GGG Newsletter 03 | 2012

#### Content

### Dear PhD-Students, Supervisors and Project Partners,

The weather this summer has been rather inconsistent unlike our tradition of quarterly GGG newsletters of which this is the third issue in 2012. In this issue, we would like to inform you about the opportunities available to PhD-students to participate in different decision-making processes of the university. We will continue with the series "Looking into Science" and make you aware of interesting events. Of course, you will also find information about our current courses and scholarships in this newsletter, for which you can register or apply from now on.

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We hope you enjoy this issue! Your GGG-team

Göttinger Graduiertenschule Gesellschaftswissenschaften

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# Status and Participation of PhD-Students

PhD-students are a special group within the university. Due to their ambiguous status and the many differences between the PhD-students, their participation in the self-administration of the university is not consistently put into practice. The acknowledgment of the PhD-students as a separate group within the university and the further establishment of PhD-students in the decision-making bodies and committees of the university would better take account of this characteristic and variety than the status-quo.

Due to their enrollment status, all PhDstudents are to be assigned to the group of students. Moreover, PhD-students often attend courses to further improve

their qualifications and to earn credits, which once more underlines their student status. Apart from that, they are already researchers at the first stage of the academic career and, therefore, may be already integrated as employees



in the university's structures, as well as in the university's self-administration bodies and committees. Hence, PhD-students are at the edge between their studies and their professional career. Because of this hybrid status, it often is very difficult to clarify where the interests of PhD-students can and must be taken into consideration. For example, is it comprehensible for PhD-students when the vice presidential office for teaching and when the vice presidential office for research will be responsible for them?

#### PhD-students as students

PhD-students are a subgroup of students without being only students. They are seen and claimed to be capable of working considerably more independent and with a higher level of scientific integrity than students. With regard to research and the publication of results, questions of scientific integrity now come to the fore. And finally, PhD-students are closely linked to a small working group, a thesis committee, or an individual doctoral thesis supervisor that enables him/her to work very intensively but also possibly leads to a high degree of personal dependency. All these aspects cannot be found on the agenda of a student. Thus, the interests of PhDstudents do not coincide with those of Bachelor or Master students. On that basis, some faculties (such as the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences) came to the conclusion that the faculty committees must ensure the election of representatives of the PhDstudents as part of the group of students.

## PhD-students as employees or external doctoral candidates

Furthermore, there are special characteristics regarding the status of the PhD-students within the university that depend on how he/she is integrated into the working group. The spectrum here ranges from full-time employees, who write their doctoral thesis in addition to the normal workload of their actual job, to employees in qualification positions, to scholarship holders, who are sometimes more and sometimes less integrated into the working group, to external PhD-students, who write their doctoral thesis in parallel to their full-time job.

Accordingly, employees can also be PhD-students, whereas not all PhD-students are necessarily also employees. As non-

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professorial teaching staff, employees are part of this university and, therefore, they are also part of the university's self-administration. At this stage, some PhD-students already start to teach by giving lectures or tutorials, to manage funds or even to supervise student assistances. For PhDstudents, the immediate superior often also is the supervisor of their PhD-thesis. This, on the one hand, may enable synergies but, on the other, may also lead to an intensification of the dependency situation. The proportion of employees among the PhD-students varies depending on the faculty and the working group: In the natural and economic sciences, many PhDstudents have employment contracts for 50 to 100% of the hours of full-time employment. In humanities and social sciences, this proportion is significantly lower. Here, considerably more PhD-students obtain their funding from other sources and, therefore, are not included in the group of employees.

The second large "group" of PhD-students was awarded a scholarship and, thus, is not considered as employees of the university. They are only registered as students and have the status of non-employees, which is not only reflected in the settlement of costs and in their accident and health insurance situation but also in the missing representation of their interests in the university bodies and committees.

The third "group" of PhD-students consists of external doctoral candidates, who often write their PhD-thesis in parallel to a fulltime employment. These PhD-students are employed with a company or a law firm and are (partly) released from work to write their doctoral thesis or they do this in their free time. This is a very common model in study courses that require the second state examination; especially, teachers and lawyers write their doctoral thesis during their teacher training or their legal clerkship, while they are preparing their second state examination or they are already pursuing their profession. Normally, these PhD-students are only loosely integrated into the working group and only appear as students in the course of their enrollment. The exact number of these external PhD-students is not known:

however, it is a remarkably large group, which is not involved in the organization and development of the university as well as of the conditions for doctoral studies.

### Promotion of the participation in the university's decision-making processes

With regard to the situation and interests of PhD-students, reports of the German University Rectors' Conference (http://www.hrk.de/de/beschlues-(HRK) se/109\_6791.php) and the German Science Council (http://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/ download/archiv/1704-11.pdf) about the quality assurance of the doctoral studies clearly show the need for improvement of the PhD examination procedure. Even organizations of PhD-students point out deficits and potentials of the development of the qualification and supervision of PhDstudents (e.g., initiatives of PhD-students who were awarded with scholarships of German foundations http://www.promovierenden-initiative.de/, the project group PhD-students of the GEW http://promovieren.gew.de/ProG\_DoktorandInnen.html and Eurodoc http://www.eurodoc.net/).

In view of the hybrid status and the heterogeneity of PhD-students, it can be doubted if the interests of PhD-students can be implemented and represented in the university in this acknowledged need for action without the secured participation of different PhD-students. In this context, a nationwide initiative for the acknowledgment of PhD-students as an individual status group (instead of the current "in-between" situation) is currently being discussed http://promostatus-jetzt.de/. The acknowledgment of the individual status would at least facilitate the integration of PhD-students in all university bodies and committees and would therefore improve the situation from the PhD-student's point

In Göttingen, some faculties have already implemented this idea and involve PhD-students as an *explicit* part of the group of students and/or employees in the university's bodies and committees. These PhD-representations, however, neither exist in all faculties nor on the university level, yet. The establishment of PhD-representations in all faculties would bring the

promise that the conditions and results of the doctoral studies can be improved more precisely and sustainably in cooperation with the PhD-students. More and more PhD-students say that they would like to establish a PhD-representation for every faculty, and they have also taken initial steps. Information about which is provided, amongst others, by the GGG.

### Participation in the decision-making processes of the GGG

In the GGG, the PhD-representative plays an important role as the contact person for PhD-students and, of course, as their representative within the graduate school, the university and in public. He/she forms part of the executive board and actively participates in the organization of the graduate school. Furthermore, he/she represents the interests of all the different PhD-students in the social sciences and establishes more and more networks between the existing PhD-representations in the faculties and the doctoral programs. Each PhD-student that is a member of the GGG can stand for election or can cooperate with the existing PhD-representation. Apart from that, within the GGG, there are various opportunities for PhD-students to build networks, discuss about the conditions of the doctoral studies, find solutions together or learn about the solutions of other PhD-students. For this, PhD-students are invited to participate, for example, in the interdisciplinary methodology week (Interdisziplinäre Methodenwoche) www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de and other training courses http://www. qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen. de, as well as to use the opportunity to be supported by the GGG in the foundation of a forum for PhD-students http://www. uni-goettingen.de/en/351999.html.

The PhD-representation is elected by all PhD-students of the GGG once a year. We already invite you now to either get in touch with the current PhD-representatives, Jan H. Höffler and Anna Ransiek http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/185778.html, or to register as a candidate for the election by November 18, 2012.

### **Election of the PhD-representatives 2012**

By November 18, 2012: November 21, 2012:

November 28, 2012: Beginning on November 28, 2012: All candidates please get in touch with Bettina Roß (ggg@uni-goettingen.de)
Brief information about the candidates is sent by email to PhD-students and is published on the GGG website

Personal introduction of all candidates

The new PhD-representatives can be elected online

### **Business and Science**

#### **Looking Into Science**

At this point, the "Looking into Science" series appears in loose succession. This series aims to present scientific results of current social science research projects at the University of Göttingen in a practice-oriented way and, therefore, makes them directly available to businesses at an early stage. To do so, current dissertations are analyzed, and the most important and

business-relevant results are briefly summarized. On one hand, we would like to provide insight into current research for businesses and point out possible practical implementations. On the other hand, this series aims to encourage personal contact between members of the university and the economy.

#### The protection of innovations in SMEs

What is the best way to protect my innovation? Do I have to take out a patent in order to be successful? How important are my employees?

#### **Brief overview of results**

The success of a protection strategy for innovative developments in a business is based on the combined application of different formal and informal protection mechanisms and on the consideration of the business and sector-specific context. Thereby, it is very important to pursue a protection strategy. In his doctoral thesis written and prepared under the supervision of Prof. Bizer at the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Göttingen, Jörg Thomä found out that using patents to hedge innovative developments is just one of many effective options. An important strategy of SMEs is, above all, the combination with informal protection measures, such as the long-term retention of employees and their relevant knowledge in the business. This series also provides starting points for the education and further training.

#### **Relevancy for SMEs**

Innovation-oriented SME entrepreneurs, who nowadays act in an environment where the production factor "knowledge" plays an important role for ensuring the competitiveness, can draw important conclusions from the present research study: (1) SMEs always need to decide about the availability or effectiveness of certain mechanisms of appropriation in the respective business and sector-specific innovation context. An SME entrepreneur should also consider the use of informal protective measures in addition to the potential utilization of formal property rights. (2) In many cases, the success of a protection strategy is based on the combined utilization of different mechanisms of appropriation. In order to achieve an effective innovation protection, the way in which different protection measures can complement each other needs to be examined. (3) In view of the fact that certain mechanisms of appropriation can be substituted by others, if needed, it is also important to weigh alternative protection measures against each other with regard to their efficiency. (4) Last but not least, each SME must check if there is a possible need to catch up in the education and further training of the employees regarding the management of intellectual property of the business.

The organizations of the SMEs must accordingly depict the complete range of formal and informal protection mechanisms in their consulting offers and develop criteria for the (combined) utilization of the latter dependent on the business and sector-specific context as well as communicate these to the affected business. In doing so, the advantages and disadvantages of the respective mechanisms are to be analyzed. Since the qualifications of the entrepreneur and his/her employees play a particular important role in this context, the offers for education and further training need to be organized and completed in a way that the management of intellectual property becomes a part of the qualification program.

#### Additional information

The short report including the methodology, the theoretical approach and the detailed results (4-5 pages) can be found on our website at: <a href="https://www.kmu-netzwerk.uni-goettingen.de">www.kmu-netzwerk.uni-goettingen.de</a>.

This dissertation titled "Small and medium-sized businesses with special characteristics? Contributions to SME research using the example of innovation and business activity" (in German: "Kleine und mittlere Unternehmen mit Besonderheiten? Beiträge zur MIttelstandsforschung an den Beispielen von Innovation und Konjunktur") by Dr. Jörg Thomä, who graduated with distinction, can be found at: <a href="http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/diss/2012/thomae/thomae.pdf">http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/diss/2012/thomae/thomae.pdf</a>.

You can contact Dr. Jörg Thomä at: ifh Göttingen, Volkswirt-schaftliches Institut für Mittelstand und Handwerk of the University of Göttingen: joerg.thomae@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de

#### Contact

PhD-students working on business-related research topics and interested in publishing their work in a future newsletter are welcome to contact us.

If you are interested in building up cooperations between a business and the university or if you have questions regarding funding and support please contact the project coordinator of the SME network:

Jaqui Dopfer: Tel. 0551 39 10646 Christina Qaim: Tel. 0551 39 10630

kmu-netzwerk@uni-goettingen.de







# Qualification

### Courses offered during the fourth quarter

The GGG divides the year into four quarters. You can register for courses six weeks before the start of a new quarter. For additional information go to: www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de.

From now on, you can register for the following courses of the fourth quarter by sending an email to:

ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de

08.11. + 09.11.	Persönliche Standortbestimmung und Karriereplanung für GesellschaftswissenschaftlerInnen	Dr. Margarete Hubrath
15.11. + 16.11.	Promotionsplanung - gut gerüstet durch die Promotion!	Dr. Stephan Peters

In addition, there are still places available for the following courses:

10.09. + 11.09.	Success and Motivation "Strategische Kompetenz im Selbstmanagement"	Wilbert L. Olinde
17. 09.	Leistungsorientierte Mittelverteilung und Finanzmanagement	Matthias Kreysing / Ralf Paquin
21.09. + 08.10.	Intercultural Training in Science and Research	Prof. Dr. Gardenia Alonso
28.09. + 05.10.	Schreibwerkstatt III "Textwerkstatt"	Dr. des. Melanie Brink- schulte

#### This is how it works:

Every workshop can be attended by 10 to 16 PhD-students. We have a "first come, first serve" policy. Four weeks before the course starts, your registration will be considered as binding. Detailed information about the courses and the registration procedure can be found at: <a href="http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de">http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de</a>

Please only use the following email address for registration: ggg.kursanmeldung@uni-goettingen.de.

Please consider the applicable registration procedure!

#### **Teaching Competence of PhD-Students**

Moreover, we would like to draw your attention to the following courses of the division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education of the University of Göttingen, which are particularly aimed at PhD-students:

25.10.	Interdisziplinäre Teams in der Hochschullehre	Maria Prahl
23.11.	Seminararbeiten effizient und nachhaltig korrigieren	Dr. Susanne Frölich- Steffen

For additional information on these two courses and on the registration procedure, please go to:

http://www.qualiportal-promovierende.uni-goettingen.de.

#### **Events**

The GGG is hosting different events to which we would like to cordially invite you. You can already make a note of the following events. Additional information about times and locations will be provided on our website, in our flyer, and by the team of the GGG.

### October 15-18, 2012: Interdisciplinary Methodology Week (Interdisziplinäre Methodenwoche)

We are happy to cordially invite you to the special lecture of Prof. Dr. Bernhard Ebbinghaus on October 17, 2012, titled "Wohlfahrtsregime im Vergleich: Vom Ideal- zum Realtypus?". Vom Ideal- zum Realtypus?" It is not necessary to separately register for this event. The lecture will start at 7:00 pm at the Convention Centre by the Observatory.

www.methodenwoche.uni-goettingen.de

### November 2012: PraxisForum – Speed-Dating with Businesses (Registration by September 21, 2012)

PhD-students, who want to enhance the practical relevancy of their work, are given the opportunity to talk to business representatives. The focus of the conversation can be determined in advance. Everyone interested is invited cordially. Please register for this event by sending an email to <code>kmu-netzwerk@uni-goettingen.de</code> by September 21, 2012. The exact time and location of this event will soon be provided on the SME-network website.

### November 14-16, 2012: Conference "Biodiversity and Society"

This conference provides a forum to discuss social problems and suggested solutions between the conflicting priorities of the protection and utilization of biodiversity. The reflection of scientific results across the disciplines helps all participants to further develop their ideas and to build a network within the interdisciplinary biodiversity research community. The aim of the conference is to stimulate and inspire the current discussion and, thus, the social relevancy of the research

rent discussion and, thus, the social relevancy of the research area of biodiversity. Registration has already started at: www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversitaet-gesellschaft

### November 28, 2012: Presentation of the Candidates for the PhD-Representative Election

The candidates for PhD-representative election introduce themselves to all PhD-students of Social Sciences and can be elected online afterwards. Additional information about the election will be provided by email and on our website. In the GGG, the PhD-representative plays an important role as the contact person and as the representative for all PhD-students in the field of social sciences. He/she forms part of the executive board and represents the interests of the PhD-students.

http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/185778.html

#### At a glance

### "PhD Information Day" in Göttingen on September 15, 2012

On this day, the Xing-group, "Promotion", will visit the GGG in the conference center, "Historische Sternwarte".

You are invited to join us for a day packed with workshops about the topic of doctoral studies! We will provide information and advise regarding time management, exposé writing, going abroad (in an EU member state) for your PhD, communication skills and much more!

All PhD-students - regardless if they are members of the Xinggroup or not - can participate in this event.

For registration, you can either refer to the event list on the start page of the Xing-group, "Promotion", (http://www.xing.com/net/promotion/) or you can send an email to Dr. Stephan Peters (mail@stephanpeters.com).

#### Call for Papers for the PhD conference titled "Subjekte in Bewegung, Organisationen in Bewegung? Gewerkschaften und Migration" (Submission by September 30, 2012)

The Call for Papers for the next PhD conference of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung taking place on April 23-26, 2013 in Göttingen has just been published. This Call for Papers addresses PhD-students and young scientists of all disciplines, whose research focuses on the links between migration and the work of trade unions.

Please submit a German or English abstract (ca. 1 page), as well as brief information about your biography and your research profile by September 30, 2012. Please send an email with all documents to WT@boeckler.de.

http://uni-goettingen.de/de/364950.html

# Gender Studies PhD Day in Lower Saxony (Niedersächsischer DoktandInnentag der Gender Studies) on November 9, 2012

The third interdisciplinary day for PhD-students of Gender Studies in Lower-Saxony of the federal state working group of the center for women's studies and gender research (Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Einrichtungen für Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung in Niedersachsen (LAGEN)) is organized by the study course, Gender Studies, at the University of Göttingen on Friday, November 9, 2012. Six PhD research projects will be presented and commented by expert scientists in the field of gender research. In addition, there will be poster presentations about projects from other PhD-students. The aim of the conference is the presentation and networking of young scientists in the field of gender research from Lower Saxony.

The program and registration documents (for the participation in general or with a poster) will be available online beginning on September 1, 2012 at: <a href="https://www.geschlechterforschung.uni-goettingen.de">www.geschlechterforschung.uni-goettingen.de</a>.

Additional information is already provided by: Helga Hauenschild, M.A., Koordinationsstelle Geschlechterforschung, Baurat-Gerber-Str. 4/6, 37073 Göttingen <a href="https://hhauens@uni-goettingen.de">hhauens@uni-goettingen.de</a>, Tel. 0551/39-9457

# **Sponsorships**

The Göttingen Graduate School of Social Sciences provides funding and scholarships for PhD-students of social sciences. For an overview of the latest offers, please refer to our website (<a href="https://www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship">www.ggg.uni-goettingen.de/GGG-sponsorship</a>).

Currently, the following grants and scholarships are available:

Grant	Duration	Deadline	Amount of Funding	Target Group
GGG Family Grant	4 - 6 months	30.09.12	€ 1,200 - € 1,300 per month	PhD-students with children under the age of 12 who need funding while they are comple- ting their dissertation
Organization of international conferences	Funding for 6 months (43 hours per month)	30.09.12 15.01. 30.06.	Payment for the position of a research assistant (6 months, 43 hours per months) plus material expenses	PhD-students who want to enhance their key qualifications by organizing international conferences
HBS-Grant	2-3 years (st- arting in April 2013)	11.10.12	€ 1,150 per month	PhD-students who do their research about competence upgrading in SME
Forum for PhD-stu- dents	Flexible	Flexible	depends on costs, speaker	PhD-students who are looking for networking opportunities
Grants for practical work	Flexible	Flexible	€ 400 each	Grants for students in the examination period, who prepared a research project in cooperation with SMEs
Grants for practical research	6 months each (43 hours per month)	Flexible	Funding of a scientific assis- tant position of about 25%	PhD-students who are working on a research project in cooperation with SMEs
Travel expenses grant for an international conference	Once per conference visit	Continuously by faculties	€ 400 per grant	PhD-students who enhance their key qualifications by participating in a conference abroad

#### Do you know...?

#### **Start of PhD-Funding Guidance**



Since June 2012, Dr. Kristin Schröder has been a part of the GGG-team and bridges a crucial gap within the PhD guidance service by providing individual advice for PhD-funding. While PhD programs and clusters experience systematical guidance by the university's research department and graduate schools, PhD-students who are looking for individual grants and scholarships are often struggling with a patchwork of pieces of information.

In order to facilitate this search and to face this problem, Kristin Schröder will gather information about foundations and funding institutions in the field of social sciences and will make it easily accessible in the future. Furthermore, she will be available for current and possible future PhD-students by providing individual advice about advantages and disadvantages of different funding institutions and by assisting in the search for the appropriate PhD projects. Moreover, she can help applicants for grants or scholarships to prepare their application, as well as the corresponding exposé.

Kristin Schröder wrote her doctoral thesis at the chair of Environmental and Resource Economics at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Göttingen. The focus of her work, which was funded by the German funding organization DFG, was on the investigation of preferences for ecosystem services and on human behavior regarding environmental risks.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Schröder by calling 39-20449 or by sending an email to: kschroe3@uni-goettingen.de

#### News

# Interactive Management Consulting Course for PhD-Students in the Field of Economic Sciences (Please submit a CV by August 20, 2012)

PhD-Students of the Faculty of Economic Sciences are invited to participate in an extraordinary workshop: "Challenges and opportunities in management consulting - an interactive business simulation". In this interactive workshop on September 27, 2012, you will have the opportunity to gain insights on up-to-date top management issues. While working in small teams, you will seek to build up a strategic advantage over other teams in a hard-fought market.

If you would like to participate, please submit your CV including a grade list to the GGNB Office (*ggnb@gwdg.de*) by August 20, 2012.

http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/366958.html

### Announcement for Family oriented Grants (Please apply by September 30, 2012)

In 2012, the GGG offers completion grants for PhD-students of Social Sciences who need funding while they are completing their dissertation.

PhD-students, who are members of the GGG, are invited to apply for this grant before September 30, 2012 if they are enrolled in the University of Göttingen and if they have to take care of at least one child under the age of 12 years. http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/355598.html

### Announcement for Funding (partial) of Workshops/Conferences (Please apply by September 30, 2012)

The SME-network of the GGG is offering partial funding for the organization of international workshops and conferences between October 2012 and October 2013. For each event, the SME-network offers € 1,000 for travel expenses, € 840 for catering, as well as the payment for the position of a research assistant (6 months, 43 hours per month). If you are interested and if you have already formed a team of at least 3 PhD-students (interdisciplinary teams are very welcome), please apply by September 30, 2012. For additional information also about the registration procedure, please refer to our website. http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/307842.html

### Announcement for HBS Grant (Please apply by October 11, 2012)

Due to profound changes in the required competencies for current and future staff of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as the resulting change of the qualification structures, cooperation practices and career development prospects, eight PhD scholarships are offered. The deadline of this second announcement is October 11, 2012.

http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/bewerbung/316742.html

#### New Fundings for the Summer Term of 2013: Team Teaching

In cooperation with the division for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, the GGG will support joint teaching projects of PhD-students and members of the university with several years of teaching experience in the summer term of 2013.



Participants of the Team Teaching
Program will receive a concise introduction to the theory and practice of teaching and learning in higher education. At the same time and together with an experienced colleague, participants will plan a seminar, which they will run and host as a teaching team. For the summer term of 2013, please register by January 15, 2013 at the latest. The first group of teaching teams will start in March 2013. For the winter term of 2013/2014, please register by

June 30, 2013. Additional information will be provided on our website. www.teamteaching.uni-goettingen.de

#### **On our own Account**

Please be aware that all upcoming courses are open for registration after the publication of this newsletter. Effective immediately, PhD-students can register for the courses offered by the GGG in the fourth quarter of the year 2012 (see page 4).

This newsletter is published quarterly and is available to all PhD-students and supervisors of the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as to all interested parties. The newsletter is provided online (http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/aktuelles/42253.html) or you can order it by email. The next newsletter will be published on November 19, 2012.

This newsletter is intended to provide information about the basic questions of writing a PhD-thesis, as well as to develop and maintain a closer contact between you and the GGG-team. Hence, it enables an easy and flexible access to all courses and events of the graduate school.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact our team (see last page of the newsletter) or the persons in charge of the various projects, which can be accessed online.

### Team

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In case of questions or remarks, please contact ggg@uni-goettingen.de.

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