

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

The Coimbra Group Annual Conference



From the 10th to the 13th of June 2014, a delegation from the University of Göttingen will take part in the Annual Conference of the Coimbra Group, which this year takes place in Groningen.

The Coimbra Group is a network of renowned and long-established European universities. Formal cooperation began in 1987 with the idea of initiating Europe-wide exchange of students and university lecturers. In the meantime, joint activities of the universities have been extended to embrace many different areas. The network considers the latest developments on the European education market and participates worldwide in future-oriented projects with high significance for the member institutions. Once a year, the university presidents meet to exchange views on the progress of their common endeavours.

This year's discussions will be dedicated to the theme "Universities in the 21st Century: For Infinity". Here, debates will focus on innovation of education, educational approaches, internationalization of education and challenges for universities.

The University of Göttingen is also very proud, that this year's Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus students goes to a former Göttingen student Steven Otterman. Steven spent his Erasmus semester at the University of Groningen as part of his Erasmus Mundus Master Programme Euroculture. Of all nominees he made the most comprehensive and convincing case for the added value of the Erasmus experience. The prize will be handed to Steven during the Conference.

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Two Digital Humanities Summer Schools 2014 at the University of Göttingen

Two international summer schools focusing on digital analysis of research data in the arts, humanities and social sciences, are being organised by the Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities (GCDH). Funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony and organised within the Digital Humanities Research Collaboration, the first summer school will investigate on the visual analysis of texts and networks as well as 3D documentation for cultural heritage with digital tools. The school will take place from the 28th of July to the 1st of August 2014. In addition to the lectures, experts have been invited to speak about their research activities, e.g. Daniel Keim (University of Konstanz) and Manuel Lima (New York).

Funded by the European Union (ERASMUS Intensive Programme) and organised by DARIAH-EU (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities), the second summer school focuses on digital text analysis and the construction of 3D virtual worlds. It will take place from the 17th to the 31st of August 2014. The students will develop their own research project which they will carry out in the year following the summer school. The results will be presented in a follow-up meeting.



Both summer schools are addressed to bachelor, master and PhD students and offer the opportunity to acquire ECTS credits. The GCDH expects 100 students and teachers from Europe and beyond to attend both summer schools.

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U4 Winter School "Antiquity" took place in Athens



Numerous scientific events are organised by the U4 network all over Europe with the goal to promote young researchers. International students and scientists from Humanities,

Social Sciences, Economics and Law, Science and Technology and Medicine can benefit from this strategic partnership and expand their academic horizon.

From the 4th to the 8th of March 2014 the U4 winter school "Antiquity" took place in Athens. This year, the central theme of the winter school was "Between Resistance and Adaptation. Dealing with the other in the Ancient World".

About 30 PhD students and professors from different disciplines related to Antiquity took part in the winter school. Excellent contributions from students and professors, visits to the German, Belgian, Dutch and Swedish archaeological institutes, as well as the excursions to ongoing archaeological research sites in the region contributed to the exceptional atmosphere of the winter school.

Have a look at the video report to find out what the ingredients are for a successful winter school: <http://youtu.be/2gSnB1Xp6aA>.

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Bicycle Courses for International Students

Thanks to the Joint Federal and State Government Programme Campus Q Plus, InDiGU (Integration and Diversity at the University of Göttingen) will soon be offering another bicycle course. The bicycle course is exclusively meant for international students at the University of Göttingen who don't (yet) know how to ride a bicycle.

The course will take place over two weekends and is free of charge. Registration is necessary in order to participate in the course; the registration deadline will be announced as soon as the course dates are set.

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Helpdesk for International PhD Students

Starting from April 2014, Judith Kaschner is the new contact person for international PhD students of the faculties and programmes that belong to the Göttingen Graduate Schools of Social Sciences (GGG) and Humanities (GSGG). The aim of her work is to provide help and guidance with all sorts of problems that doctoral candidates may encounter during their stay in Göttingen.

Furthermore, Judith Kaschner will be in charge of organizing events for international and German PhD students who are invited to connect and chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

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Psycho-Social Counselling for International Students

The Psychological Counselling Service (PSB) offers professional help to students, doctoral students, and employees of the University of Göttingen and the Studentenwerk who may be going through difficult periods in their lives.

All services offered by the PSB, such as courses on stress management, test anxiety, and time management, are also available to international students.

Through various counselling services, the counselling team is able to offer confidential and competent support with personal problems, stress during the studies, and conflicts.

The services offered by the PSB are cost-free and by request, anonymous. We would very much appreciate if you inform international students about the services offered by the PSB.

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Great Alumni Interest in International Networking

The Section for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry of the Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use organises the autumn school "Education Innovative, Transnational Networks", which will take place in September in Göttingen. Over 150 applications have been received by the "Tropenzentrum" for the 25 available DAAD alumni grants. Scientists, lecturers, policy advisers and representatives of NGOs from developing countries will join this multidisciplinary discourse in Göttingen. Thereafter, the group will travel to the 1st International BION Conference in Bonn (<http://www.bion-bonn.org>).

For more information about the event, please refer to <http://bit.ly/1knov5B>.



Grants from the Mexican Government for "Special Programmes 2014"

The Mexican government is awarding grants for special programmes and certain target groups, such as guest lecturers, who would like to offer lectures, seminars, courses and workshops at Mexican institutes of higher education.

All those who are interested can apply immediately.

The application deadline is on the 29th of August 2014. The stay in Mexico should begin in October of 2014, at the latest. More detailed information about the individual programmes can be found at: <http://amexcid.gob.mx/index.php/es/oferta-de-becas-para-extranjeros/1737>

Continuation of the Event Series "Gender & Diversity in Science" in the Summer Semester 2014



The event series "Gender & Diversity in Science", which has been organized by the Equal Opportunities Office in cooperation with the natural and life sciences, will be continued during the summer semester 2014.

The focus lies on questions concerning gender and diversity: Which role does gender play in pursuing a career and career paths in the natural and life sciences? To which extent do gender and diversity influence learning and teaching in these disciplines?

To which extent are other categories of differentiation such as age, disability, social and geographical origin relevant for this area?

We would like to especially recommend Prof. Dr-Ing. Corinna Bath's talk in English, "How to Avoid Problematically Gendered Intelligent Houses, Robots, and Algorithms?", which is being conducted in cooperation with the Equal Opportunities Commissioner at the Institute for Computer Science. Professor Bath, who is holding the Maria-Goeppert fellowship, will examine the question in which ways technical artefacts, such as software, but also basic research are "gendered". For further information, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/gender-diversity-science

Celebration of the University's Collaboration with China

Two events at the beginning of July will mark milestones of the University's collaboration with China. With the Grand Opening of the Academic Confucius Institute Göttingen on the 2nd of July 2014, 14:00-17:45, in the Paulinerkirche, the worldwide first academic Confucius Institute will commence its activities.

On the 3rd of July 2014, 14:00-18:30, the Anniversary Celebration of the University of Göttingen and Nanjing University on the occasion of 30 years of cooperation

between the two universities and 25 years German-Sino Institute for Legal Studies (Göttingen-Nanjing) will be held in the Aula on the Wilhelmsplatz.

Both events will be open to the public.

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Göttingen Economy Day China 2014

On the 13th of February 2014, the University held the Göttingen Economy Day China 2014 in the Historical Observatory.

Well-known experts from China and Germany informed, in a series of lectures, about recent political and economic developments in the PR China that are of significance for the activities especially of small and medium-sized enterprises. Among the approximately 60 invited guests from business and science were numerous representatives of companies from the southern part of Lower Saxony. The intensive discussions and talks served also to identify possible synergies in the cooperation with China and possibilities for an intensified collaboration between enterprises from the Göttingen region and the University in China-related activities.



Mobile Cloud Workshop

The multilateral research project MobileCloud has kicked-off with the First China-European Annual Workshop on Mobile and Cloud Computing, held from the 28th to the 30th of April 2014 at Nanjing University (China). In this project, financially supported by the EU FP7 Marie Curie IRSES Programme and coordinated by Prof. Dr. Fu Xiaoming (University of Göttingen), scientists from France, Germany, Italy and Sweden as well as from four top Chinese universities jointly do research on the highly forward-looking topic of mobile cloud computing.



Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research - A New Start in Göttingen

The Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research has now officially arrived at its new location in Göttingen. On the 21st of May 2014, the institute celebrated its opening ceremony together with guests from science and politics. Among others, the prime Minister of Lower-Saxony, Stephan Weil, brought his best wishes.

The MPS had been located in the neighbouring town Katlenburg-Lindau since 1946. However, there the institute's infrastructure was no longer adequate for future research projects. The institute develops and builds instruments for international space missions such as ESA's Rosetta mission which is scheduled to rendezvous with comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko this year. In addition, in Göttingen, a closer collaboration with other institutions of the Göttingen Research Campus will be possible.



The new building at the Justus-von-Liebig-Weg comprises cleanrooms, laboratories, a balloon hall with a height of 9 meters, workshops, a library, an auditorium, a kindergarten and guest apartments.

For more information, please refer to <http://bit.ly/1iygPJa>

New Staff at the International Office

The International Office of the University of Göttingen is happy to welcome Dr. Katrin Fehl who joined the team in April 2014.

Dr. Katrin Fehl took up office as coordinator for European cooperation on behalf of the parental leave of Dr. Esther von Richthofen. She is responsible for the University's membership in strategic partnership networks within Europe, for relations to existing European partners and for identifying potential new partners for future cooperation. Previously, Dr. Fehl worked as a freelancer in the field of employee selection and counselling. In her last position, she worked as a postdoc at the Courant Research Centre "Evolution of Social Behaviour" at the University of Göttingen researching on cooperation in social networks.



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Sixth International GöMUN Conference in Göttingen

From the 20th to the 23rd of June 2014, the University of Göttingen will be hosting the 6th annual International Conference of the Göttingen Model United Nations Society (GöMUN). Around 80 students from Europe, North America and Asia will meet in Göttingen in order to discuss socioeconomic, security and human rights issues around the world in three different councils.

GöMUN is part of a worldwide Model United Nations network. For more information about the association and the event, please refer to the webpage (www.munsg.de) and facebook group (www.facebook.com/GoeMUN).

Humboldt Scholarship Recipient in the Computer Science in Göttingen

Dr. Xu Chen, Computer Scientist from Arizona State University (USA) has received the Humboldt Scholarship and joined the Computer Networks Group (Institute of Computer Science) in April 2014. After two months of language training, he will spend one year here researching on the topic "Socially-Motivated Cooperative Device-to-Device Communications". Alexander von Humboldt Foundation sponsors highly qualified researchers with a PhD degree to spend a research stay in Germany.

Dr. Chen studied Computer Science at the South University of Science and Technology of China. In 2012 he received his PhD in Computer Science from Chinese University of Hong Kong. Then he joined Arizona State University as a postdoc fellow. He has more than 25 publications in highly reputed conferences and referred journals.

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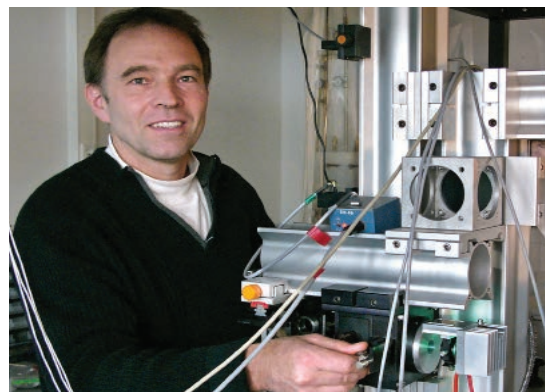
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ERC Advanced Grant for Prof. Christoph Schmidt

The European Research Council (ERC) will support the research of Prof. Dr. Christoph Schmidt at the Third Institute of Physics with an Advanced Grant of 2.4 million Euros in the next five years.

The project "The Physical Basis of Cellular Mechanochemical Control Circuits" will start in June and sets out to discover how physical stimuli and forces control function and fate of biological cells. Professor Schmidt and his team will develop and use new biophysical and nanotechnological tools to study how the "sense of touch" of cells integrates into the cell's complex regulatory networks.

The ERC was established by the European Commission to fund innovative and pioneering fundamental research in an international competition. The work of experienced, worldwide-leading scientists in Europe is funded through Advanced Grants.



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IAPN in Dialogue with Humboldt Award Winner Prof. Cakmak

On the 20th of May 2014, the Institute of Applied Plant Nutrition (IAPN) organized the event "IAPN in dialogue" for the second time. More than 50 participants discussed the topic of "Micronutrients in crop production and human health in developing countries" with Prof. Dr. Ismail Cakmak from the Sabanci University in Istanbul. Prof. Cakmak has been awarded the Georg Forster Research Award of the Humboldt Foundation this year. In the beginning of this year, Prof. Dr. Cakmak started

conducting his research at the IAPN as well as at the Department for Crop Sciences at the University of Göttingen for one year. Among other projects, he has also been involved in the highly recognized international HarvestPlusProgram (www.harvestplus.org), which seeks to reduce hidden hunger and to provide micronutrients and trace elements to millions of people.

For more information about the IAPN, please refer to www.iapn-goettingen.de.

New European Project: PUFACHain

The EU funded project PUFACHain (The Value Chain from Microalgae to PUFA) started on the 1st of November 2013 and is coordinated by the University of Göttingen, Department of Experimental Phycology and Culture Collection of Algae. The administrative project management is done by EurA Consult (www.euraconsult.de/) and the EU-Office of the University of Göttingen.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a robust scientific and technological basis for substantiating strategic and technical decisions for the industrial development of high-value products from algae.

The aim of this project is to realize a concrete exemplary value chain, develop the technical interfaces between the different value adding stages and investigate the still open research aspects on every single stage while addressing the needs of the value chain as a whole.

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New DAAD-Project: Networking on Land Use

Cartography
GIS
Remote Sensing



New network project between the HUE University of Agriculture and Forestry

(Vietnam) and the Institute of Geography (Department GIS & Remote Sensing) of the University of Göttingen received DAAD funding within the framework of the programme "Specialised Partnerships with Universities in Developing Countries".

The network will focus on multi-functional landscape analysis with the help of GIS and Remote Sensing and look at the involvement of ecosystem services and sustainability aspects.

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Online Database for Apomixis in Flowering Plants Launched at the University of Göttingen

Apomixis, the asexual reproduction via seed, is a widespread trait in flowering plants and of high evolutionary, ecological and agronomic importance. The working group of Prof. Hörandl (Department for Plant Systematics, Biodiversity and Evolution) in collaboration with GWDG and international collaborators (John Carman, Utah State University, USA) present the first searchable, online database for the occurrence of apomixis in the flowering plants worldwide, with information on mode of reproduction and literature data. For more information, please refer to www.apomixis.uni-goettingen.de.

A review article on the Biodiversity associations based on the database can be found in *Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences* 33 (2014) open access (doi: [10.1080/07352689.2014.898488](https://doi.org/10.1080/07352689.2014.898488)).



International Conference on Network Protocols took place in Göttingen

From the 7th to the 10th of October, the 21st International Conference on Network Protocols (ICNP) took place in Göttingen.

Since 1993, the annual ICNP has established itself as one of the premier conferences in the computer networking field. ICNP deals with all aspects of communication protocols, including design, analysis, specification, verification, implementation, and performance. ICNP is a highly competitive conference in computer sciences, where only around 10-20% top ranked papers are selected from all submissions, based on the double-blind reviews by its programme committee composed of highly reputed international scholars in the field of computer networking.

The 21st edition of ICNP, ICNP 2013, was one of the most successful events in ICNP history – it attracted the highest number of participants (more than 150 registered attendees) and the highest number of submissions (252), with the highest number of full paper presentations (46). It was held at the Mathematics Institute at the University of Göttingen and was the first premium international conference organized by the young Institute of Computer Science.

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GGNB Summer School ELECTRAIN 2014

From the 5th to the 16th of May 2014, the European Neuroscience Institute of the Göttingen Research Campus organised the ELECTRAIN Course, which aimed at training graduate and doctoral students from Göttingen and abroad. The course was held in English and consisted of two weeks of intensive theoretical and “hands-on” training in electrophysiological techniques with the participation of local and invited speakers.

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) chose ELECTRAIN as one of the five sponsored short courses in 2014 and provided stipends for its participants from abroad. The yearly ELECTRAIN course will take place again in Göttingen in May 2015.

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Staff Training Week at the University of Göttingen

From the 19th to the 23rd of May 2014, the 8th International Erasmus Staff Training Week took place in Göttingen. The week was coordinated by Göttingen International and supported by the IT Department, Press and Communication Office as well as the Faculties of Agricultural Sciences, Biology and Economics and the State and University Library.

Staff members of the University of Göttingen also have an opportunity to take part in one of the numerous staff training weeks organised abroad. For more information, please refer to www.uni-goettingen.de/de/480926.html. The next application round will start in September 2014.

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