

## Contents

Dear PhD students, supervisors and project partners,

the GGG wishes you all a happy new year 2016! At the beginning of the year, Judith Kaschner sums up the last years' activities of the GGG's Helpdesk, also reporting on exciting events and excursions. Moreover, this is what you will find in our latest newsletter:

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Your GGG-Team

Göttingen Graduate School  
of Social Sciences



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## Helpdesk highlights: travelling, chatting and cooking with the GGG

**Judith Kaschner has been working at the Helpdesk for International PhD students of the Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences (GGG) since April 1, 2014. In the following, she reports on her experiences.**

By now the Helpdesk can look back on two eventful years. First and foremost, the Helpdesk is the contact point for general questions and information on life in Germany that newly arrived PhD students are usually occupied with. Most questions are about insurances or authority details, other frequent issues are German classes, shopping facilities, finding a job or a suitable apartment.

Besides, the Helpdesk organizes various activities, thus providing opportunities to get to know Germany better, and Göttingen in particular: our own events and cooperations with Göttingen International, Foyer International and "Dorfmoderation Südniedersachsen" allow our international PhD students a wide range of insights into German landscape, culture, and mentality. As German PhD students are also welcome to our events, there is plenty of room for getting in contact with each other and participants are always joking and discussing at length.

These events are quite varied, both in terms of group size and their composition. The issues are very individual as well: for example, at the request of a Chinese PhD student, we took a trip to the local supermarket, explaining German food such as sausages and dairy products with a particular focus on their ingredients, production and storage. Thanks to the generous staff we also had a little tasting at the deli counter. We certainly could have stayed there for another few hours, as there was no shortage of questions and topics for discussion!



Tasting strawberries in Spanbeck

Our trips to the small villages around Göttingen, being organized in cooperation with Rhea Braunwalder (Dorfmoderation Südniedersachsen), are also quite unique. The focus is on differences between rural and urban living and housing situations as well as the

## Important note for PhD students of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences



With the founding of the Graduate School Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA), new regulations apply to PhD students of these faculties regarding their membership in GGG. Please find further information on this issue on page 3 of this newsletter.

history and features of the particular villages. When local residents invite us into their houses or contemporary witnesses talk about historical incidents, these visits result in particularly close contacts.



Mining museum in Reyershausen

We were thus able to visit the former dairy in Spanbeck, which is a regular house today, and were told the story of an old inn that has been refurbished painstakingly. In Reyershausen, a former employee of the now decommissioned potash mine showed us a small room that honors the mining history of the place with artifacts, pictures and, notably, stories. But modern village life does not go short either: we saw cattle of the endangered race Harzer Rotes Höhenvieh (Harz red cattle) in Spanbeck, being kept in cooperation by four families, and we also got insights into the stables of Plesse-Milch GmbH in Reyershausen, which is a huge milking plant for more than 600 cows. Every visit to a village is different, but what they have in common is the individual interaction with the villagers who open their doors for us and get to know PhD students and students from all over the world in return.

We also arrange excursions to cities and places that are farther away. Towns with well-preserved historic centers are particularly popular, such as Goslar, where we visited the local renaissance fair and learned about the art of beer production in an exclusive guided tour through a brewery.

Characteristic landscapes can be thoroughly explored on day trips: we thus retraced Goethe's tracks on a hiking tour in Harz that had been organized in cooperation with Göttingen International and had a romantic ride with the historical steam locomotive afterwards.



Group picture on the top of Mount Brocken (Harz)

Several theme nights are organized in Göttingen throughout the year to give our international PhD students mutual insights into the respective traditions and customs. Naturally, there is more to these evenings than dry theory – the focus lies on giving things a try, for example at the Christmas baking at Foyer International: mixing, kneading, baking and decorating turned out to be a huge success – as was discussing about Christmas spices and music, and tasting the baking results, of course.

Ideas and wishes for new events and criticism of all sorts are welcome at the Helpdesk. For contact, further information, reports on past events and the current program please visit:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-Helpdesk](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-Helpdesk)

## GGG News

### Your representation in the GGG board

The GGG board consists of one representative each of the participating faculties, the programs, and the PhD students. The new members of the board are Prof. Dr. Kerstin Rabenstein on behalf of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Prof. Dr. Thomas Kneib on behalf of the programs. You will find all current members of the board online at:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/40756.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/40756.html)

### Third application round for the KaWirMento program will run until February 29, 2016

Applications for the third round of the mentoring program "KaWirMento – Karrierewege in die Wirtschaft" (Career Paths into Economy) will be accepted until February 29, 2016. The program is aimed at PhD students and postdoctoral researchers of all disciplines at the Göttingen Campus who are interested in working in companies. For further information please visit:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/444677.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/444677.html)

### GGG on Facebook

After having neglected our Facebook profile quite a while, we are now making greater use of it for announcing news that could be interesting for our PhD students. On a regular basis we inform you about GGG events, such as the Welcome Day, trips organized by the Helpdesk, or events with GGG presence, for example the Studienfinanzierungstag (studies financing day). We also keep you informed about current happenings at the GGG, e.g. the PhD representatives' election. Moreover, we advertise news and events of cooperating institutions at the university as well as funding opportunities and science awards for PhD students and newly graduated PhDs. Occasionally, you will even find information on remaining places in our courses. So have a look and subscribe!

[www.facebook.com/GGG.de](http://www.facebook.com/GGG.de)



## New regulations for PhD students of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences



The Graduate School Forest and Agricultural Sciences (GFA) was opened in October 2015 at Göttingen University ([www.uni-goettingen.de/en/525367.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/525367.html)). The founding of this 4th graduate school ensures that every PhD student has access to a competent graduate school. The key strength of the Göttingen model of graduate schools is that the graduate schools are oriented towards the different subject cultures while also cooperating on an interdisciplinary level.

For PhD students of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences, this means:

- PhD students who have been GGG members up to now will remain members.
- PhD students in the Research Training Group "Global Food" are and will become GGG members.

New PhD students of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences as of October 2015, please note the following:

- PhD students of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences starting their PhD as of October 2015 are members of the GFA.
- It is currently being debated whether you can become a member of GGG nevertheless. Please note further information on the GGG website that will be available by the end of February ([www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530661.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530661.html)).
- According to the new doctoral degree regulations, you directly apply for admission at the GFA or faculty.

The primary membership in the GGG gives you full access to all GGG courses, measures and subsidies. If you are a member of GFA, you can use the course offers of the GGG if there are still vacancies (waiting list) or if you wish to attend an event held in cooperation with the GFA.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. Bettina Roß ([www.uni-goettingen.de/en/103006.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/103006.html)).

## News in brief

### Starting teaching together ... with the accompanied Team Teaching Program – applications until February 29, 2016

In case you are a teaching beginner, you can apply for the Team Teaching Program "Take-off im Team" until February 29, 2016 if you are giving a seminar with a colleague in the summer term of 2016. Key dates and further information will be given by Angelika Thielsch ([angelika.thielsch@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:angelika.thielsch@zvw.uni-goettingen.de)) or can be found on the homepage of the Division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/490791.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/490791.html)

### Round table „Schwangerschaft/Elternzeit in der Qualifikationsphase“ (pregnancy/parental leave during the qualification phase) on March 2, 2016

At this event organized by FamilienService (family service) and Zentrale Koordination Mentoring (central coordination of mentoring) of Göttingen University, research associates will report on their experiences with announcing pregnancy, parental leave, and returning into their jobs. They will also provide personal tips in terms of compatibility. Furthermore, Prof. Gregor Bucher (Professor of Evolutionary Genetic Development at GZMB) will report on his personal experiences as a father and supervisor,

and provide tips for leaving and re-entry. For registration and further information please visit:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530579.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530579.html)

### Free tickets for the CeBIT (March 14-18, 2016) and the Hannover Messe (April 25-29, 2016)

The division for Business Contacts holds a limited number of e-tickets for admission to the fairs for students, employees of the university, and young university spin-offs. If you are interested, please send an email detailing the fair, faculty and number of tickets (max. 2 per person) to:

[wirtschaftskontakte-shk@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:wirtschaftskontakte-shk@uni-goettingen.de)

### Survey on leadership in academia

Research associates at the Chair of Research and Science Management of Technische Universität München are asking for participation in a short survey on leadership in academia. This survey is anonymous and addresses research associates employed at German universities and universities of applied sciences. You can find the survey at:

[http://ww3.unipark.de/uc/Caterina\\_Paletta\\_TUM/e766/](http://ww3.unipark.de/uc/Caterina_Paletta_TUM/e766/)

## Events

The GGG organizes and contributes to events to which we want to sincerely invite you. We will keep you regularly informed about further details and times on our homepage, in flyers, and at the GGG team. You might want to note down the following events already:

### “Doing your PhD with GGG” on February 25, 2016

In cooperation with the Project „Brückenschlag für Promovierende“ (Building Bridges for PhD students), the Helpdesk is organizing an English-speaking information event titled “Mission Possible: Doing your PhD with GGG” on February 25. The different stages of doing a PhD as well as possible problems and solution strategies are presented to interested Master and PhD students. Particular note is made of GGG courses and consultancy services. Furthermore, special contact persons within the faculties are introduced. The event starts at 5 pm in the Conference Center’s Large Seminar Room at the Historical Observatory, Geismar Landstr. 11. For further information and registration please visit:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/524622.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/524622.html)

### City tour in Göttingen on April 16, 2016

Starting at Gänseliesel, we want to do an exciting city tour under expert guidance, getting to know the city center highlights and learning interesting facts about Göttingen and its history. For further information and registration please visit:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/504073.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/504073.html)

### GGG Welcome Day on May 25, 2016

If you have just started doing your doctorate or have any enquiries on GGG’s offers, then the GGG Welcome Day is your place to be. The PhD students’ representatives and team members will shortly introduce the GGG and their offers for PhD students on Wednesday, May 25, starting at 4 pm in the Conference Center’s Large Seminar Room. There will be enough time afterwards to inform yourself about the various GGG measures and events in

more detail, ask your own questions at several bar tables or to network. At the same time, a grill buffet will be provided on the terrace of the Conference Center. For further details, please visit the GGG homepage at: [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/97835.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/97835.html). If you are interested, please register by May 20, 2016 at [ggg@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg@uni-goettingen.de).

### GGG “Week of Methods” 2016

The 11th Week of Methods of the GGG will take place from July 18 to 21, 2016. The program includes workshops on topics such as mixed methods, knowledge transfer and policy advice, as well as discourse analysis. Further information will be given from the middle of April on, at:

[www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de)

Registration for this year’s Week of Methods is open from May 17 until June 12, 2016.

### Taster workshop for Science Management

Over the last years, Science Management has developed as a professional field, providing interesting career prospects for today’s scientists. In response to last year’s high demand, GGNB Career Service, Mentoring Koordination, GSGG and GGG will offer a 4-hours taster workshop for Science Management several times during the year. This workshop addresses PhD students and postdoctoral researchers who would like to learn more about the subject and have been wondering whether a change into this field could be interesting. There will be workshops on March 21 and April 15, 2016 and in autumn. Please note the announcements that will be made online ([www.uni-goettingen.de/en/522794.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/522794.html)).

## Introducing

### Silvia Wagner

After training as an office clerk from 1976 to 1979 and a subsequent further education as a financial accountant, Silvia Wagner worked for a company in Göttingen for 15 years.

Upon completion of the family phase, Ms. Wagner has been employed at the Georg August University as an administration secretary since April 2003. She has worked in the administration of the Forest Botany and Tree Physiology Department, the Molecular Wood Biotechnology Department, and last at the Department for Plant Biochemistry at the Albrecht-von-Haller-Institute for Plant Sciences. She is currently working as an administration secretary in the funds management of the GGG and at the Chair of Forest Inventory and Remote Sensing at the Burckhardt Institute.



### Christin Carlsen

In January 2016, Christin Carlsen became the new student assistant at GGG. After completing her secondary education in Hannover, she spent one year in Israel as a volunteer. Christin has been studying at Göttingen University since October 2011 and has been enrolled for Law since the winter semester 2012/13. In the context of her major field of study of Public



International Law she is a current member of the Philip Jessup Moot Court team.

From June 2013 to July 2014, Christin carried out various activities within the U4 project as a student assistant at Göttingen International. She spent a term abroad in Sydney, Australia, afterwards. Moreover, she volunteers at the university’s Exchange Buddy Service and supports foreign students during their stay in Göttingen.

# Presentation of the candidates for the PhD students' representatives' election

The GGG PhD representative is an important contact person for PhD students of social sciences and will be their representative within the graduate school, the university, and in public. During the one-year term of office, the PhD representative actively helps shaping the graduate school as a member of its board and represents the interests of the various PhD students of social sciences.

The next **PhD students' representatives' election** of the GGG will take place **online** from **March 1 to 27, 2016**.

You will thus receive an e-mail from the GGG as of March 1, including access data and the corresponding link. All PhD students of GGG as well as all members of PhD programs and graduate schools accepted by the GGG have the right to vote (see [www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/programs](http://www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/programs)). The new term of office will be from April 2016 until March 2017.

Over the last weeks, we have called all PhD students to put themselves up as candidates in this election. It turned out that the current representation would like to run for office again, while no other candidates have come forward. In the following, we will briefly introduce the two PhD students that would like to become your representatives again. For more detailed information about the candidates and the election please visit [www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530924.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/530924.html).

## Julia Gumula

### Personal details:

I am doing my PhD at the Georg Elias Müller Institute for Psychology in the Social and Communication Psychology Department under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Margarete Boos. In my PhD project I explore the influence of major changes of perspective in idea development processes on the quality of the ideas in an experimental way. Luckily, I am a grant holder of the Hans Böckler foundation. I would not have been able to finance my PhD project by any other means, as I am also a mother of three children.

Before starting my PhD project, I co-founded and coordinated a binational master study program at the Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg in cooperation with the Pedagogical University in Mozambique. I have been a PhD students' representative at the university in Magdeburg as well.

I studied cultural engineering: cultural studies, knowledge management, and logistics.

### Candidacy details:

The amendment of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act has brought about some changes last year. PhD students finally have a status at universities and can now be represented by their peers within the committees and organs of higher education self-administration. The PhD students' representatives of the graduate schools have been working on developing a construct for every faculty of Göttingen University with great commitment for more than a year. I established a network with the PhD students' representations of the universities in Leipzig, Halle, and Jena back when I was a PhD students' spokesperson at the University of Magdeburg, and we are benefitting from this network in building a local PhD students' representation for the whole university.

In the coming term of office I intend to be in frequent contact with my fellow PhD students. Additionally, I am still fighting for a (even more) family-friendly university with free childcare for PhD students with children. And we will keep helping to form the PhD students' representation for the whole university, so that the interests of PhD students who do not feel represented by either the junior academic staff or the student body are given a voice in the senate and the faculty council.

## Rüdiger Hesse

### Personal details:

I am a grant holder of the Hans Böckler foundation and member of the Research Training Group "Qualifikatorisches Upgrading in KMU – Fachkräftebedarf und Akademisierung im Mittelstand" ("Qualification Upgrading in SME – Demand for Skilled Labor and Academization in the Middle Class") and doing my PhD at the Chair of Business Education and Human Resources Development. My thesis deals with the employability of students graduating from universities with Bachelor degrees. I explore the students' educational aspiration and typical contextual structures in terms of labor market integration. My social sciences studies at Göttingen University had already been interdisciplinary. Moreover, I spent a year abroad at the University of Uppsala (Sweden). Furthermore, I am currently involved in the work of the National Report on Education as a research associate, describing the effects and returns of education.

### Candidacy details:

We PhD students will have to make a choice, sooner or later, about what road we will continue to take professionally. Therefore, increasing the availability of information on the many possibilities for PhD graduates is very important to me. To this end, I represented the interests of the PhD students in both the "AG Promorat" (work group "PhD council") and "AG Karrierewege" (work group on careers) in the past legislation period of the GGG's PhD representation. On the one hand, I would like to update, extend and spread the presentation of ways to the "dream job" scientist. On the other hand, the perspectives in free economy need to be focused more strongly, also on a local basis in terms of small and medium enterprises. This is why I would like to actively inform about the modalities of the respective employment situation and contribute to the successful transition to the labor market. Moreover, as PhD students' spokesperson, I would like to continue vehemently advocating for improvement of our research and working conditions. Therefore, the agenda for the next term of office should include a critical approach to the excellence initiative. Another objective is to provide for continued employment, in order to better guarantee the quality of research and teaching.

## Qualification

### Our courses in the second quarter 2016

As of now, you can enroll for the following courses of the second quarter 2016 at [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de). Detailed information on our courses and on further courses for PhD students offered by cooperating institutions can be found at: [www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de).

Date	Topic	Referee
14.04. & 15.04.2016	Schreibcoaching: Strategisch die Doktorarbeit schreiben	Dr. Jutta Wergen
19.04. - 22.04.2016	Creative Career Management	Jutta Schwarz
19./20.05. & 26./27.05.2016	Academic Writing: Effective Strategies for Publishing in English	Frank Lauterbach
09.06. & 10.06.2016	Introduction to German Academic Culture	Dr. Nils Reschke
16.06. - 18.06.2016	Praktische Grundlagen der Mitarbeiterführung	Dr. Sabine Hoier

**And this is how it works:** The GGG divides the course year into four quarters. You can sign up for courses of a quarter six weeks before begin of that respective quarter. 12 to 16 PhD students can participate in a particular course. Places are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Four weeks before the course, application is considered binding; this applies to all applications. You can also find detailed information on individual courses and the application procedure at:

[www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de)

Please send your application exclusively to [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de).  
Please consider the applicable registration procedure.

### Course for PhD students in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Office

Date	Topic	Referee
10.03. & 11.03.2016	Privilegiert und_oder doch prekär? – Anti-Bias als Reflexionsperspektive im Promotionsprozess	Bettina Schmidt, Toan Quoc Nguyen

Please send your application exclusively to [ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de).

### Courses on teaching methods in higher education for PhD students and new teachers

Latest information about courses on teaching methods for PhD students and new teachers, provided by the Division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, can be found at:

[www.uni-goettingen.de/en/365991.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/365991.html)

## Support measures

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences provides funding and scholarships for PhD students of social sciences. These measures will be announced on the GGG website over the course of the year:

[www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship](http://www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship)

The following funding options are available for the coming months:

Funding measure	Duration	Application deadline	Funding amount	Target group
KaWirMento	1 year	29.02.2016	Mentoring and qualification	PhD students and postdoctoral researchers with the career goal of working in companies (via Mentoring Koordination)
Summerschool	flexible	30.03., 30.06. & 30.09.2016	maximum grant amount 1,000 €	PhD students participating in an international summer school providing direct benefit to their PhD and which is subject to a selection procedure (please note new information online)
Language Revision Grant	final phase of PhD	30.03. & 30.09.2016	maximum grant amount 1,200 € to the editor	foreign PhD students in need of support for the final editing of their German PhD thesis
Family-oriented finishing grant	4 – 6 months	30.06.2016	1,200 – 1,300 € per month	PhD students caring for children under the age of 12 or relatives in need of care, thus needing more time to complete their PhD thesis
Conference trips	flexible	30.06.2016	max. 70% of expenses	PhD students actively attending an international conference (via Göttingen International)
PhD students' forum	flexible	flexible	depends on the expenses	PhD students who wish to develop a career network

### On our own behalf

Please keep in mind that once this newsletter is issued, the registration period for the next courses has started: It is now possible for PhD students to register for the GGG courses in the second quarter of 2016.

This newsletter is published four times a year. It is available for PhD students and supervisors of social sciences, and all interested. The newsletter can be found online ([www.uni-goettingen.de/en/42253.html](http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/42253.html)) or received via e-mail. The next newsletter will be published on May 17, 2016.

This newsletter shall inform you about the basic issues of doing a PhD and contribute to a closer contact between you and the GGG team, thus making it easier for you to be up to date about the services offered by the graduate school. For more information please feel free to contact the team members (see last page of the newsletter) and visit the different projects online.

## Team



**Dr. Bettina Roß**

*Executive Direction*

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**Dr. Kristin Schröder**

*PhD-Funding Guidance*

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**Mike Bielib**

*Diversity Concept*

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**Silvia Wagner**

*Financial Administration*

Contact person for applications, grants, funds management, invoices and forms.

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**Judith Kaschner**

*Helpdesk for International PhD students*

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## Imprint

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This Newsletter will be sent to all members of the GGG. In case of questions or remarks, please contact [ggg@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ggg@uni-goettingen.de).

Translation: Wiebke Blanck

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