Directors
Prof. Dr. Doris Lemmermöhle
Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lauer

Scientific Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Jan Assmann
University of Heidelberg, Germany

Prof. Dr. David Blackbourn
Harvard University, USA

Prof. Dr. Walter Erhart
University of Bielefeld, Germany

Prof. Dr. Stefan Hradil (until May 2011)
University of Mainz, Germany

Prof. Dr. Mary S. Morgan
London School of Economics and Political Science, Great Britain

Prof. Dr. Arie Rip
University of Twente, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Amartya K. Sen
Harvard University, USA

Prof.in Dr. Mina Teicher
Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Prof.in Dr. Sigrid Weigel
TU Berlin, Germany

Prof. Björn Wittrock
Uppsala University, Sweden

Coordination Office
lichtenbergkolleg@zvw.uni-goettingen.de
www.lichtenbergkolleg.uni-goettingen.de
# Fellows at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Academic Years 2009 – 2012)

## Academic Year 2009/2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. José Casanova</td>
<td>Georgetown University, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Juliet Floyd</td>
<td>Boston University, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Norma Goethe</td>
<td>National University of Cordoba, Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Akihiro Kanamori</td>
<td>Boston University, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Stefan Kaufmann</td>
<td>Northwestern University, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Christian Kiening</td>
<td>University of Zurich, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüdeckens</td>
<td>University of Zurich, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Kurt Seelmann</td>
<td>University of Basel, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Patrice Veit</td>
<td>CNRS Paris, Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires sur l’Allemagne, France</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Academic Year 2010/2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Camilla Adang</td>
<td>Tel Aviv University, Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. em. Jóhann Páll Árnason</td>
<td>La Trobe University, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Nicholas Asher</td>
<td>CNRS de Recherche en Informatique de Toulouse, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Daliah Bawanepeck</td>
<td>University of Frankfurt, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susann Margot Brauer, Ph.D.</td>
<td>University of Zurich, Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Devorah Dimant</td>
<td>University of Haifa, Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Hunter, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Institut Jean-Nicod, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Fabienne Jourdan</td>
<td>CNRS Paris IV-Sorbonne, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Johan Leemans</td>
<td>University of Leuven, Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD Dr. Alexandra von Lieven</td>
<td>FU Berlin, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fellows at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Academic Years 2009 – 2012 continued)

**Academic Year 2010/2011 (continued)**

Prof. Dr. em. Roy MacLeod  
University of Sydney, Australia

Prof. Dr. Zlatko Pleše  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

Prof. Dr. Shalini Randeria  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Radhika Singha  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Prof. Dr. Rudolf von Sinner  
Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo/Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

Prof. Dr. em. Emanuel Tov  
Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel

Prof. Dr. Charles Zika  
University of Melbourne, Australia

**Academic Year 2011/2012**

Dr. Marta Abrusan  
University of Oxford, Great Britain

Prof. Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali  
Warwick School of Law, Coventry, Great Britain

Prof. Dr. Elke Brendel  
University of Bonn, Germany

Prof. Dr. Antoine Cavigneaux  
Université de Genève, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné  
ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Willi Goetschel  
University of Toronto, Canada

Prof. Dr. Fritz Graf  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA

Prof. Dr. Wouter Jacobus Hanegraaff  
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Mats G. Hansson  
Uppsala University, Sweden

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hehmeyer  
Ryerson University, Ontario, Canada

Prof. Dr. Alessa Johns  
University of California, Davis, USA

Prof. Dr. Sarah Iles Johnston  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA

Prof. Dr. Joseph Theodoor Leerssen  
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Jason Mittell  
Middlebury College, Vermont, USA

Prof. Dr. Dorothy Noyes  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA
Fellows at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Academic Years 2009 – 2012 continued)

Prof. Dr. Per Øhrgaard  
Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr. Roland Pfau  
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Detlev Pollack  
University of Münster, Germany

Prof. Dr. Ann Rigney  
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Prof. Dr. Dr. Heinrich Wilhelm Schäfer  
University of Bielefeld, Germany

Prof. Dr. Norbert Schappacher  
Université de Strasbourg, France

Lalit Vachani, India  
Independent Documentary Film Maker

Prof. Dr. Christiane von Stutterheim  
University of Heidelberg, Germany

Dr. Franciscus Wiggermann  
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

PD Dr. Markus Zimmermann-Acklin  
University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Associates at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Academic Years 2009 – 2012)

**Faculty of Humanities**

Prof. Dr. Udo Friedrich (2009/2010)  
Department of German Philology

Prof. Dr. Frank Rexroth (2009/2010)  
Department of Medieval and Modern History

Prof. Dr. Felix Mühlhölzer (2009/2010)  
Department of Philosophy

Prof. Dr. Christian Beyer (2010/2011)  
Department of Philosophy

Prof. Dr. Irene Schneider (2010/2011)  
Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Prof. Dr. Annette Zgoll (2010/2011)  
Department of Ancient Near-Eastern Studies

Prof. Dr. Ravi Ahuja (2011/2012)  
Centre of Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS)

Prof. Dr. Regina Bendix (2011/2012)  
Department of Cultural Anthropology/ European Ethnology

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Detering (2011/2012)  
Department of German Philology – German Literature

Prof. Dr. Regine Eckardt (2011/2012)  
Department of English Philology – English Linguistics

Prof. Dr. Ruth Florack (2011/2012)  
Department German Philology – German Literature

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Günther (2011/2012)  
Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Prof. Dr. Karin Hoff (2011/2012)  
Department of Scandinavian Studies

Prof. Dr. Anke Holler (2011/2012)  
Department of German Philology – German Linguistics

Prof. Dr. Frank Kelleter (2011/2012)  
Department of English Philology – North American Studies

Prof. Dr. Hedwig Röckelein (2011/2012)  
Department of Medieval and Modern History

Prof. Dr. Markus Steinbach (2011/2012)  
Department of German Philology – German Linguistics

**Faculty of Law**

Prof. Dr. Volker Lipp (2009/2010)  
Institute of Private Law and Procedural Law

Prof. Dr. Gunnar Duttge (2011/2012)  
Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

Prof. Dr. Christine Langenfeld (2011/2012)  
Public Law
Associates at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg (Academic Years 2009 – 2012 continued)

**Faculty of Social Sciences**

Prof. Dr. Matthias Koenig (2009/2010)
Institute of Sociology

Prof. Dr. Andrea Lauser (2009/2010)
Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology

**Faculty of Theology**

Prof. Dr. Reiner Anselm (2009/2010)
Department of Dogmatics and Moral Theology

Prof. Dr. Christine Axt-Piscalar (2009/2010)
Department of Dogmatics and Moral Theology

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Feldmeier (2010/2011)
New Testament Studies

**University Medical Centre Göttingen**

Prof. Dr. Peter Gemeinhardt (2010/2011)
Church History

Prof. Dr. Rainer Hirsch-Luipold (2010/2011)
Emmy Noether Junior Research Group ›Ratio Religionis‹

Prof. Dr. Thomas Kaufmann (2010/2011)
Church History

Prof. Dr. Reinhard G. Kratz (2010/2011)
Old Testament Studies

Prof. Dr. Andreas Grünschloß (2011/2012)
Religious Studies

Prof. Dr. Claudia Wiesemann (2009/2010)
Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine
The university’s international strategy and the measure »Göttingen International« is developed and implemented by the International Office. Its main tasks are to intensify the university’s international relations by strengthening its global network. A key measure of the international strategy was the establishment of liaison offices in strategically important countries. Hence, three offices were set up in Pune, Nanjing and Seoul, increasing the international visibility of the Göttingen Research Campus. While the offices in India and China will be maintained and expanded, the operations in Korea will be taken over by an Alumni Ambassador. In addition, Göttingen International coordinates and implements programmes for the enhanced mobility of scientists, students and staff and assists in international alumni activities. It offers comprehensive support and actively seeks out funding for international projects. International scientists and their families arriving in Göttingen from abroad are provided with extensive personal assistance through the university’s Welcome Centre.