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## CORAL REEFS IN CRISIS

Globally only 30 percent remain  
in a good condition

# #YOUKNOWWHY

## Dear readers,

The worldwide crisis brought about by coronavirus has turned our lives and work upside down in the shortest amount of time. It feels like the emergency brake on our lives has been pulled. Speed is rapidly decreasing, everything has come to a stop, and everyone on this journey wants to know: What is happening? When will everything start back up again? We are all having similar thoughts.

### **Coral Reefs: In Danger Even Without the Conference**

Everything has also been happening extremely fast for the **update.** editorial team – with consequences for this issue. Shortly before going to print, we received the information that the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) has been postponed until next year. This particular event and the worldwide coral reef crisis form the core of our lead story. The University of Bremen will be hosting the ICRS and several events in the city were planned with partners for this year. However, everything has changed now and the many scientists will instead be travelling to the hanseatic city in 2021. Please view this contribution, which we were not able to change, as an introduction for next year.

The coronavirus has also shaken up many things for the Foreign Languages Centre for the Universities in the Land of Bremen (FZHB). For the past 25 years, colleagues at the centre have been making important contributions to language

learning. The FZHB intended to celebrate its birthday with a week of festivities, which has now also been postponed. The new date had not been clarified at the time that we wrote this editorial. Nonetheless, our article offers you interesting insights into the diverse work carried out at the FZHB.

Another article throws light onto the fact that not only biological viruses, but also computer viruses and unstable infrastructure networks pose a threat to us. In the interview “We Are Turning Hamburg Off Now”, two experts from the University of Bremen confirm that widespread power outages are in fact thinkable.

You can also find out more about how the university is taking on social responsibility. What are students and teaching staff doing to counteract growing anti-Semitism? How will teacher education be improved further? What are we doing to launch a European university?

### **More in up2date.**

Regardless of the coronavirus, all of the articles in this magazine remain informative and current. If you enjoy reading our articles and stories, you can get your “update” online several times a month. Our online issue **up2date.** always has its finger on the pulse. [www.up2date.uni-bremen.de/en/](https://www.up2date.uni-bremen.de/en/)

We wish you enjoyable reading,  
**the editorial team**

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# in short

## Transfer with a New Strategy

The University has developed a new transfer strategy. The aims are communication, dialogue, and creating stronger and more efficient cooperation with politics, economy, and society. The university will go forward in a target-oriented manner within six fields of actions. For example, these are public relations, practice-oriented studies, development of entrepreneurial culture such as within the CAMPUSIDEEN project, and the anchoring within the city and region, as has been done successfully with the Technology Park.

[http://unihb.eu/transfer\\_en](http://unihb.eu/transfer_en)

## 3D Laser Metal Deposition

The scientific location Bremen is happy to collaborate for outstanding innovation – as is the case in material research. The MAPEX Center for Material and Processes at the University of Bremen has established a strong network. This consortium has now been granted 2.2 million euros by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to build a device for 3D laser metal deposition for high throughput development of new alloys and composite materials.

[http://unihb.eu/laser\\_en](http://unihb.eu/laser_en)

## Online Gambling Addiction

The Gambling Research working group at the University of Bremen and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Addiction and Drug research (ISD, Hamburg) have carried out a unique literature analysis on the special risks of

online gambling. 48 of the 63 studies proved an increased danger potential and particular addiction dangers of online gambling. As a result, the Bremen online gambling researcher Dr. Tobias Hayer demands strict regulations.

<http://unihb.eu/gambling>

## Study: Those who Provide Care Earn Less

When employed relatives take over family care for a longer period, they lose 2.7 percent of their hourly wage. That is the result of the acclaimed Caregiving as an Income Risk study, which has now been published by the sociologist Lara Minkus PhD, the gerontologist Dr. Moritz Heß (both from the SOCIUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy at the University of Bremen), and the sociologist Dr. Ulrike Ehrlich (German

Centre of Gerontology, Berlin). This even applies to people who care for relatives for at least one hour Mondays to Fridays.

<http://unihb.eu/care>

## University of Bremen at the Top

In the ranking by the renowned scientific journal Nature, the University of Bremen placed 18th among 175 universities that are not yet 50 years old and is thus, one of the worldwide best. In the subject area of earth and environmental sciences, the university placed third and is thus the leader among the 14 young universities in Germany. Every year, the Nature Index of the scientific journal lists publications in journals. The numbers provide information on the international quality of research findings.

<http://unihb.eu/nature>

## How Plants Smuggle Genetic Material

In a new molecular genetics study, Professor Rita Groß-Hardt and her team (Faculty of Biology/Chemistry), with Dr. Yanbo Mao as principle author, have shown that it is possible to “smuggle” genetic information past “quality checkpoints” within the reproduction process of plants. The recent research findings not only expand the current knowledge of plant reproduction significantly but they may also have an effect on agriculture in the medium-term.

<http://unihb.eu/genetics>

## AI Helps in Retail

The University of Bremen was extremely successful in the innovation competition “Artificial intelligence as a driving force in economically relevant ecosystems” by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The Bremen project “Knowledge4Retail”, within which the Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IAI) plays a leading role, will receive funding of 13 million euros. The aim: To incorporate AI with its connected opportunities into



← DNA smuggling found: Dr. Yanbo Mao, Professor Rita Groß-Hardt, and Dr. Thomas Nakel have expanded the current knowledge of plant reproduction significantly with their molecular-genetic studies.  
Photo: Jonas Ginter / InnoWi.

retail and to create new ways of connecting online and stationary retail.

<http://unihb.eu/retail>

## More Unstable Employment Types

Unstable employment types have increased in the past decades. This was shown in a study conducted by the Institute for Labor and Economy (iaw) at the University of Bremen. According to the study, temporary employment, mini jobs, fixed-term contracts, and small-scale self-employment are on the rise. The divide between high and low incomes has not increased any further. That is down to the good economic situation and the introduction of minimum wage. However, the study has shown an increasing cleft between secure and unstable working conditions.

<http://unihb.eu/employment>

## Prize for Outstanding Teaching

For the first time, Bremen is awarding the Bremen University

Prize for Outstanding Teaching. The prize will honor innovative methods in teaching, examination, consultation, and supervision of students at the universities in Bremen. The prize is endowed with a total of 40,000 euros. Bremen State will award 25,000 euros for the first place and 15,000 euros for the second place. The award from the senator for science and ports will be given out every two years.

<http://unihb.eu/lehre>

## From the Nursing Home to the Emergency Room

A study by the University of Bremen, which is being led by the University of Oldenburg indicates that nursing home residents in Germany are very often admitted to emergency rooms and hospitals unnecessarily. The number is much higher than other countries when compared. Hospital stays can have undesirable consequences for those affected: Risk of infection or increased mental confusion. Care researchers are trying to find

alternatives in order to improve the situation for those in need of care.

<http://unihb.eu/ambulance>

## Bremen Is Celebrating Science

Until the end of September, Bremen will be celebrating the motto year PHENOMENAL 2020 – Discover Bremen. Meet Science. The extraordinary cooperation between science and city life can be experienced everywhere. Whether it is museums, science centers, or at events – experiments and exhibitions will allow both young and old to experience research. There is a program with great insights and visions, a great deal of fun, experiences, and mixed bag of events spanning over several months.

[www.bremen-phenomenal.de](http://www.bremen-phenomenal.de)

## DFG Finances Research Training Group

Great success for a joint project of the University of Bremen and

the Jacobs University: The German Research Foundation (DFG) approved funding for a research training group at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS). Within the framework of the qualification program, 14 young academics can earn their doctorates in the disciplines of psychology, sociology, and political science. The DFG is financing the research training group with around three million euros over a period of four and a half years.

<http://unihb.eu/graduategroup>



→ Practice-oriented tasks and the further development of entrepreneurial culture are part of the new transfer strategy.  
Photo: SolisImages – stock.adobe.com.

lead story

# Coral Reefs in Crisis

**POSTPONED**

The global threat to coral reefs is the main topic of the International Coral Reef Symposium. It is expected that around 2,500 participants from over 90 countries will be in attendance

By Heinz Krimmer

It is a premiere for Bremen, Germany, and Europe: For the first time in its 50-year history, the **International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS)** will take place in a European country. It will be the biggest ocean conference that has ever taken place in Germany. Bremen will be hosting the event from July 5 to 10. The state is one of the leading scientific locations in the field of ocean research and the University of Bremen will be organizing the conference. The federal minister of education and research, Anja Karliczek, will be the patron of the event and is expected to be present at the opening ceremony as guest of honor.

**Due to the corona crisis, the symposium was postponed until July 18 to 23, 2021, shortly before update. went to print.**

↓ **Coral bleaching in New Caledonia, 2016:** Nearly all stony corals live in symbiosis with unicellular algae. If the water temperature increases, they produce a toxic agent that forces the corals to expel them. The skin becomes transparent and the white coral skeleton becomes visible. That is why it is called coral bleaching. Photo: The Ocean Agency



● “We are nervous but also proud that we were successful in bringing the 14th ICRS to Bremen,” says the conference chairman Professor Christian Wild from the University of Bremen. It was thanks to his initiative that the application to host the symposium was sent to the International Coral Reef Society. The majority of the 2,500 participants from over 90 countries are from the fields of science, coastal management, environmental protection, and politics.

Current research findings regarding coral reefs will be presented and discussed. They belong to the most significant ocean ecosystems. The scientific studies in 2020 are more important than ever as the coral reefs over the world are in crisis. Their existence is in danger. With his Marine Ecology working group, Wild has been dealing with this topic for several years. “The current numbers portray a dramatic situation,” says the scientists. In 2016, around 30 percent of the stony corals along the Australian Great Barrier Reef were victims of the most recent large case of coral bleaching. With its 2,600 kilometers, the reef is the largest tropical coral



↑ In so-called Champagne Reefs, CO<sub>2</sub> is expelled from the seabed due to volcanism. The seawater becomes more acidic and the reefs can hardly produce calcium at a pH value of 7.7. At the end of the century, this low pH value will be standard due to our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Photo: Dr. Katharina Fabricius

“Globally only 30 percent of the coral reefs remain in a good condition.”

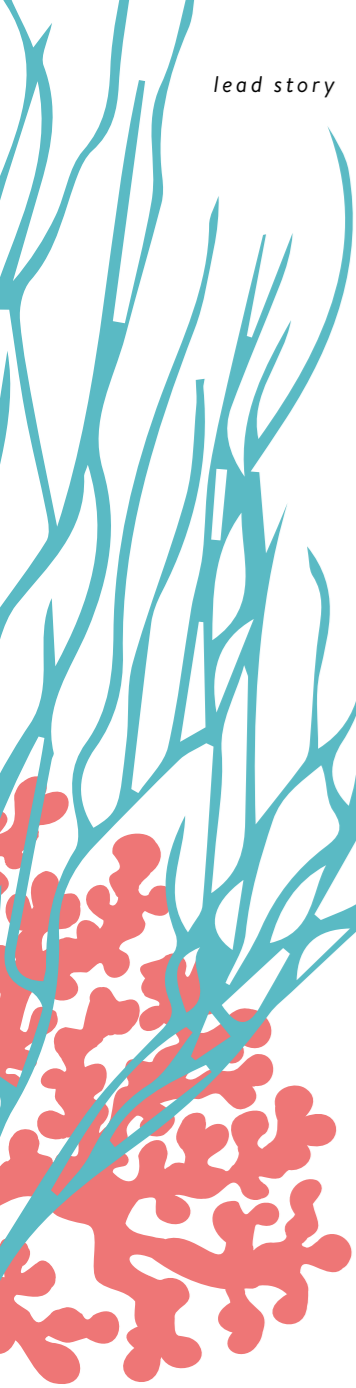
Professor Christian Wild, University of Bremen

reef on the planet. “Globally, 30 percent of our coral reefs have disappeared, 40 percent are in grave danger, and only 30 percent remain in a comparably good condition.” Coral death has both global and local causes.

“The most dangerous global threat for the existence of coral reefs is the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced mainly by the industrial countries, which are also responsible for climate change,” explains Wild. The sensitive ecosystems are doubly damaged by the greenhouse gases. On the one hand, stony corals and the algae living in symbiosis are extremely sensitive to temperature. An elevation of 1.5 degrees – the current Paris climate agreement target – is the upper threshold for the survival of many species. “At the same time, there is a so-called acidification of the seawater, as the oceans take in the CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere,” according to Wild. This impairs the creation of stable reef structures with calcium from the corals. The consequences would be fatal for coastal protection as intact coral reefs reduce 97 percent of the wave energy and 84 percent of wave height. “The destructive power of storm tides is reduced by 50 percent. More than 100 countries would be directly affected and would lose their coastal protection.”

**500 Million People Depend on Coral reefs**

“Coastal protection is only one of the ecosystem services that we can thank intact coral reefs for,” explains Dr. Sebastian Ferse. Ferse works at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) and cooperates with the University of Bremen. He is a member of the ICRS organizational committee. 500 million people in the tropics are directly and indirectly economically dependent on the coral reefs. The value of the services are estimated as being around 100 trillion US dollars per year. The reefs are the most significant earth ecosystems by far. A good example is the tourism industry. Each year, two million people visit the Great Barrier Reef on Australia’s east coast. Reef tourism contributes around 6.4 billion



**Coral Reef Distribution**

- Tropical coral reef
- Cold water reef
- Fossilized coral reef
- Coral Triangle

This map shows the most significant coral reefs and reef areas around the world. The green coral symbols between 30° North and South represent tropical reefs, the blue ones represent cold water reefs, and the black ones represent fossilized coral reefs. The red triangle shows the center of the ocean's species diversity: the Coral Triangle.

*Graphic: Kosmos Verlag/Heinz Krimmer/ICRS 2020 / oblik*



← Tropical coral reefs prefer shallow water that is flooded with light and is located between the latitude of 30 degrees north and south.  
Photo: The Ocean Agency / Gregory Piper

euros to Australia's economy each year. 70,000 people have their job due to the Great Barrier Reef. In many other developing countries, such as Egypt, the tourism industry plays a bigger role.

The contribution to the diet of the locals is even more important. Fish is a healthy source of protein and is often the only source on tropical islands and in coastal areas that is available in large enough quantities and is reasonably priced. Around one billion people depend on protein from coastal fishing. "However, coral reefs are being extremely overfished," according to Ferse. The result: More than half of the normal biomass of 83 percent of coral reefs has disappeared.

The intense use of areas close to the coast is also a factor. Reefs are put under strain by hotels, ports, and other tourism infrastructures. The clearing of tropical rainforests, raw material extraction in mines, and diverse other construction measures cause strong sediment deposits via wind, rain, and rivers. Additionally, a great deal of waste is entering the oceans. Agriculture and aquacultures promote extreme algae growth due to over fertilization and allow

pesticides to enter the ocean. As a result, the oxygen content sinks and the corals suffocate.

"These local threats can be as dangerous for coral reefs as the global ones," explains Wild. The situation is made worse by the demographic change. The Philippines as an example: Around 1900, around 10 million people lived on the



← **Who eats who?** Overfishing affects the large species first, such as this black-tipped reef shark. If they are no longer around this causes damage to the reefs. Reef sharks regulate the numbers of small predators, who hunt herbivorous fish. Without sharks the number of predator fish increases and the number of herbivorous fish decreases. The corals then have a problem in competing with the rival algae. The reef is slowly dying.  
Photo: Heinz Krimmer / ICRS

tropical island archipelago. Nowadays, 100 million people require work, living space, and food. The pressure on all ecosystems is increasing.

**Local Threats Can Be Influenced Well**

Currently, it can be said that local threats have been responsible for the destruction of the majority of coral reefs in the past decades. "This sounds negative at first but definitely has a positive side", explains Ferse. Local threats can be influenced more easily. Measures such as construction prohibitions, protection zones, and fishing management can

generate quick success and lead to a rejuvenation of the ecosystems. In order to achieve this, only a few local players have to be convinced. In contrast to this, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are far more difficult to control as international agreements are needed for this.

It can be seen in Europe, however, how difficult it can still sometimes be to contain local threats: The largest cold water reef on the planet spans from the northern Norwegian coast towards the south from a depth of around 200 meters. Trawl fishery is just as dangerous for these deep sea reefs as blast fishing is in the tropics. Only a ruin remains once it has been done. Many deep sea reefs were probably destroyed before they were even discovered. Despite all of this, trawl fishery is still permitted in unprotected areas. Cold water corals can be found across the world and mainly grow in the dark deep sea.

In contrast, tropical coral reefs prefer shallow water that is flooded with light and is located between latitude of 30 degrees north and south. These regions are called the "deserts of the sea" as they are very nutrient-poor. It was for this reason that marine biologists were not able to explain



*“Coastal protection is only one of the ecosystem services that we can thank intact coral reefs for.”*

*Dr. Sebastian Ferse, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research*

for a very long time why it is possible for stony corals to create gigantic reef complexes in these “deserts”. Where do they get the energy to nourish themselves and additionally produce masses of calcium – so-called primary production? This reef paradox or Darwin paradox as it is also called was only able to be clarified in the last years. The discovery of how stony corals obtain nitrogen that is crucial for their survival was an important step. Christian Wild’s Marine Ecology unit has been working on this for several years. Currently, the PhD student Yusuf C. El-Khaled is researching the effects of climate change on the nitrogen cycle in coral reef systems.

A significant consequence of the coral reefs’ high primary production in these nutrient-poor zones is its unbelievable biodiversity. Despite coral reefs only existing on 0.2 percent of the earth’s ocean surface, more than a third of all fish and ocean invertebrates live there. This diversity makes the reefs interesting in the search for new medical agents. The reefs are called the “pharmacy of the future”. There are currently 13 drugs with agents from tropical reefs. Numerous agents, especially in the field of cancer therapy, are currently

going through the approval process. This usage is not damaging to the reefs. Once they have been discovered, the agents are synthetically produced in laboratories with the help of biotechnological processes.

What is certain is that coral reefs are some of the most significant ecosystems and their protection should be of a high priority. The majority of intact reefs can be found in areas that are difficult to access for humans or in protected areas. “Strictly protected national marine parks are currently the most effective measures for protecting these ecosystems against overexploitation and for stopping species extinction,” according to Wild.

### **Global Warming and Ocean Acidification Are Biggest Threats**

It seems that protected reefs are more resistant against climate change effects than those that are subject to human influences. However, further scientific investigations are required. Wild’s working group is also working within this field.



Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is the fourth largest marine reserve on the planet. Spread over a surface of 1.52 million square kilometers, it protects around 60 percent of the water around Hawaii.  
Photo: Andrew Gray/NOAA

### **Bremen: Important Scientific Location for Marine Research**

Bremen has cumulated know-how and an excellent network of partners in marine research. Researchers in the fields of oceanography and environmental physics, marine geosciences, and marine biology and chemistry work together in an interdisciplinary manner at the university, the adjoining non-university institutes in the Bremen Technology Park, and in the entire region. The areas of law, social sciences, and humanities are involved in marine research.

Marine, Polar, and Climate Research is one of the University of Bremen’s high-profile research areas that the university promotes strategically. The Ocean Floor – Earth’s Uncharted Interfaces Cluster of Excellence is located at MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences. Here, researchers cooperate closely with regional institutes and international partners. “So much diverse expertise in one location is unique in the marine sciences across Germany and has only been realized at very few locations across the world,” says MARUM director Professor Michael Schulz.

This can be seen in coral reef research, for example. Many players from the University of Bremen – for example BreMarE Centre for research an Education and MARUM – are involved. Non-university institutes in Bremen State, such as the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT), the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology (MPI and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven, also carry out work on coral reefs. They are involved in creating the International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) 2020, which will be held in Bremen in July. ● Meike Mossig

The PhD student Anna Koester is investigating the effects of climate change on the coral reefs of the Aldabra atoll in the Seychelles, which have been left mainly untouched by humans.

However global warming and ocean acidification are the biggest threats for tropical coral reefs in the future. “Only when the target of sustainably reducing the emission of climate-damaging greenhouse gases has been attained, will it be possible to limit the damage to the tropical coral reefs,” according to Wild. Maybe some of the magnificence of the coral reefs can be saved, as climate change has very different effects locally. This is due to geological or physical surroundings that strengthen or ease the effects. Some stony corals are also more resilient and adaptable than others.

All of these matters and also solutions to alleviate the worldwide coral reef crisis will be addressed as part of the International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen. ●



[www.icrs2020.de](http://www.icrs2020.de)



Due to the corona crisis, the symposium was postponed until July 18 to 23, 2021, shortly before update. went to print.

“It is important to us that we inform as many people as possible”

**The International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen is also offering numerous talks and exhibitions in the city**

By Heinz Krimmer

• The International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in Bremen is not only a meeting point for science. In the frame of the conference, there will be a great deal on offer for children, adolescents, and adults, so that the danger that coral reefs are in and the importance that they have are communicated. Together with the Übersee Museum Bremen, the House of Science, Bremeninvest, and Science Notes magazine, the ICRS team are planning numerous events in the hanseatic city.

“It is important to us that we use the ICRS to inform as many people as possible about the life-threatening problems of the coral reefs,” says Professor Christian Wild from the University of Bremen. Since January, the House of Science in the Sandstraße has

been holding monthly talks on the fascinating and threatened underwater world of tropical coral reefs in the frame of the Wissen um 11 series. Entry is free of charge.

At 6 p.m. on June 11, 2020, the Coral Reefs – Diverse. Vulnerable. Gone? exhibition will open in the Übersee Museum. From June 12, to November 15, 2020, visitors can find out everything about the importance of coral reefs for the oceans and humans and also the threats posed to them by overfishing, pollution, climate change, and ocean acidification. Moreover, there will be information available on effective protection measures. The exhibition is available in both German and English and is thus suitable for international guests in Bremen. The



← “It is important to us that we use the ICRS to inform as many people as possible about the life-threatening problems of the coral reefs.” Professor Christian Wild, University of Bremen Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

→ A photography competition was held in the frame of the ICRS 2020 in Bremen. The photos can be viewed in the House of Science from June 26, to August 27, 2020. Photo: Paul Selvaggio/ SECORE International/ H. Krimmer-ICRS 2020

exhibition was created in the frame of a cooperation between the Übersee Museum and the University of Bremen, as well as the German Oceanographic Museum Foundation.

**Photo Exhibition and Offers for Schools**

“Colorful diversity, white death – what can colors tell us about coral reefs?” is the title of the photography exhibition at House of Science, which will be open from June 26, to August 27, 2020. The best photographs on the topics of beauty, threats, and science from the ICRS 2020 international photography competition will be on display.

During the International Coral Reef Symposium, Science Notes will hold an evening event in Modernes on July 8. The event is aimed at young people. A further attraction is docked at the Europahafen Marina. The famous French research vessel Tara is inviting all interested persons to an outdoor

exhibition and viewing of the deck. Additionally, a multi-day workshop under the leadership of the Australian marine biologist Nathan Cook is planned in the Übersee Museum, to which Bremen school pupils are also cordially invited.

The free “Coral Knowledge” brochure will be available at each of the accompanying events. With understandable texts and impressive photos, the brochure will transport you into the world of coral reefs. The brochure was realized with the support of the companies Envirocom and Bremeninvest.

**Part of PHENOMENAL 2020**

All accompanying events are part of PHENOMENAL 2020. Under this motto, Bremen is inviting all citizens and guests of the city to dive into the world of science from January to September 2020. ●

Further Information:

- www.icrs2020.de
- www.bremen-phenomenal.de
- www.uebersee-museum.de/en/
- www.hausderwissenschaft.de/english.html
- www.sciencenotes.de





## research

How much does personality development depend on genes? More than assumed to date? These are the questions that the Bremen psychologist Professor **Christian Kandler** and his team are trying to answer. The special feature: He is observing the development of twins.

# How Do People Develop over a Lifetime?

**The Department of Psychology is trying to find answers with twin research**

By Karla Götz



Twins: Volunteer participants are always welcome in the project.  
Photo: Szilárd Szabó / Pixabay

● In the second survey wave of the SPeADy study, which is short for Study of Personality Architecture and Dynamics, the scientist wants to interview 600 twin families. The best possible way of doing this is online. Self-assessment is required. For example: Where would you place your social status on a ten-rung ladder? Psychological evaluation parameters in the questionnaires are fearfulness or recklessness, extroversion or introversion, questions on habits, and one's own subjective attractiveness in comparison to others. That is all Professor Kandler will reveal. "We must not distort the results," he says.



←  
Professor Christian Kandler is observing the development of monozygotic and dizygotic twins.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / Universität Bremen

*“Genes play a bigger role than previously assumed.”*

*Professor Christian Kandler*

When hundreds of online questionnaires have been filled out, the head of the Personality Psychology and Psychological Assessment research group statistically evaluates them together with his SPeADy team, which is comprised of two scientific assistants and also students assistants. So far, they have come to the following conclusion: “Individual personality develops over a lifetime based on the interplay between predisposition and the environment. Genes play a bigger role in this than previously assumed,” according to Professor Kandler.

### Role of Freedom and Coincidence

The psychologist explains the interplay using two examples: “Assume that a person has a genetic predisposition to obesity. In countries such as Germany, where food is available en masse, said predisposition can easily manifest. This is not the case in countries with famines.” Or: “Genetically predisposed cognitive performance potential can only be realized when the circumstances are favorable. Those who have no access to books and libraries will not be able to manifest their predis-

positions,” says the 38-year-old. Ultimately, humans have the freedom to develop and are free to choose the conditions that suit them. “This is true for friends that we choose, for example.”

A further factor that contributes to how adolescents develop into the people that they later become is coincidence. “Two genetically identical, monozygotic twins share the same environment from a very early stage in their development, namely when they develop together in the womb. However, they cannot be in the same place at the same time. This leads to differing metabolic supplies in the womb, which can influence the uniqueness of skin wrinkle development. Regardless of how

similar monozygotic twins look at first sight, this is why they have unique fingerprints. Other similar environmental coincidences can occur over the course of a life. They explain why twins become increasingly different, both physically and psychologically.”

Temperament, motives, and values form the core of the online tests. “The twin research helps us to find out how predisposition and environment interact,” says the expert. Due to the division of a fertilized egg cell, monozygotic twins are entirely genetically identical. However, it is still unclear today why, when, and which cell can divide: “Probably a coincidence!” It is interesting that monozygotic twins show opposite physical features more frequently. “One has cowlicks and their parting on the right, the other one on the left, one is right-handed, the other one left-handed,” reports the expert.

Dizygotic twins differ to monozygotic twins. On average, their genetic dispositions are just as similar as those of “normal” siblings. However, they are the same age and go through the important phases of development at the same time. Therefore, they form a significant reference group for the monozygotic twins and are just as valuable for the investigation into the interplay between predispositions and environment.

### Strange Bot Participation

The online process in the working group’s research does bring some difficulties with it. “We sometimes have conspicuous participation,” says the psychologist. Said participation comes from bots, which are automatically operating computer programs with strange addresses. “Our alarm bells start to ring in such cases.” Background: Those who take part in the survey receive a universally applicable 10-euro voucher. “This adds up to a large amount if enough fake replies are sent.”

The scientist mentions another problem: During his previous research in the frame of the TwinLife project at the University of Bielefeld, it was easy to obtain the contact details

of those twins who had agreed to be contacted for research purposes from the resident’s registration office. He had the same positive experience in Berlin, Düsseldorf, and Essen. “Why can the resident’s registration office in Bremen not do the same?” wonders the researcher, who was appointed at the local university in 2018.

The German Research Foundation is funding the SPeADy project until 2022. Volunteer participants are still very welcome, according to Professor Christian Kandler. ●

Further Information:

[www.speady.de/?lang=en](http://www.speady.de/?lang=en)



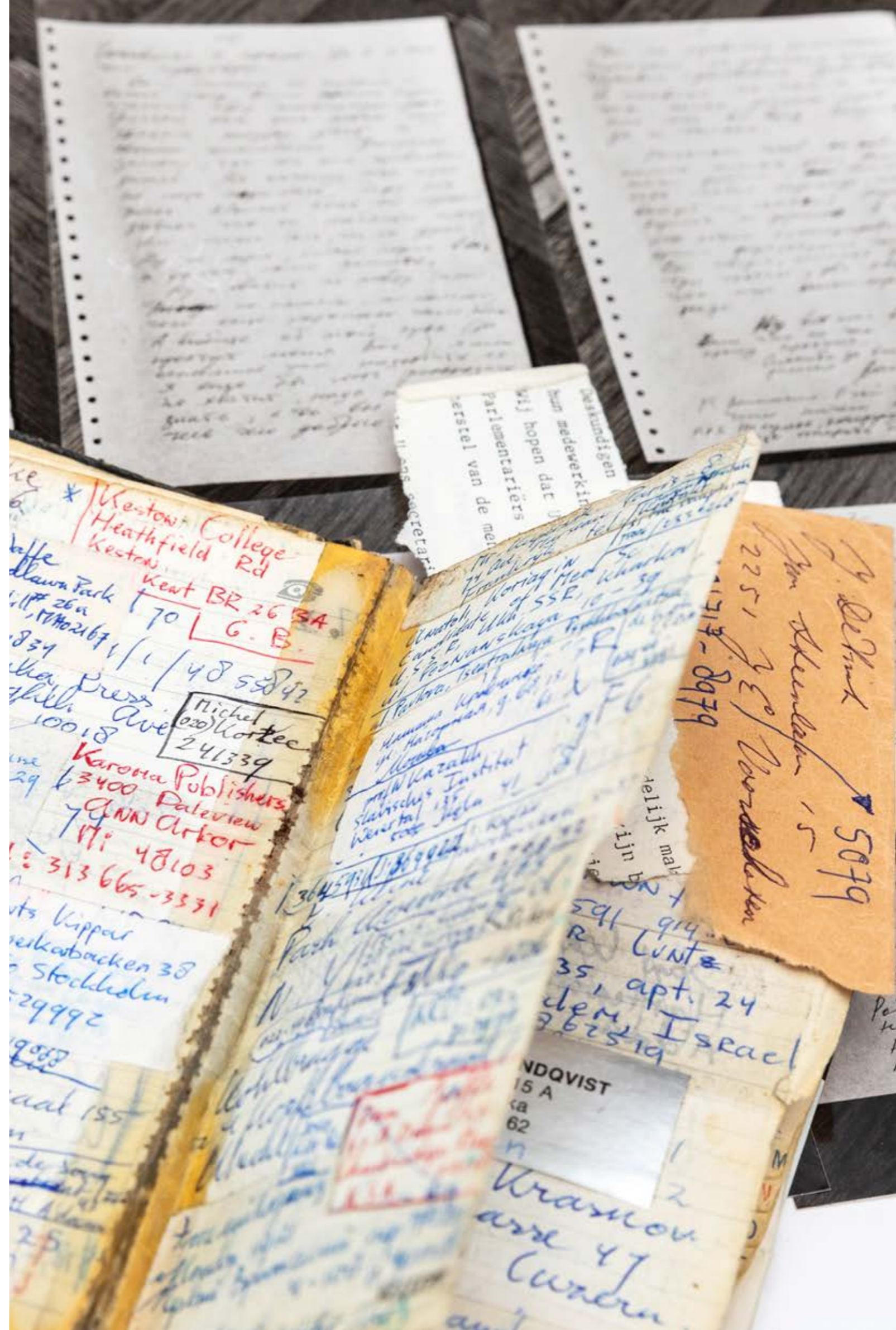
Photo: Shutterstock

The **Research Centre for East European Studies (FSO)** at the University of Bremen is indexing archive material on the politically persecuted in the Soviet Union. The aim is to preserve an alternative memory of human rights abuse in the time following Stalin. In today's Russia, this coming to terms with the past is exposed to increasing political pressure. The sources include personal papers from former dissidents and also archive records from the Bukowsky Foundation. The foundation's director, Robert van Voren, regularly smuggled information on soviet political prisoners into the West in the 1980s.



Robert van Voren's most important companion in the fight for human rights: his address book. Under the book, there are developed photographs of a private letter from acquainted dissidents that he smuggled through the Iron Curtain.

Photo: Matej Meza



# “In Today’s Russia, Remembrance of Dissidents Is in Danger”

**Project secures sources of the politically persecuted in the Soviet Union**

By Sarah Batelka

● “I was extremely scared. I had no idea what was waiting for me behind the Iron Curtain and I saw KGB agents everywhere.” That is how the human rights activist Robert van Voren describes his arrival in Soviet Leningrad in 1980. At the age of 20 years, the Dutch history student flew to the Soviet Union for the first time disguised as a tourist. “I was a courier. My job was to take aid packages to the Soviet Union and return with information.” Russian dissidents and their families were to be helped in this way: whether they were in a prison camp, in exile, or in freedom. Since the 1960s, couriers like van Voren had been travelling to the Soviet Union several times a year, for example to Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad. They were essential for the connection between the dissident movements and their Western supporters.

Van Voren took varying aid supplies with him on the outbound flight: thermal underwear, warm clothes, medi-

cation, vitamin tablets, and stock cubes in order to improve the nutrition of the people in the prison camps. In the winter months, van Voren always wore a new coat on his arrival, which he then passed on. “In the winter of 1984, the Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov wore my coat,” reports van Voren, “I was very proud of that.”

### Smuggled Goods: Information

When he returned to the Netherlands, he brought information with him: It was about the oppression, arrests, and convictions of the dissidents. He also smuggled self-published literature, so-called samizdat, which did not conform to the system, through the Iron Curtain. The distribution of dissenting opinions and uncensored literature without an official printing authorization was considered anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda and was punishable by imprisonment, exile, or deportation.



↑ The project team:  
Maria Klassen, Dr. Tatiana  
Dvinyatina, Alesia Kananchuk,  
Dr. Manuela Putz  
(from left to right)  
Photo: Matej Meza

*“In Bremen, we want to preserve an alternative remembrance of the former prison locations and their inmates.”*

Project manager Dr. Manuela Putz

“I learnt several of the texts by heart and I photographed others with slide film,” explains van Voren. In contrast to color or black-and-white film, slide film could not be developed and viewed quickly enough at the airport prior to departure. As a means of additional safety, he rerolled the films and placed them back in their packaging. “I regularly left the Soviet Union with ten to twelve ‘unused’ slide films. When they carried out a strip search, the films were in my travel bag on a table and passed through the checks unnoticed.” He developed the films when he was back in the Netherlands, printed the slides with the information and distributed it all over Europe using his address list.

Sources such as those that Robert van Voren smuggled into the West in the 1980s are part of an archive-indexing project that the Research Centre for East European Studies (FSO) at the University of Bremen has

been carrying out since 2019. The project will be supported by a grant from the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship (Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung der SED Diktatur). The aim of the project is to make the materials on the politically persecuted and soviet prison company in the FSO archive accessible as quickly as possible and to prepare it for research. “In Bremen, we want to preserve an alternative remembrance of the former prison locations and their inmates,” explains Dr. Manuela Putz, project manager and scientific supervisor.

### Russian Remembrance Culture Today

In today’s Russia, the remembrance of dissidents is in danger of gradually becoming forgotten or even being expediently defamed. Independent archives, such as those of the human rights organization Memorial, were denounced as “foreign

agents”. State-supported transfer is also not available for the research sector. “Many files from this period are not open to the public. Above all, the KGB archive is closed. It is becoming ever more difficult to investigate political repressions in the post-Stalin era,” says Manuela Putz. “Our project is trying to save and preserve these sources.”

From 1972 until the collapse of the Soviet Union, the majority of the regime critics and dissidents were incarcerated in three prison camps near to the village of Kuchino in the Perm region, which is around 1,150 kilometers north-east of Moscow. As “especially dangerous political offenders”, the majority were convicted of “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda” and received lengthy prison sentences. The prison camps were already known in the circles of Soviet dissidents, national opposition members from the Baltic region and the Ukraine, and human rights activists in the West under the name Perm political prison camps. “Since then, they have been considered synonymous with illegal, political persecution in the Soviet Union,” explains the project manager.

She investigated prisons in her dissertation. “In contrast to the Gulag system and the mass repressions under the dictator Josef Stalin, society has not sufficiently come to terms with the prison camps and the repression of dissidents and regime critics after 1953,” according to Dr. Putz. The archive-indexing project is intended to create the necessary foundations for further scientific research but also lay a scientifically founded basis for historical-political educational work.

### Around 107 Boxes of Archive Material

The lifetime and posthumous bequests of former political prisoners from the Perm political prison camps as well as information materials and correspondence from their supporters in the West at the time are held in around 107 archive boxes. There are an additional 1,400 digital files on the Museum Perm-36 memorial, such as the index cards of former prisoners. They were brought to safety in Bremen when the museum, which was founded from a civil society initiative in the 1990s, was placed under state control in 2014. Since then, the museum no longer commemorates the victims but rather praises the “achievements of the penal system staff.” The material is being viewed, ordered, and entered into a database with keywords by FSO archivists. “The entries are in the original Russian language and in German, so that students and pupils can work with them,” explains the scientific supervisor.

Since its establishment in 1982, the **FSO’s independent archive** has had the goal of collecting and researching testimonies of critical thinking in Eastern Europe. Today, the archive holds a worldwide unique collection of more than 600 lifetime and posthumous bequests from former regime

critics, human rights activists, authors, and artists from the former Soviet Union. Unique compilations of samizdat literature, flyers, and underground stamps from Poland and former Czechoslovakia have been comprised. Smaller collections also originate from the GDR and Hungary.

*“The life and thoughts of inmates can be reconstructed using the sources.”*

Professor Susanne Schattenberg,  
FSO director

It is an extremely important project for the research center, according to the FSO director, Professor Susanne Schattenberg: “It shapes collections from significant dissidents, such as Vladimir Bukowsky or Semyon Gluzman, in such a manner that scientists can use them well.” For the research of repression in the post-Stalin period, biographical sources are of particular significance for several reasons. “Using sources, the life and thoughts of former inmates can be reconstructed. Sources such as the letters from the camps tell the story of political persecution in another manner. They provide information on mental wellbeing and on what incarceration does to people.”

Moreover, the material also sheds light on the diverse effects of repression and imprisonment on the day-to-day lives of the wives, who were usually also dissidents but were arrested more infrequently. They were then responsible for material provision and organizing the criminal defense for their husbands. “In some cases, the women were let go by their employer, were isolated within society, and developed protest activities themselves.” Letters of complaint and petitions make it clear how precarious their



← Pink reply cards from the archive collection of the Amnesty International activist Christa Bremer. Using these postcards, the Deutsche Post confirmed the successful delivery of her letters to regime critics and former political prisoners in the Soviet Union.  
Photo: Matej Meza

situation was and that the stigma of political persecution did not leave them after their imprisonment. “By means of these personal archives, entirely different approaches are possible in comparison to before,” summarizes Manuela Putz.

#### Sources from a Bremen Activist

Furthermore, dissidence and political imprisonment in post-Stalin times cannot be understood when isolated but only in interrelation with Western parties. “The fight for freedom and human rights was a global phenomenon.” The material also includes the bequest of the Bremen Amnesty International activist Christa Bremer. She corresponded via letters with a long list of former political prisoners in the Perm political prison camps for many years. “The collections are closely intertwined with each other and only when they are combined do they offer an overview of the dynamics of the Cold War, the politically motivated prosecutions in the Soviet Union, and its effects that reach to the present,” explains the project manager.

The courier Robert van Voren was rid of his fear in 1983 when he was arrested by the KGB. “I had a meeting with the Independent Peace Movement in Moscow. As the flat was tapped, we went to a park. There were a surprising

number of people stood next to the trees relieving themselves. We were surrounded before I was able to realize what was happening.” The group was taken to the police station in two police cars and was questioned. “It was there that I realized that the agents were normal people just doing their job. I saw their faces. The KGB lost its mystique for me and my fear disappeared.” They finally let van Voren go after hours of questioning. He booked his next trip to the Soviet Union as soon as he was back in the Netherlands. ●

#### Further Information:

The human rights activist Robert van Voren told our **up2date**. online magazine of what he experienced as a courier. You can read the full interview here:

▶ <https://up2date.uni-bremen.de/en/university-society/the-courier-of-the-politically-persecuted>

**Up2date**. also spoke to the director of the Perm branch of the international human rights organization Memorial, Robert Latypov, about dissidents in Russia's culture of remembrance:

▶ <https://up2date.uni-bremen.de/en/university-society/dissidents-in-the-russian-remembrance-culture>

## teaching & studies

Learning languages: Arduous and difficult or interesting and easy? Rather alone, in a course, with a tandem partner, or in a relaxed group? With a book or with a computer? Regardless of how you do it – learning a language is one of life's big challenges. Especially in the academic sector. Nowadays, you can hardly be successful in your studies or scientific career without knowledge of an additional language. The **Foreign Languages Centre** for the Universities in the Land of Bremen – or FZHB – has been helping for 25 years. In May 2020, the centre will be celebrating its birthday.



# Italian for Opera Singers, Georgian for Economists



**Nothing is impossible: The Foreign Languages Centre has been helping people at the universities in the state of Bremen to learn languages for the last 25 years**

By Kai Uwe Bohn

● A quarter of a century of successful work. Thousands of students, scientists, and staff members have been taught new languages or have deepened their available knowledge. That is something to be proud of. The question of whether the future of the language centre does, in fact, not look so rosy seems to be strange. However, the question is valid when taking into consideration how Google Translator and the DeepL program are continually becoming better in translating languages and how computer technologies and artificial intelligence are enabling greater advancements. The head of the Foreign Languages Centre in Bremen, Professor

Claudia Harsch, only smirks when she hears the question. “Translate Goethe or Shakespeare with those programs. They will only produce gibberish!”

One point to Claudia Harsch. She does not require a great deal of time to convince people that language beyond route directions or instruction manuals is still a very complex matter. And that it is better to learn one or two languages as best as possible. “Languages connect people and open doors. The nuances, meanings, subtleties, ambiguities, and many more factors that make languages what they are, can only be correctly applied and interpreted by humans.” Gestures, facial expressions, and charm are also part of it. So learn languages! “You cannot avoid it if you mean business,” knows Claudia Harsch, “and we can help.”

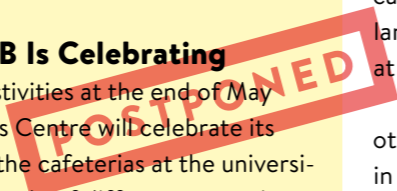
### Nothing Is Impossible

In accordance with its slightly wordy official title, the Foreign Languages Centre for the Universities in the Land of Bremen has developed into a type of “Jack of all trades” in terms of language learning in the 25 years since its establishment. Under the motto “nothing is impossible”, the centre supports language learning in a diverse number of ways. “We have consistently expanded our services for the support of multi-lingualism and are up to date with the newest developments on how languages can be learnt better and more efficiently,” says the centre’s head. Whether it be language courses, autonomous or guided learning, in the Independent Language Learning Centre or at home – the FZHB will find the right solution. “We place a strong focus on



### 25 Years: How the FZHB Is Celebrating

In the frame of a week of festivities at the end of May 2020, the Foreign Languages Centre will celebrate its 25th birthday. The tables of the cafeterias at the universities will be decorated in the style of different countries and food from said countries will be on offer. On May 28, there will be an event in the Glashalle building; from 5 p.m. onwards, there will be a ceremony in House of Science. Professor Hans Krings, the former Foreign Languages Centre director, will hold a talk on the topic “From the legend to reality – what does a semester abroad do for language learning?” There will also be an event concerning language learning on Saturday, May 30, at Bremen Public Library.



language café. The language café takes place in different languages nearly every day at the FZHB.

In comparison to other similar institutes in other states, a great deal makes the FZHB stand out. For example, the centre is spread across four locations: Languages are not only learnt at the University of Bremen but also at the universities of applied sciences in Bremen and Bremerhaven and the University of the Arts Bremen.

It is not rare that the courses are aligned with the degree

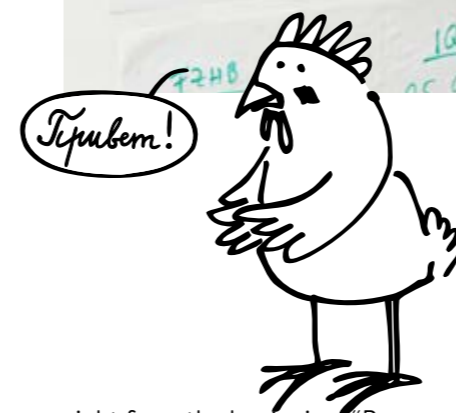
courses: “One of our most unusual courses is Italian for Opera Singers at the University of the Arts Bremen,” says the director. “The title of the course English for Cruise Ship Management in Bremerhaven also immediately gives away what it is about.” What is also special is the very close cooperation to the local cultural institutes, which was there

individual consultations,” says Harsch. “A learning consultation with trained tutors is the best start to finding out where you stand and which way is the most expedient for you.”

The centre currently offers 21 languages. The classics such as English, French, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Russian, and Polish are in high demand. Chinese and Arabic are also no longer rare languages. Korean, Japanese, Finnish, or Georgian are not so common. Who learns Georgian? “That was a request from the field of economics, as they entered into a cooperation with a Georgian university. So we created a Georgian course for the people interested in it.”

### A Great Deal on Offer and Like-Minded People

The language centre is open to everyone. The main target group is, of course, made up of teaching staff, students, and staff members at all universities in Bremen State. Learning a language for curricular courses or if the university deems it necessary for business purposes is free of charge. Those who want to learn a language based on private interest must pay. They will, however, have access to many services and meet many like-minded people with whom they can learn together – for example at relaxed meetings, such as the



right from the beginning. “Bremen, as a city state, obviously played a role in that.” The consequence: The cooperations with the Institut Français, Instituto Cervantes, Goethe-Institut, and since 2014, Konfuzius-Institut are very strong.

### Promotion of Native Languages

A further special characteristic of the FZHB is the promotion of multilingualism beyond the “classic languages – in accordance with the university’s language policy, which has exactly this aim,” explains Claudia Harsch. This means that there are special offers for native languages with an academic focus. The FZHB director gives the following example: “If someone speaks Turkish in their day-to-day life and then studies law here, it does not mean that they have mastered Turkish legal vocabulary. We are happy to help in such cases.” Being able to speak and write such vocabulary later in life, for example during Turkish court proceedings or when in contact with official authorities, is one of the educational goals of the university and the FZHB.

One needs a good team to be able to organize all of that. Claudia Harsch has just that and she praises it: “The Foreign Languages Centre is extremely multifaceted and diverse. We not only have multifarious demands, languages, and nationalities – we also need to organize the teaching of all languages – currently 21 – in a coherent manner.” What we offer is aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for language (CEFR), which describes levels of language skills according to increasing levels. The FZHB

↑ Professor Claudia Harsch is the director of the Foreign Languages Centre. One of her tasks is planning the language courses in a logical manner.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

“The title of the course English for Cruise Ship Management in Bremerhaven also immediately gives away what it is about.”

Professor Claudia Harsch,  
FZHB director

masters this task with 32 permanent employees, more than 60 teaching staff, and over 70 student assistants.

### Involved in Research

A further special feature of the centre is the involvement in science. As a professor, Claudia Harsch carries out research with her “Language Assessment at Bremen” (L@B) working group within the Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies. The research is in the field of language teaching and learning with a focus on language testing and assessment. As an example, one of the many L@B projects tackles the language-based integration of international students with refugee backgrounds in the higher education sector. ●



Currently, 21 languages spread over ten varying levels need to be organized in a coherent manner.

The week of celebrations has been postponed due to the corona crisis. A new date has not yet been set.

“Teaching staff for specific tasks.” When people want to learn Brazilian Portuguese at the **Foreign Languages Centre** of the Universities in the Land of Bremen it is a “specific task.” “For those who want to learn it, it probably is,” laughs **Fábio Nogueira**. “On the other hand, it is just the correct administrative term for people like me. I teach people my native language here at the Foreign Languages Centre.”

## “Facebooki and Lapitopi”

**Since 2011, Fábio Nogueira has been teaching Brazilian Portuguese at the Foreign Languages Centre**

By Kai Uwe Bohn

● “German language – difficult language,” is a well-known German saying. However, when you listen to Fábio Nogueira talk, one realizes that the saying does not apply to him. The 37-year old speaks perfect German and only has a slight accent. His talent for and fondness of foreign languages led to him learning and studying German at his home university in Fortaleza in the northeast of Brazil. “I simply chose the most exotic language that was being taught there. The one that most Brazilians were not able to speak.” He had no connection to Germany at that time. “No relatives, no friends. Not even through football as I am not interested in it.”

### A1 to B2 Courses

In 2008, a scholarship paved the way to Leipzig where he completed his German as a Foreign Language master’s degree at the university three years later. He then successfully applied for a job advertised by the Foreign Languages Centre.

Since 2011, he has been teaching there part-time. To be exact, Nogueira teaches three to four courses of Brazilian Portuguese from level A1 to B2 each semester. “I once also offered the higher C1 level but that was an exception.”

Normally, his courses are beginner’s courses and some of the learners then carry on. “The A1 courses are always full. Often, there are 20 to 24 participants. In B courses, there are usually around 10 participants,” according to the Brazilian. Most of them are students of Hispanic Studies, Franco-Romance Studies, or Integrated European Studies, for whom Portuguese is part of the curriculum. “There are sometimes people who are interested in Brazil, wish to complete a semester abroad there, have Brazilian friends, or spend

the winter there. Most of them have very specific ideas of how they want to use the language.”

### “Shock Therapy” at the End of the Semester

He sometimes exposes his learners to “shock therapy” at the end of the semester by bringing a native speaker into the class. Said person then only speaks Portuguese. “Many of them are initially very shy but they quickly realize that they have learnt a great deal in only one semester.”

Some of the students spend their semester abroad in Porto or Lisbon. In parts, there are great differences between the “original” Portuguese and the Portuguese of his home country – Fábio Nogueira knows all of the differences of course and teaches them. An example of one of the special features: “In Brazilian Portuguese, anglicisms are pronounced in a very special manner.

Facebook becomes ‘facebooki’, laptop becomes ‘lapitopi’, and Big Mac becomes ‘bigi mäcki’. That’s something that you must know if you want to get by there.”

### German Language Blog

Fábio Nogueira, who now has German citizenship as well, also shares his knowledge in a different way. Since 2008, he has had his [aprenderalemao.com](http://aprenderalemao.com) blog. In said blog, he helps people from Portugal and Brazil understand the secrets of the German language – for example, he offers grammar explanations (especially those that cannot be found in books), tips for websites, music, videos, and much more. ●

↑ Since 2011, Fábio Nogueira has been successfully teaching Brazilian Portuguese at the Foreign Languages Centre. Many of his learners are surprised by how much they have already learnt after attending the beginner’s course. Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen





The University of Bremen is the **education center for teachers** in Bremen State. Of the 20,000 students, around 15 percent are studying with a teaching orientation. How can future teaching staff be prepared for career challenges in the best possible manner? A project at the University of Bremen is trying to find this out. The Quality Offensive Teacher Education (Qualitätsoffensive Lehrerbildung) within the Federal Government-Länder Programme is in the second funding phase and is being supported with several million euros. The guiding principle is based on so-called reflective practitioners.



The challenge that is school: The Shaping Interfaces project helps to prepare teacher education students for their jobs.  
Photo: WavebreakmediaMicro / AdobeStock

# Good Teacher Education

**Future teaching staff are educated to become reflective practitioners at the University of Bremen**

By Meike Mossig

● That means: Teaching staff should be in a position to think about their own actions during lessons and be able to draw on scientific findings and methods. Around 50 teaching and scientific staff members at the University of Bremen are dedicated participants within the Shaping Interfaces (Schnittstellen Gestalten) project. The Center for Teacher Education and Education Research (ZfLB) is leading the project and nearly nearly all of the faculties that educate teachers, the Center for Multimedia in Teaching (ZMML), and the Institute for Technology and Education (ITB) are involved. Moreover, the university is working closely together with Bremen schools and authorities, especially the Bremen State Institute for Schools (LIS).

The challenges that arise during the realization of the project are huge. "Many teacher education students find their degree to be fragmented, as it is spread over several subjects and varying faculties," says Professor Sabine Doff, project head and director of ZfLB at the University of Bremen. That is why the Bremen project coordinates subject-based, didactical, and pedagogical parts of the teacher education

program. Furthermore, theory and practice are being more closely intertwined. "They should ideally complement each other," according to Doff.

Other core tasks of the project include the support of research and early career scientists in the teacher education field, the connection of the three phases – the degree, the practical teacher training phase, and further professional training – a professionalization of the handling of heterogeneity, and the organizational anchoring of teacher education at the university. In the second funding phase, the high profile area of digitalization will also be added. Thanks to the successful acquisition of another subproject in the field of vocational education, Shaping Interfaces now bundles eight of the nine faculties that educate teachers.

## **Inclusive Lesson on the Second World War Developed**

An example of the closer intertwining of theory and practice are the so-called practical study projects, which are offered in addition to the standard practice placements within the





↑ Intense exchange: The Bremen teacher Dr. Katja Scheidt (second from the right) creates a lesson on the Second World War and the Holocaust with three students. Photo: Dirk Vaihinger / University of Bremen



↑ Professor Sabine Doff is the head of the extensive Shaping Interfaces project and is the director of ZFLB at the University of Bremen. Photo: Dirk Vaihinger / University of Bremen

teacher education program. “The students go into schools with special development tasks and can test and analyze their concepts together with the teaching staff,” says Professor Natascha Korff, who is leading the projects with three other colleagues. The Bremen schools, with which the subproject is building a network, suggest possible topics.

One of these schools is the Oberschule am Leibnizplatz high school in Bremen’s Neustadt district. In order to make their society and politics lessons more inclusive, the teacher Dr. Katja Scheidt developed, carried out, and reflected on a lesson for the 10th grade on the Second World War and the Holocaust together with three students. The aim was to form the topic in such a manner so that the school pupils could process the contents at different learning stations depending on their level of learning – for example, in the form of worksheets and by creating posters, videos, and podcasts.

The students contributed innovative content-based and method-based ideas and also a non-school link, such as relevant exhibitions in Bremen, to the lesson topic. By doing this, they were able to create a practice-related lesson together with the teacher. Two of the students study Inclusive Education and one studies History. “That meant that we were able to work in an interdisciplinary manner,” according to Scheidt. “It was a great gain for me that three students helped me to create my lessons in an even more inclusive way.”

*“The University of Bremen is contributing a great deal so that we can research our future professional field and can learn to apply methods.”*

Sabrina Schläger, teacher education student

Katja Scheidt will share the material that they developed with her colleagues. Additionally, two students wrote their master’s theses on the lesson.

“The Shaping Interfaces project is making an important contribution to the long-term development of teacher education at the University of Bremen,” says the vice president academic, Professor Thomas Hoffmeister. “Thanks to the participation and collaboration of many faculties, a vast culture of discussion on how we can further improve this area has been created.” Teacher education students have also provided positive feedback: “The University of Bremen is contributing a great deal so that we can research our future professional field and can learn to apply methods,” says Sabrina Schläger.

### Quality Offensive Teacher Education

In 2013, the Federal Government and Federal States decided on the Quality Offensive Teacher Education as a joint program. Related projects have been funded since 2015: The Federal Government has made funding of up to 500 million euros available for this purpose. Professional advisory services and a closer integration of studies, the practical teacher training phase, and further education are the aims of the Quality Offensive Teacher Education so that a better practical relevance can be attained. Since 2016, the Quality Offensive Teacher Education at the University of Bremen has received a total of 5.4 million euros in funding and will come to an end after the second funding phase at the end of December 2023. ●

Further Information:

[www.uni-bremen.de/qualitaetsoffensive](http://www.uni-bremen.de/qualitaetsoffensive)  
[www.qualitaetsoffensive-lehrerbildung.de](http://www.qualitaetsoffensive-lehrerbildung.de)

You can watch a **video about the Bremen project** on YouTube:



Once teachers have settled in their daily school life, only very few find their way back to the university and complete a PhD. The University of Bremen is making it possible for future teachers to combine their practical teacher training phase with a PhD by means of a scholarship.

## Supporting Early Career Academics in Schools and Universities

**At the University of Bremen, there is a Germany-wide unique model in the field of teacher education: the Dual PhD project**

By Meike Mossig

● The Dual PhD project is one of a kind in Germany and received the Hochschulperle prize from the Stifterverband für Deutsche Wissenschaft in 2017. In the frame of the project, the scholarship holders develop their research plans in close cooperation with Bremen schools. They subsequently complete the practical teacher training phase there whilst collecting data for their dissertation at the same time.

During their PhD, the students are part of a PhD program, which is organized by the university, the Bremen Early Career Researcher Development (BYRD) program at the university, and the Bremen State Institute for Schools (LIS). The project was developed by the Subject-Related Education Processes in Transformation (FaBiT) creative unit (Fachbezogene Bildungsprozesse in Transformation) at the University of Bremen together with the Center for Teacher Education and Education Research (ZfLB).

### Playing a Part in School Development

The dual PhD takes four years. The program ends in Fall 2020 for the first cohort of five future teaching staff. “I now have the chance to work both in a school and at a university in the future,”

says Katharina Düerkop. “Additionally, I can contribute far more to the development of schools thanks to the experiences I had in the frame of the Dual PhD project.” Katharina Düerkop has been a Dual PhD project scholarship holder at the University of Bremen since 2016.

Prior to the scholarship, she studied German Studies, Music Education, and Mathematics for Elementary Teachers and completed the second state exam for Teaching Profession at Primary Schools in 2018. Her research focus is on storytelling in children’s and youth media. “The Dual PhD project is a great opportunity to support research

and practice for teacher education. It is a transfer relationship with the community that is second to none,” according to the vice president research, Professor Jutta Günther. ●

Further Information:

[www.uni-bremen.de/zflb/projekte-forschung/duale-promotion/](http://www.uni-bremen.de/zflb/projekte-forschung/duale-promotion/)

↓ Katharina Düerkop has been a Dual PhD project scholarship holder at the University of Bremen since 2016. Photo: Dirk Vaihinger / University of Bremen





## university & society

One in four Germans has **anti-Semitic** views. That is the result of a new study carried out by the World Jewish Congress – the umbrella organization of Jewish communities and organizations. 1,300 people took part in the study. Some of them were so-called elites, thus university graduates with a yearly income of 100,000 euros.



Deliberately trying to reach the public: (from the left) Franziska Nobis, Professor Magdalena Waligorska-Huhle, and Julia Chapiro.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

# “We Need to Clearly Take On Responsibility”

**How scholars and students are positioning themselves against anti-Semitism**

By Karla Götz



Numerous Bremen citizens followed the call for a vigil.  
Photo: Jens Otto / Radio Bremen

● Is anti-Semitism spreading across Germany and also Bremen? Dr. Petra Klug, sociologist and religious studies scholar at the University of Bremen, observes such tendencies with an eagle eye: “It is not only right-wing anti-Semitism with a radical German nationalist structure that is becoming stronger, as we experienced with the attack in Halle,” she says. It is rather that mutual

opinions are being exchanged, which has made degradation of Jews socially acceptable. An example: the relativization of the Holocaust. Or the allegations that Jews are rich, that they dominate Wall Street. “Those are century-old anti-Semitic clichés that portray Jews as usurers,” she states.

According to the expert, the hostility stems from different camps, be

*“A friend of mine wears a kippah but also wears a hat over it to hide it.”*

Till Schmidt, German-Israeli Society

these religiously or not religiously motivated. This includes the Christian or nationalist anti-Semitism of the right wing, the anti-Zionism of a left-wing party group that is showing its solidarity against the Jewish state with the violent Palestinian struggle, as well as an often additional, religiously founded anti-Semitism among Muslims. “It is dangerous for Jews everywhere in the world,” says the 38-year-old. Israel is being portrayed as being out of place without a *raison d’être* within the Middle East. She experienced this during her earlier travels through Syria, Tunisia, and Jordan and it shook her to the core.

### Intervention Instead of Ignorance

The president of the World Jewish Congress, Ronald S. Lauder, commented with regard to the study that it is time for German society to take a stand and combat anti-Semitism head-on. The Bremen scholar confirms this. “After the events in Halle, increased awareness is needed,” she says. “We need to become more sensitized to anti-Semitic thoughts, not only with regards to the right wing and Islamists.” It starts with stereotypes such as: There has been enough coming to terms with the past. Or: Jews have too much power. “Germany needs to clearly take on responsibility. The foundation of the State of Israel was the result of Germany trying to wipe out the Jews across Europe.” If “Jew” is a new insult on school playgrounds then teachers have to tackle that in unison. “Instead of igno-

rance, strict intervention is necessary,” says Petra Klug.

### Successful Tour of the City

Show where you stand, do something, that is what three history students thought. They are participating in the seminar on contemporary Jewish history held by Professor Magdalena Waligorska-Huhle. Instead of a term paper, they created a three-hour tour of the city using archives, witnesses, and Bremen sources. In order to commemorate the deportation of 440 Bremen Jews to the Minsk Ghetto 78 years ago, they realized their tour of the city in the middle of November 2019. “We are deliberately trying to reach the public. There were so many registrations that

we had to reject some people,” explains Franziska Nobis, who is in the third semester of her bachelor’s degree.

The three dedicated women led the tour group to the memorial, the former synagogue in the Schnoor, to the old police station where they mentioned the support of the Bremen police in the persecution of the Jews, and to the Stolpersteine stumbling stones. “Due to the positive feedback, we are thinking about repeating the tour,” says her fellow student Julia Chapiro. Increasing anti-Semitism is a current topic for the history students. “Society is in a great period of transition, during which uncertainty arises,” she explains. That is how scapegoating develops as a psychological answer to uncertainty. Franziska Nobis emphasizes the role of

*“Fake news and racist smears appear on social media and just slip through the cracks.”*

Franziska Nobis, history student



The religious studies scholar Petra Klug observes the developments with an eagle eye. Photo: Harald Rehling

*“It is dangerous for Jews everywhere in the world.”*

Petra Klug, religious studies scholar

social media. “Fake news, racist comments, and smears appear in this fast-moving culture and just slip through the cracks. Reading for more than 30 seconds is too much effort,” she says. That is why only vague aspects stick. Professor Waligorska-Huhle, who teaches history and the culture of East-Central Europe, warns that “the Holocaust seems to be very far away for the fourth post-war generation and the witnesses of the time are becoming extinct.”

### Outstanding Support for Vigil

The attack in Halle caused shock at the University of Bremen. Alongside their tour of the city, the students invited the citizens to hold a vigil. They were supported by the Jewish community from Schwachhauser Heerstraße and the regional Bremen group of the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace organization. “It was a complete success in

our opinion. 80 people came,” reports Julia Chapiro proudly.

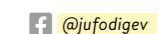
### Awakening Positive Curiosity about Israel

Till Schmidt studied politics and cultural sciences at the University of Bremen. For the past two and a half years, the 30-year-old has been a dedicated member of the German-Israeli Society and founded the Youth Forum in Bremen, which is the society’s youth organization. He wants to awaken “positive curiosity” about the country. Anti-Semitism is a not just a problem of the fringes of society, it can also be seen in the middle of it,” he criticizes. The affected persons are scared. “A friend of mine wears a kippah but also wears a hat over it to hide it when he is out in public.”

With his fellow companions, Schmidt holds up to seven events every semester. Often, there are discussions groups on political topics but Israeli

cooking courses are also offered regularly. One example on April 6, 2020: “Flight and displacement of Jews out of the Arab states, Turkey, and Iran”: a presentation and discussion with the publicist Stefan Grigat. The dedicated, young Bremen citizen is convinced that “we need to take the perspective of the affected seriously.” ●

The Youth Forum on Facebook



It is a nightmarish scenario that the thriller author Marc Elsberg described in his 2012 novel *Blackout: A Europe-wide power outage leads to murder and manslaughter on the continent after just a few days*. This is apparently a realistic scenario and not only with electricity. The digitalization of important structures carries the danger of external attacks with it, whether these be by hackers or special military units. Additionally, complex networks are very fragile. Fluctuations in the power network are also dangerous: In 2019, Europe was repeatedly very close to experiencing power outages much like those in large parts of South America in the middle of 2019. The Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BKK) has already appealed for everyone to prepare themselves for widespread power outages. How big is the danger really? Experts from the University of Bremen provide answers: An interview with the electrical engineer and computer scientist **Professor Kai Michels**, head of the Institute of Automation (IAT), and the legal scholar **Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker** from the Institute for Information, Health, and Medical Law (IGMR).

→

Chaos ensues when critical infrastructures, such as the power network, experience outages. Courageous action is then needed, according to scientists from the University of Bremen.  
Photo: chuttersnap / unsplash

# “We Are Turning Hamburg Off Now”

**Two experts from the University of Bremen confirm that widespread power outages are in fact possible**

Interview: Kai Uwe Bohn

**Mr. Michels, Mr. Kipker, have you prepared yourselves for a widespread power outage and collected food supplies for at least 14 days as the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance recommends?**

**Kai Michels:** My wife and I are considering it. The least that one should do is to store several cases of water at home. That will be the first thing to become rare, as no water will come out of the taps. One would probably find something to eat for a few days.

**Dennis-Kenji Kipker:** I have never thought about it. I do deal with critical infrastructures but how it could affect

me personally has fallen by the wayside.

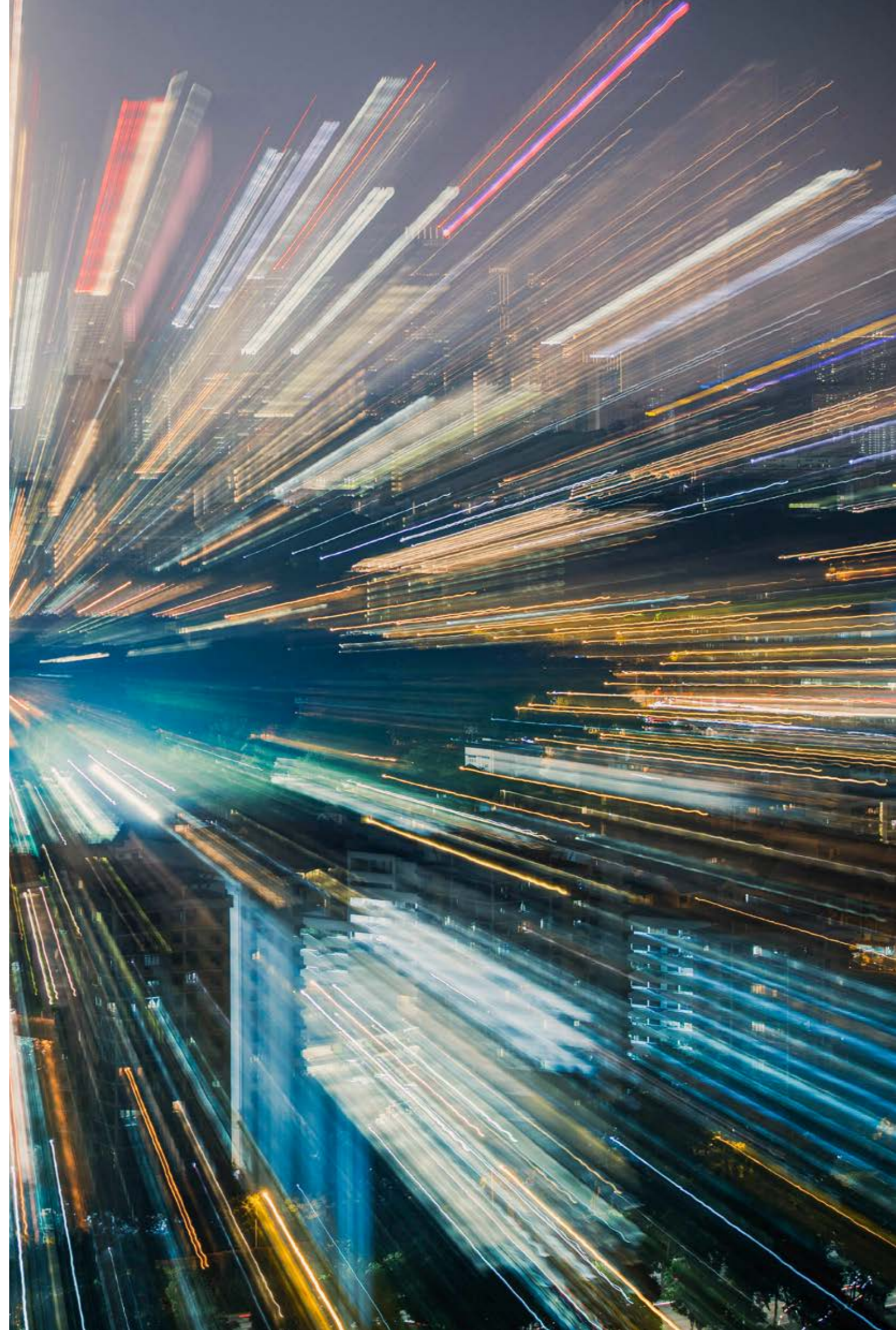
**Mr. Michels, system dynamics and control technology in the power plant sector is your field. How big do you believe the danger of power outages to be – regardless for which reasons?**

**Kai Michels:** The danger is there. I believe cyber-attacks to be possible. However, it will not affect the control centers of large power networks, as they are really very well protected against external attacks. Power plants are slightly less secure, as they have increasing possibilities for remote maintenance. If the power plant manufacturers have access to the computers

in the plant via the network then so do hackers. And of course there are smaller network operators in each town and each region. I doubt that they are as well protected as the big ones. Damage can surely be done if the attack is coordinated.

**In 2019, there were several incidents where hackers were not involved but rather immense fluctuations in the European power networks nearly led to a shutting down...**

**Kai Michels:** This can occur due to the fluctuations in regenerative source input. Most of the solar panel systems





↑ Two experts, one opinion: The critical infrastructure in Germany is attackable, especially on the decentralized middle and lower levels. Professor Kai Michels (left) and Dr. Dennis-Kenji Kipker believe further protective measures, laws, and regulations to be necessary. Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

on Germany's roofs have an automatic emergency shut down, for example. When there is too little power in the network and the frequency sinks below 49.8 Hz due to this, these systems turn off so that their sensitive electronics are protected. If they all shut down at once – at a moment when we already have too little power in the network – then the network breaks down. It is in exactly in such moments that we need people in the large network control centers who react boldly and consequently straight away – namely by shutting down the entire town supply. They then need to decide: “We are turning Hamburg off now.” That decision needs to be made within minutes. There is, of course, a risk regarding whether they are actually brave enough to do it. If not, the network may entirely collapse as the result of a chain reaction and that would mean a total blackout. That happened in Italy in 2003.

**Mr. Kipker, you have specialized yourself on cyber security in the frame of your scientific work. How big is the danger that terrorists, hackers, or**

**secret services flip the switch on our power networks to “off”?**

**Dennis-Kenji Kipker:** I am not aware of any widespread attack on the German infrastructure. However, there is a real danger in my opinion. The legislature has recognized this and initiated measures in order to specially regulate and protect critical infrastructures. In other sectors, for example the health sector, there have been larger attacks that have resulted in hospitals no longer being operational or personal data being leaked. Waterworks have also been attacked. As Mr. Michels already indicated, small regional providers often do not have the resources

to operate IT security to a suitable extent. The Technical Inspection Agency (TÜV) created a so-called honeypot – they simulated unsecured waterworks. In a short space of time, people attempted to influence the industry control facilities. There are dangers but they are hard to put into numbers.

*“The least that one should do is to store several cases of water at home.”*

Professor Kai Michels

Profile

**Dr. Dennis Kenji-Kipker** studied law at the University of Bremen. He was subsequently a member of Professor Benedikt Buchner's working group. In 2015, he completed his PhD with a dissertation on “Information Freedom and State Security – Legal Challenges of Modern Surveillance Technologies.” Since 2016, Dennis-Kenji Kipker has been the scientific director at the Institute for Information, Health, and Medical Law (IGMR) at the University of Bremen. He was involved in the nationwide “Monitor IT Security of Critical Infrastructures” study, amongst others.

**Professor Kai Michels** studied electrical engineering and computer science at TU Braunschweig and also completed his PhD there. As a scientific assistant, he subsequently carried out research at the Institute of Control Engineering in Braunschweig before he moved into the economic sector in 1997 and worked for Siemens AG in the fields of power plant control technology, power plant simulation, and gas conveyance technology. From 2002 to 2010, Michels worked for Fichtner Ingenieurberatung GmbH in Stuttgart and Ludwigshafen, where he was the director. Since 2010, he has been the head of the Institute of Automation at the University of Bremen, where he is also the chair of the System Dynamics and Control group.

*“Many applications become more convenient thanks to computerization but it is inevitable that the risks also increase.”*

Dr. Dennis Kenji-Kipker

is therefore able to be manipulated by whomever. I actually thought about if it is all a strategy of the NSA foreign intelligence agency and that is why everyone is suddenly backing this topic. Smart devices are able to be manipulated! The thriller by Marc Elsberg is based on manipulated electricity meters – it is exactly such a scenario that I believe to be plausible. Interestingly, our nuclear power plants cannot be attacked, as they have no computers. They are still running with switching technology from the 1970s. That is still the only technology that is sufficient in terms of the extremely high security requirements in this area. If we decentralize our power supplies via regenerative power generation plants in the future, which are connected to the internet, then damage could be caused by an extensive attack.

**Dennis-Kenji Kipker:** I also believe the USB stick – the internal offender – to be a possibility. I am of a similar opinion regarding the dangers of networking. Many manufacturers of devices or components within Industry 4.0 had nothing to do with cyber security until recently. Components from suppliers, whose security is not being checked, are being built in. Many applications become more convenient thanks to computerization but it is inevitable that the risks also increase. If you take a look at the field of legislation and cyber security, many institutions within the energy sector are named as being part of the critical infrastructure. They need to implement technical and organizational security

measures. But when is an institution responsible for supply to the population deemed critical? The threshold is currently when around 500,000 people are being supplied. In the frame of a legislation amendment, we are currently trying to register and secure critical infrastructures below said threshold. The IT Security Act of 2015 was a first draft and it now has to be improved point by point.

**Mr. Michels, if someday it is in fact “dark” everywhere – how will the power return?**

**Kai Michels:** Some power plants have extra emergency diesel power so that they can reboot themselves. However, because they are still connected to the network and all consumers who broke down suddenly are still set to “on”, it would collapse again straight away. The power plant has to be “activated” first and then its charge has to be reduced so that it can be powered up again. Subsequently, it has to be networked with other power plants that have also been started “clean”. So the network would have to be slowly activated piece by piece. But how this is meant to work during a widespread power outage when communication has broken down entirely remains to be seen. There are, of course, emergency plans but these have only been carried out in theory. At no point will we know how long it will take and we will be – in the most literal sense – in the dark. That is why, alongside a sufficient amount of water, a battery-operated radio is also obligatory. ●

**It is often said that the next war will not be fought conventionally or atomically but also on the internet...**

**Dennis-Kenji Kipker:** That will be the case. As early as 2010, the Stuxnet computer worm made history: It was written in order to interfere with specific Siemens controls that are used in waterworks, climate technology, or pipelines. Because Stuxnet mainly caused damage to a reprocessing plant and a nuclear power plant in Iran, we had to assume that the attack was politically motivated. It is still not known who was behind the attack. There are only suspicions. However, the example shows that something like that is generally possible.

**It is suspected that Stuxnet was smuggled in on a USB stick. However, everything is interconnected and accessible via the Internet of Things. Is that not the perfect gateway?**

**Kai Michels:** It is exactly that aspect that makes me nervous and of which I always warn in my talks: The whole discussion on Industry 4.0 where every single device has internet access and



Photo: Markus Spiske / unsplash

*campus life*

Your child is ill but you have an important meeting at work and the grandparents are far away. Since October 2019, the Emergency Mamas (Notfallmamas in German) project has been in place for exactly such cases. The emergency mama or the emergency papa fill in for childcare so that job meetings can be attended. The university is covering the costs.

# “I was able to go to work relaxed”

**The University of Bremen is offering free emergency childcare to its staff**

By Christina Selzer

● Your child is ill but you have an important meeting at work and the grandparents are far away. Since October 2019, the Emergency Mamas (Notfallmamas in German) project has been in place for exactly such cases. The emergency mama or the emergency papa fill in for childcare so that job meetings can be attended. The university is covering the costs.

Sometimes, Alice Lefebvre wishes that her parents were closer. Then they could help with childcare. But the French woman and her partner, who comes from the Netherlands, have to manage the care for their children on their own – alongside their daily jobs. She is a postdoctoral researcher in the

field of geosciences at the University of Bremen and he works for a company in Bremen. Their children, Leon (6), Leila (4), and Mael (3), go to the Entdecker-kids Daycare Center on the university campus. “It is very practical that the kids are close to us. I fetch them in the afternoon,” explains the agile 37-year-old. When her daughter Leila was ill for one week, Alice and her partner had to each stay home for two days. Alice thought that she would have to cancel an important meeting at work. However, her colleague told her about a new service at the university called Emergency Mamas. “It worked really well. I registered at the university via email and received a quick reply,” explains the scientist. “The

next day, the emergency mama arrived and she had arts and crafts things with her, which the children loved. My eldest son was also ill – he had a fever. Both of them had absolutely no problem with staying at home with the emergency grandma, despite not knowing her. They just said ‘Bye Mum’ – it was really quite surprising. I was able to go to work relaxed.”

**Often, One Parent Makes Sacrifices in their Job**

Mothers and fathers who have to manage their careers and family are familiar with situations in which work and childcare collide. They are part of being a parent



←  
A happy employee and a happy mother – both are possible. Alice Lefebvre and her children, Leila, Mael, and Leon.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

**Emergency Mamas** contact at the University of Bremen:  
Samira Abdel Wahed, Administrative Unit for Central Administrative Affairs/Organizational Development  
☎ [+49 421 218-60857](tel:+49421218-60857)

**Registration**

You can register for the following day until 3 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

The form for the registration of required emergency childcare (*Anmeldung eines Kinder-Notfalbetreuungsbedarfs in German*) is available in the employee portal. Simply fill it out and send it via email to

✉ [notfallmamas@uni-bremen.de](mailto:notfallmamas@uni-bremen.de)

“We want to support parents with our offer.”

Samira Abdel Wahed, University of Bremen

but what is it like for their career? Jobs have other rules: A planned meeting does not take ill children into consideration. Often, one parent makes sacrifices in their job. Most of the time it is the parent with the more flexible job. Those who want to share the care equally are faced with big organizational problems.

“It is not easy to combine work and family,” explains Alice Lefebvre. “Especially at the beginning of your career you have to work a lot to achieve something. If you have small children that need their parents, you can no longer

apply for certain positions.” Thankfully, everything works out quite well with her partner. They alternate and both of them sometimes have to stay at home. “The one who has the bigger or more important meeting goes to work,” laughs the geologist. However, even the best systems reach their limits. Some children’s illnesses last a week or longer and then it is great to have a childcare service. “With Emergency Mamas it is easier if a child is ill for longer. It is not unusual that this might add up to three weeks with three children.”

The daycare centers have strict rules: Those who are ill are not allowed to go to the center so that they do not infect other children. Even when the fever or gastrointestinal problems have passed, the children cannot go to the center the next day. However, necessity is the mother of invention. Sometimes, Alice Lefebvre takes her children into the office. In a drawer in the third story of the geosciences building, she has everything she needs to keep her children busy for one to two hours: toys and colored crayons. There is a

cardboard box in the corner. “That is for crafts. My older son loves it.” The younger son sometimes also goes with his mother to the children’s room that is made available by the Faculty of Geosciences in the building. However, visiting mum’s office is the exception. Care at home is better.

**Supporting Parents**

The service, which has been available at the University of Bremen since October 2019, comes from Hamburg and offers

qualified carers. That is important to the service. There is currently one emergency mama in Bremen who fills in and cares for children if needed. Samira Abdel Wahed is the contact person within the university administration and organizes the childcare. “I often hear in discussions that staff members miss important meetings and must move heaven and earth to find care at short notice. That can be very stressful and that is why we want to support parents with our offer.” She is convinced by the model, which is currently in its pilot

phase, and hopes that as many staff members as possible use it. Those who contact her by 3 p.m. receive an answer on the same day regarding whether childcare on the following day is possible. Emergency Mamas ensures that they can send help for the following day in 95 percent of all cases. Alice Lefebvre recommends the service to everyone who is sometimes in need of a mama or a papa: “It is a great thing. Emergency Mamas helped me immensely in combining work and family.” ●



A jubilee must be prepared well. **Oliver Behnecke** is responsible for exactly that task. As the project leader, he is preparing a program for the year 2021. In this interview, the culture manager and theater studies scholar explains what is already planned – and what he is still looking for.

# “The University Is Coming to Town”

**Next year, the University of Bremen will turn 50 years old – a great reason to celebrate**

Interview: Christina Selzer

## **The University of Bremen is turning 50. Are you reflecting on the past or are you also looking to the future?**

Naturally, a jubilee means looking at the past but we also want to tell the stories of the present in order to develop ideas for the future. It is a reason and a chance to look into the past together with all university members, Bremen citizens, and regional, national, and international partners – so that we can reflect and create visions for the future of the university together. The jubilee is a comprehensible determination of where we currently stand: Where do we come from; where are we now; where do we want to go?

## **What stories have you already found?**

The exciting thing about a 50th birthday is that we can still

talk to people who experienced the beginning and helped to create the university. I was able to talk to the first press officer and he told me of the chaotic founding phase. I come from the world of theater, where telling each other stories is what it is all about. At the university, different people can and should come together and tell their stories. After all, the university is made up of people and is part of this city.

## **Will there also be an official ceremony?**

Of course there will be an official ceremony. There are two important dates: The university was officially opened on October 14, 1971, and the semester began on October 19. We want to show the university and all its facets. That is why



↑ A jubilee must be prepared well. Oliver Behnecke is coordinating it all.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

there will be several events spread out throughout the year alongside the central ceremonies.

## **What is specifically planned for the jubilee year?**

We are still collecting ideas and planning the specifics. Two periods, during which a great deal will take place, are important: Firstly, the summer semester in 2021. OPEN CAMPUS will take place once again then. The basic idea is revealed in the name – the university will open its doors for the city and visitors and will show how work, research, and teaching are carried out here. The second period is October 2021 – the beginning of the winter semester. Under the heading of Campus City, we, as the university, want to go into the town with classic university courses, lectures, and seminars.



↑ Oliver Behnecke is collecting ideas for the jubilee year. In order to do this, he is speaking to many people on campus and in the city. Anyone who has an idea can contact him.  
Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

*“We can still talk to people who experienced the beginning and helped to create the university.”*

We especially hope that the events in the city are carried out together with students. We want to be more visible in the city than we have been to date.

**Will there be more events over the course of the year?**

Yes, we intend to take courses from the university and from the faculties and transport them elsewhere. For example, if there is a seminar on the history of the university, students could work on individual topics and have a forum to present their ideas. This can also include seminars that are created especially for the jubilee. Thus, in a course dealing with media, a film could be created, which may then be presented by the students. It could also be lecture series, for which several faculties join forces and then scientifically think about the past, present, and future of the University of Bremen in an interdisciplinary manner.

**Who are the events aimed at?**

At the public, the people of this city, but also people who have not yet had a great deal to do with the university. We hope that many interested people participate. For example, I imagine an introductory course or topic-specific courses that could take place in special locations, even stores. It is important that the Bremen citizens can get involved, as it is also their university that is presenting itself. It is always interesting to see how the university members use a jubilee as a chance to visit and show interest in each other. In 2021, there will also be conferences with international guests. Thus, the 50th birthday is a great opportunity for the university to present itself internationally.

**On the basis of which criteria are you putting the jubilee events together?**

The jubilee is a nice opportunity for the university to show that it is anchored in the community. Topics that are related to the people of this city and this state will be covered and taught. For example, the available expertise of the students and teaching staff in the field of climate research will be made visible. This is part of the scientific foundation for a field of politics that is becoming increasingly important. The University of Bremen is in a leading position in comparative social research, for example, and can contribute enlightening knowledge to the topic of populism – here, a science is being pursued that goes far beyond academia and is extremely interesting.

**Are you still looking for suitable courses?**

Yes, we are still looking for participants who would like to contribute to Campus City. We are searching for teaching staff that are prepared to utilize unconventional locations which are suitable in terms of the topic and are open to the public. And we are, as always, looking for OPEN CAMPUS participants. In the summer semester, I will speak to students and teaching staff and ask them if they would like to be a part of certain projects. We also want to work with external partners for the jubilee. I could imagine that our university program could be performed at places such as the Chambers of Commerce or museums.

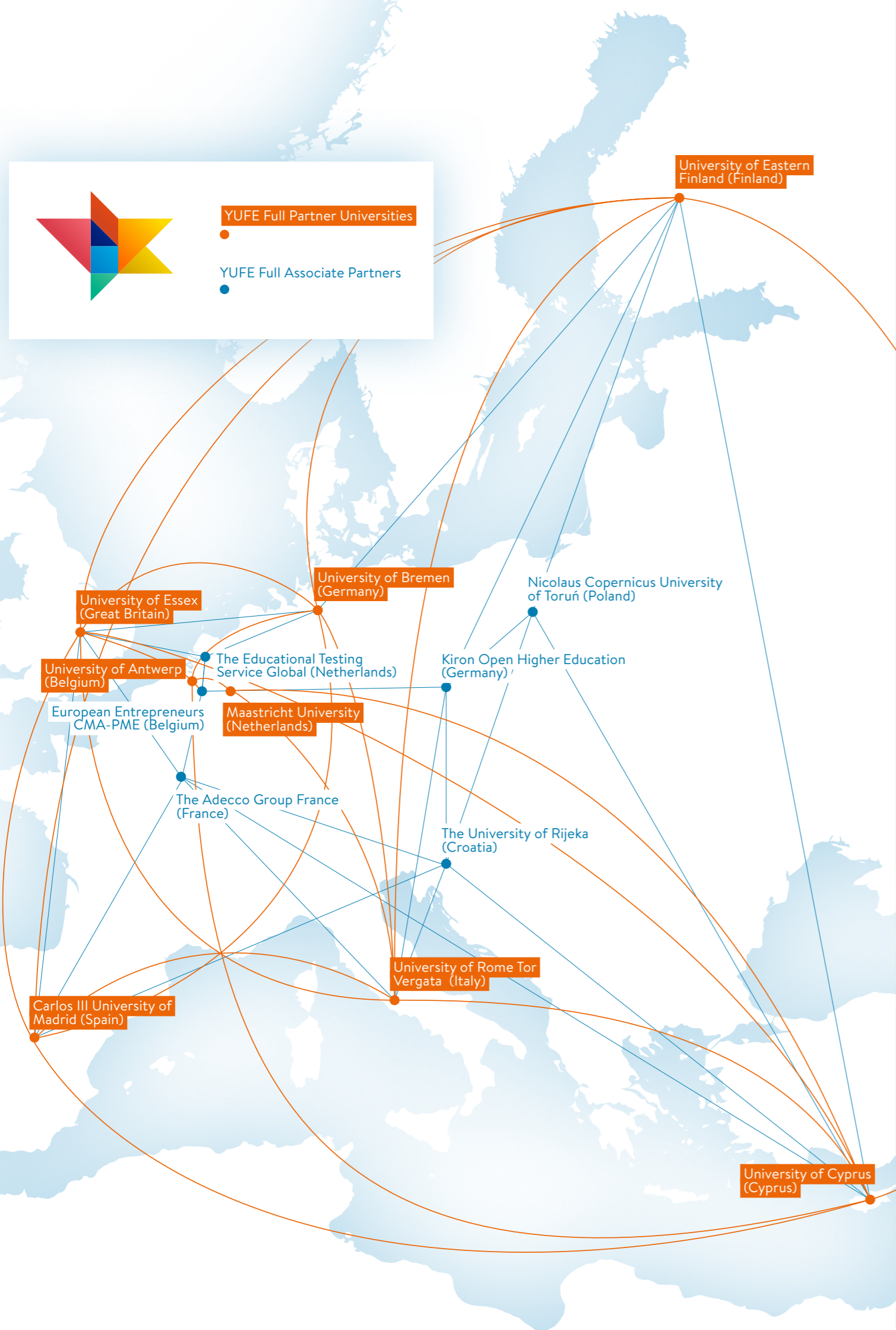
**How do you go about creating a plan?**

We invited university members to collect ideas, develop formats, and create a program with us. Moreover, I am going to each faculty and meeting with various people at this university who can contribute their ideas. The 2021 program will display all of the facets of the university in a diverse way. In order to create a great inspiring program, one needs different perspectives and ideas. Anyone who has ideas or would like to find out more can contact me. I am there to provide support to those who have the seed of an idea, so that we can create a real jubilee project out of it. We need everybody’s support. ●

**Profile**

In October 2019, **Oliver Behnecke** took on the project leadership for the 50th birthday of the University of Bremen. The 48-year-old has a great deal of experience with large events and urban space performances. He has supervised numerous projects across the country as a culture planner, director, producer, and graduate of applied theater studies at the University Giessen. One of the highlights was the 400-year jubilee of the Justus Liebig University Giessen in 2007, for which he developed the concept and was responsible for content and organization. In the past years, he has realized cultural education projects in Bremen and was a co-initiator of “Klub Dialog”. He also hosted participation procedures in the frame of school construction and city development projects. Oliver Behnecke lives in Bremen and has two children.

Contact: @ [oliver.behnecke@vww.uni-bremen.de](mailto:oliver.behnecke@vww.uni-bremen.de)



## higher education policy

There is not often such an opportunity in life: Students, staff, and university management teams are creating one of the first European universities in the frame of the YUFE – **Young Universities for the Future of Europe** – network. Bremen’s senator for science, Dr. Claudia Schilling, showed her support for the project by participating in a meeting of all YUFE partners in the Dutch town of Maastricht. The deans of the legal faculties also used the meeting as a chance to form networks for the alliance.

“YUFE is a vibrant network, in which one can make a difference”

**The international YUFE – Young Universities for the Future of Europe – network is sharpening its contours**

By Meike Mossig



Connected across Europe: Eight full partners and six associated partners are part of the YUFE network.  
Graphic: YUFE-Alliance | oblik

• “We are proud to be part of YUFE. A European university not only strengthens cooperation across Europe but also creates unique opportunities for students and also scientific and administrative staff”: Of that, the senator for science, Dr. Claudia Schilling, was sure at the meeting at the University of Maastricht at the beginning of the year. The Dutch university is coordinating the EU project. Alongside the aforementioned Dutch university and the University of Bremen, the

universities Antwerp, Carlos III Madrid, Eastern Finland, Roma Tor Vergata, Cyprus, and Essex belong to the network. With the membership of the University of Essex, the alliance wants to take a stand against Brexit.

There are also six associated partners from the university sector and the economy, whose expertise is in demand. For example, the non-profit organization Kiron is working on creating a virtual campus for YUFE. This is due

*“I think it is great that YUFE is open, inclusive, and non-elitist.”*

*Ilona Efimov, YUFE student at the University of Bremen*

to the fact that the European university will also be organized online based on its many locations. Kiron is an internationally renowned provider of study programs for refugees.

Alongside the Bremen senator, political representatives from the towns and areas surrounding the partner universities were also present in Maastricht. During their Mayors’ Meeting, they talked about how they can support the project. Their participation is important so that YUFE becomes anchored within the regions. The Bremen senator presented the HERE AHEAD program, a preparatory program for international student applicants, and the Senior Citizens project. The latter accompanies international students as well as guest scientists and their families at the University of Bremen.

Political and legal issues are also being addressed during the founding of the European university. Processes and rulings must be pushed forward in the coming years so that more uniform European qualifications are developed. Despite the Bologna Process, this has not been achieved across the countries. For example, whilst there are several types of master’s degrees in Germany, there is only one in Spain. Support on a political level is required for such amendment processes.

### Law Deans and Students Involved in YUFE

One Bremen professor who is involved in YUFE is Graf-Peter Calliess. The dean of the Faculty of Law connected with



his colleague Professor Jan Smits from the University of Maastricht at an early stage. In the frame of the YUFE network, both of them see a chance to further develop their field together. “YUFE is a vibrant network, in which one can make a difference,” says Calliess.

This is apparently not always the case with Erasmus partnerships. The subject of law is still very nationally influenced at German universities. The scholar hopes to open the doors for more for European law via YUFE. “We can learn a great deal from our YUFE partners.” For example, the University of Maastricht is positioned well internationally. During the YUFE event in Maastricht, Calliess and Smits organized the first meeting of law deans. Further meetings are to follow.

The students are also working on the project with great enthusiasm and dedication. Ilona Efimov is one of them. She is studying Business Psychology at the University of Bremen and spent two Erasmus semesters abroad in Finland and Russia. “A great deal of bureaucratic effort was needed,” says the 26-year-old. She hopes that studying abroad will become easier in the long-term thanks to YUFE. The student, who comes from a family of workers, also feels strongly about equality in education: “I think it is great that YUFE is open, inclusive, and non-elitist.”

Students that are involved in YUFE are represented in all committees and working groups and have full voting rights, even on the management level. They provide important perspectives for study issues. Moreover, there is a student parliament: the Student Forum, in which there are three student representatives from each university. The current University of Bremen representatives are Ilona Efimov, Clara Jansen, and Jessica Winter.

### Making Use of What Is Already There

It is clear that the process of creating a European university requires a lot of work, time, and coordination on several



With the YUFE network, the Bremen dean and law professor Graf-Peter Calliess would like to make his field more international.

*Photo: University of Bremen*



Inspired and motivated: The photo shows several students from the YUFE partner universities who are contributing to the creation of a European university, including Jessica Winter, a student at the University of Bremen (second row, center).

*Photo: YUFE-Alliance*

so, they will become familiar with the language and culture of a country. University scientific and administrative staff in the YUFE network will also profit from joint projects and exchange opportunities.

The EU is funding the pilot project with five million euros over the next three years. It is not the only one in Europe: There are currently 17 networks that are being supported by the EU. The institution in Brussels is realizing a vision that the French president, Emmanuel Macron, first voiced in a talk at the Sorbonne University in Paris in 2017: The creation of European network universities. Europe will be strengthened in the long-term by such networks. ●

Further Information:

[www.uni-bremen.de/en/yufe](http://www.uni-bremen.de/en/yufe)  
[www.yufe.eu](http://www.yufe.eu)



levels. This is why all YUFE partners regularly communicate within different working groups, talk to each other, and discuss and develop their ideas. They are making use of what is already there – for example, the joint study programs and high-profile research areas of the individual YUFE partners.

One example: Whilst the University of Bremen carries out a great deal of research on sustainability, the University of Essex in the UK is a forerunner in the field of diversity. The fact that they have a great deal of international students and staff is one of the reasons for this. Thus, the YUFE partners can complement and profit from each other in these areas. The network is currently collecting information on study and research programs that deal with the topic of European identity. During the first test phase, students will be able to use online services in order to initially acquire a YUFE certificate.

### About YUFE

The YUFE vision comprises a university system that makes it possible for students to enroll at the University of Bremen, for example, and then study at all YUFE partner universities: via online courses, exchange possibilities, or also projects that are being carried out at other partner universities. Moreover, the students will also be able to become active in the social or cultural sectors and complete internships. By doing

## back then

“We welcome you to CampusRadio on Radio Bremen 2.” With these words, Harro Zimmerman, as chief editor, opened the joint radio show of the universities of Bremen and Oldenburg in April 1994. This type of cooperation with a radio station was unique in the German university landscape. Radio Bremen hoped for new, young listeners and the universities wanted to improve the flow of information to the towns and region.

# Campus Radio – Radio Waves from the Ivory Tower

**In the history of the university, there were and still are various ideas for a student radio show**

By Sigrid Dauks / Archive of the University of Bremen



↑ Studios guests for the pilot show on April 13, 1994: The presidents and ASTA Student Union chairpersons of the universities Bremen and Oldenburg (from the right): Professor Jürgen Timm (Bremen), Hanna Naber (Oldenburg), Antje Matthies (Bremen), Professor Michael Daxner (Oldenburg), and presenter Harro Zimmermann (Radio Bremen).  
Photo: Eva-Maria Kulke

● The weekly magazine on the cultural Radio Bremen 2 station reported for one hour on current and historic topics, “which had to do with the goings-on at both universities”: research and teaching, cultural and political affairs, everyday study life and the lives of students, career prospects and staff, “university reform and stagnation.” As the producers further explained in the frame of a profile for the Der Spiegel weekly magazine in 2001, the show was impartial and independent. “It is not a student radio show, yet it is also not the extended mouthpiece of the university management.”

**CAMPUS RADIO BREMEN**

**CAMPUS RADIO**  
**LIVE AUS DER GLASHALLE**

**Dienstag 19.10. von 11 bis 13 Uhr**

Themen u.a.:  
-Semesterbeginn  
-Mensacard  
-Studiengebühren in Bremen  
-Literatur  
-und mehr...

**kommt vorbei und lernt uns kennen!**

←

From 2010, the campus radio broadcast live from the Glashalle building, the GW2 cafeteria, and the foyer of the MZH building.

the first university radio show as an editor for Radio Bremen. Once a month, a two-hour magazine show was broadcast on the frequencies of Bürgerrundfunk Bremen. In 2006, the producers explained on the project website that the aim was to “establish campus radio in the long-term as a forum from students for students. At the same time, it can be the interface between the ‘university universe’ and the world.” The main points of focus were higher education policy and science, everyday study life, and campus news. The program was developed and produced autonomously, creatively, and (self-) critically by course participants and dedicated students who enjoyed creating radio shows.

The decentralization of Bürgerrundfunk Bremen in 2010 resulted in the lack of a studio. The show subsequently broadcast from changing campus locations, which was a logistical and technical challenge. Despite the students’ success with the practically oriented format, the Cultural Sciences degree course abruptly stopped all support for the campus radio from the winter semester 2011/12 onwards due to new plans being made. The teaching position was not extended and equipment was demanded back. Several active members carried on, yet the last show was broadcast in January 2013.

### Online but not On Air

Since the winter semester 2013/14, there is an internet radio project on Bremen’s campus – krosse.fm. Since then and under the leadership of Radio Bremen’s music editor, Christian Höltge (who was also involved in CampusRadio), and the sound technician Dietmar Gode, one to two magazine shows with innovative contributions – and not only about life on campus – have been created each semester. Have a listen! ●

The press officers of both universities, Gerhard Harms and Eberhard Scholz, worked closely together on the planning and production of the shows. Editing and music choices were the responsibility of Radio Bremen. Students interested in radio and from May 1995, also participants of the Journalist School Campus Radio created the show contributions. The journalism school comprised a one-year advanced training course at the University of Oldenburg, which was funded by Oldenburg Job Center. Many of the graduates later found jobs in the media industry.

CampusRadio was discontinued in October 2001. The reason for this was the deactivation of Radio Bremen 2. Nordwestradio, a cooperation project with NDR, replaced the station.

### “From Students for Students”

In 2005, the Project Campus Radio Bremen course within Faculty 9 led to a new radio show at the University of Bremen, which was characterized more strongly by students. The journalist Klaus Jochims taught the foundations of producing radio shows. He had already been a part of

# people

**Michael Rochlitz** has been professor of economics with a focus on institutional economics within the Faculty of Business Studies & Economics at the University of Bremen since April 2019. He studied development studies and development economics in Paris and London. He completed his PhD on the topic of relationships between states and the economy in the regions of Russia at IMT Lucca (Italy). Between 2012 to 2017, Rochlitz worked as a post-doctoral fellow in Yekaterinburg and then as a junior professor in Moscow. During this time, he



Photo: private

economics at Copenhagen Business School (CBS) in Denmark, where he subsequently attained his PhD. In the frame of a tenure track position as an associate professor there, he was head of the diploma degree course for supply chain management. His research is focused on the utilization, difficulties, and complexity of cross-border supply chains, with a particular relation to logistics and traffic systems. He is also researching the applicability of different information and traffic technologies in both the private and public sectors.



Photo: private

carried out research on the economic transformation processes in Russia and China. Most recently, he worked as a research fellow for two years at the LMU Munich. Within his research, Rochlitz investigates how political institutions influence economic developments and he places a special focus on ownership rights, bureaucratic incentive structures, industrial policy, and media censorship in Russia and China.

**Aseem Kinra** has been a professor of global supply chain management within the Faculty of Business Studies & Economics since May 2019. After his studies at Delhi University, he completed his master's degree in

Since August 2019, **Janine Kirstein** has been a newly appointed professor of cell biology within the Faculty of Biology/Chemistry. She studied biology at the University of Greifswald and subsequently moved to Heidelberg for her PhD and then to Berlin, where she completed her



Photo: Rocio Photographie

doctoral studies at FU Berlin on the biochemical characterization of molecular chaperones in 2007. From 2008 to 2013, she was a post-doctoral researcher at the Northwestern University in Chicago (USA), prior to establishing her own working group at the Leibniz Institute for Molecular Pharmacology in Berlin. There, she was a project leader in the NeuroCure excellence cluster. Janine Kirstein carries out research into the molecular mechanisms of protein folding. She is also interested in how mistakes in protein quality control can lead to neurodegenerative diseases.

**Anja Starke** has been a professor of inclusive pedagogy with a focus on language within the Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences since September 2019. She studied rehabilitation pedagogy and clinical linguistics at the universities in Dortmund and Bielefeld. From 2011 onwards,

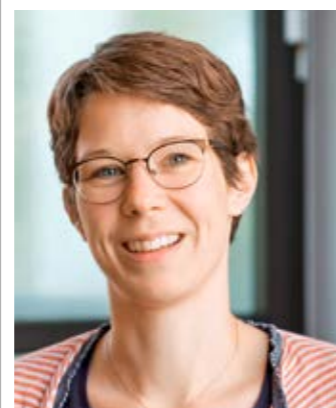


Photo: private

she held as position as a scientific assistant at the TU Dortmund, where she completed her PhD on the topic of selective mutism in multilingual children. She investigated the connection between linguistic and mathematical abilities of children and also the possibilities for language development in inclusive educational contexts at the universities in

Dortmund and Potsdam. In Bremen, she would like to answer the question of how children with speech problems can be effectively supported in inclusive educational situations.

Professor **Sebastian Siebertz** took over the Theoretical Computer Science working group within the Faculty of Mathematics/Computer Science in September 2019. After having grown up in Cologne, Siebertz studied computer science at RWTH Aachen until 2011. He then moved to the TU Berlin and attained his PhD in 2015, after



Photo: private

one year of parental leave. His postdoctoral period was spent at the TU Berlin, University of Warsaw, and the Humboldt University in Berlin. In the frame of his professorship, he wishes to provide students with a sound theoretical foundation for their further computer science studies and hopes to motivate them to solve complex problems systematically. He deals with efficient algorithms for graphs and application of logic in computer science within his research.

**Joris Lammers** has been a professor of social psychology and labor and organizational psychology within the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences since October 2019. His research is characterized by a combination of experimental quantitative methods and an interest in important societal phenomena. Lammers' current focus is placed on communication surrounding climate change. He is investigating new



Photo: private

Glöckner was a professor for bioinformatics at the Jacobs University from 2010 onwards.

**Thomas Laepple** has also been a professor of earth system diagnostics within the Faculty of Geosciences since November 2019. His appointment was made in cooperation with the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI). Laepple studied physics at the University of Hamburg and subsequently completed his doctoral studies at the University of Bremen in 2009. He then carried out research at AWI in Bremerhaven and also as

possibilities of how climate change denial and skepticism can be better confronted in public discourse. After his PhD studies at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), Lammers worked as a scientific assistant at the universities of Tilburg and Cologne.

Since November 2019, **Frank Oliver Glöckner** has been a professor for the field of earth systems data science within the Faculty of Geosciences. His appointment was made in cooperation with the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI). Frank Oliver Glöckner is an internationally renowned researcher and expert for environmental and genomic data, who has contributed significantly to scientific data infrastructures in earth science research for many years. After his degree and PhD studies in the field of microbial ecology at the TU Munich, Frank Oliver Glöckner moved to the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen. He led a project group on microbial genomics, amongst others, there and subsequently became the head of the Microbial Genomics and Bioinformatics working group. Frank Oliver



Photo: Werk 1

The romance scholar PD Dr. **Karen Struve** received the Elise Richter Prize from the German Society of Romance Philology in October 2019 for her post-doctoral thesis Wild Knowledge in the "Encyclopédie." Colonial alterity, knowledge and narration in the French Enlightenment (Wildes Wissen in der "Encyclopédie." Koloniale Alterität, Wissen und Narration in der französischen Aufklärung). Karen



Photo: private

Struve studied romance studies and cultural sciences at the University of Bremen, where she was also part of the doctoral program Process in Transcultural Contexts: Dynamics and Resistance. She acquired her PhD and received the Prix Germaine de Staël for her dissertation. Her postdoctoral qualification followed in 2018. In the current winter semester, she is an adjunct lecturer within the Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies at the University of Bremen. Since 2019, she has also held the position of research manager within the international "Anxiety Culture" project at Kiel University.

The research team of PD Dr. **Gazanfer Belge** (Faculty of Biology/Chemistry) and the Hamburg urology professor **Klaus-Peter Dieckmann** received the Maximilian Nitze Prize at the 71st Congress of the German Urology Association. It is the highest



Photo: Kai-Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

scientific award of the organization. The researchers were honored for their groundbreaking studies in the past years, which led to the discovery of a tumor marker for testicular cancer. This now makes the early detection of testicular tumors – the most

common, malignant tumor illness in young men – possible by means of a simple blood test.

Prof. Dr. **Thomas Hoffmeister**, vice president academic at the University of Bremen, was



Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

appointed a member of the Standing Committee for Studies and Teaching. Within said committee, representatives of universities deal with current issues from the field of studies and teaching, including the future of digital teaching.

Professor **Yasemin Karakaşoğlu** was voted onto the Executive Committee of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the second time. The former vice president international and diversity began her term in office on January 01, 2020. The period in office will end in 2023. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu has been teaching intercultural education within the Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences at the University of Bremen since 2004. As an educational migration researcher and president of the Council on Migration, she is one of the nationwide experts on matters of migration and integration.



Photo: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Within the #KI50: Artificial Intelligence in Germany project by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PhD student **Ankit Kariryaa** from the Faculty of Mathematics/Computer Science was nominated as an AI



Photo: Lorenzo Hill

newcomer and was named one of the top ten talents. The newcomers are young early career academics in the field of artificial intelligence that are honored in five categories and are furthering AI development in Germany today and in the future. The German Informatics Society wants to contribute to the demystification of artificial intelligence with the #KI50 project.

Dr. **Julia Borst**, a postdoctoral researcher in the field of romance studies in the Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies and vice spokesperson of the Institute for Postcolonial and Transcultural Studies (INPUTS), received the Sibylle Kalkhof-Rose Academy Prize for Humanities at the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature's annual celebration. The prize is awarded every two years and is endowed with 5,000 euros. Julia Borst works on Spanish literature and the cultures of Africa, as well as the



Photo: private

black diaspora in Spain in light of the migration crisis and the North-South conflicts.

Three guest scientists are currently carrying out research at the University of Bremen in the frame of the Marie Skłodowska Curie Program. The program was established by the European Commission in order to make scientific careers more attractive, make the research location Europe more interesting, and create a strong pool of European researchers.

**Dr. Audrey Morley**, a geoscientist from the National University of Ireland, Galway, is carrying out research at MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen until the end of August. Her topic is Uncovering the Magnitude of Arctic Climate Change



Photo: NUJ Galway

(ARCTICO). Morley's work is focused on one of the central challenges of climate change research and poses the question of to which extent the effects of climate change can be exactly predicted in their entirety. Exact prognoses in this field are difficult as previous observation recordings are young and contain no large climate movements, from which direct prognoses of future changes can be derived.

As a Marie Skłodowska Curie Program scholarship holder, the media scientist **Dr. Çiğdem Bozdağ** from the Kadir Has University Istanbul will be staying at the Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences until the middle of 2023. Çiğdem Bozdağ commutes between Bremen and Groningen, where she has an assistant



Photo: private

The religious studies scholar Prof. Dr. **Gritt Klinkhammer** was appointed a member of the German Islam Conference (DIK) Advisory Board. Within the German Islam Conference's funding program Mosques for Integration – Opening, Networking, Cooperation, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building, and Community, specific projects are aiming to support the integration of mosque communities in

professorship role. Her topic: Intercultural Digital Media Education for Social Inclusion of Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Youth in the Urban Migration Society (INCLUDED). Within the INCLUDED project, Çiğdem Bozdağ is researching how the development of media competences in school can contribute to societal participation and equality in the migration society. Based on the results of a survey of school pupils, content for media lessons is to be developed with teachers and be made available to schools.

The chemical and process engineer Dr. **Cleis Santos** from Madrid Institute for Advanced Studies (IMDEA), Materials Institute, will work as a scholarship holder on the Revamping the Desalination Battery project (REDEBA) within Professor Fabio La Mantia's working group in the Faculty of



Photo: private

Production Engineering until January 2022. Cleis Santos' research has the aim of developing a complete concept for a new generation of batteries for seawater desalination. She is dealing with new materials for anion detection and cell design in order to make low energy losses and a more flexible operation possible.



Photo: private

Germany, living harmoniously together, and the meeting of Muslims with non-Muslims. A further goal is to make the mosque communities and the training of Imams in Germany more independent by means of funding. Gritt Klinkhammer is also chairperson of the German Association for Religious Studies (DVRW).

The computer scientist Professor **Tanja Schultz** was named an IEEE fellow. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Board of Directors awards the honorary membership in accordance with a strict procedure and to those members who have made an outstanding contribution to technological advancement



Photo: private

and scientific knowledge. Yearly, less than 0.1% of the members entitled to vote are chosen to receive this title. Professor Tanja Schultz, head of the Cognitive Systems Lab, has received this distinction for her contribution to multilingual language recognition and biosignal processing. She is a spokesperson (together with Professor Michael Beetz) for the Mind, Media, Machines high-profile area.

**Ruth Abramowski**, a postdoctoral staff member at SOCIUM, received two prizes for her doctoral dissertation. She received a prize from the Austrian Association of Sociology (ÖGS) in the subject area of family sociology and also the AK Science Prize 2019 from the Salzburg Chamber of Labor. The doctoral dissertation, which was completed at the University of Salzburg, has the title Bringing Power Back In: On



Photo: private

the Continuity of Traditional Domestic Arrangements for the Division of Labor in Couple Relationships – A European Comparison and investigates central topics of family sociology from new perspectives, which comprised a typology of individual, cultural, and institutional dimensions of power.

In January 2020, Dr. **Irene Dingeldey** took on the role as the new director of the Institute of Labour and Economy (iaw). The social scientist has been working at the University of Bremen for 20 years. She was the head of the iaw Transformation of the Work Society unit for



Photo: private



Photo: University of Bremen

ten years. Dingeldey is replacing Dr. **Günther Warsewa**, who will be spending more time on his research. As the iaw director for many years, Warsewa contributed significantly to productively bundling not only various scientific disciplines but also foundation research, practice-relations, and transfer and also further developing these areas. Irene Dingeldey wants to continue the work of her predecessor. The already available scientific transfer is to be extended further and new communication paths are being looked for.

The expertise of the gambling researcher Dr. **Tobias Hayer** from the University of Bremen is sought after in specialist committees and the political sector. The psychologist has been appointed a member of the sev-



Photo: Kai Uwe Bohm / University of Bremen

en-person advisory board on gambling. The board operates in accordance with the State Treaty on Games of Chance and is supported by the Joint Body for Games of Chance (GCS). The GCS is located within the Hessian Ministry of the Interior and Sports and organizes the cooperation of gambling supervisory authorities, the tasks of the gambling council, and the tasks of the advisory boards on gambling for the states and on sports.

The early career researcher Dr. **Peer Woizeschke** from Bremen was honored for his research in the field of lightweight engineering for laser-based production of multi-material structures. In November 2019, he received the renowned DGM Prize for Young Talent at the 100 Years of DGM ceremony in Berlin, which was held by the German Materials Society (DGM). Woizeschke studied production engineering at the University of Bremen and attained

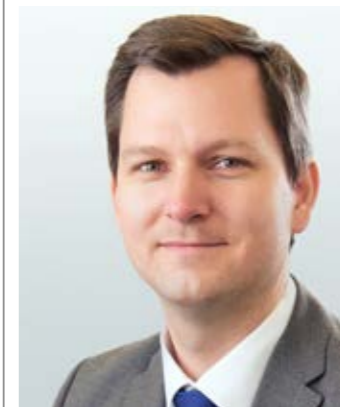


Photo: private

his PhD within the same faculty. At the Bremen Institute for Applied Beam Technologies (BIAS), he is the head of a research department. Together with his working group, he is investigating laser welding, laser soldering, laser joining of mixed compositions, and laser-based additive manufacturing of metal components in powder beds.

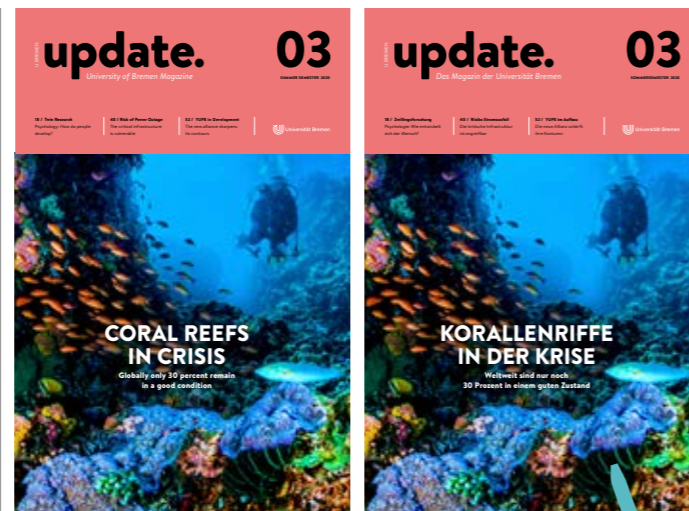
**Cornelius Puschmann** is a professor of communication and media science with a focus on digital communication at ZeMKI,

Centre for Media, Communication and Information research. His focus is on digital media usage based on computer-aided analysis methods, for example for research into hate speech and the role of algorithmic personalization in the use of news. Between 2014 and 2015, he held a professorship of communication science with a focus on digital science at the Zeppelin University in



Photo: Beate C. Koehler

Friedrichshafen. From March to September 2016, he carried out research within the Networks of Outrage: Mapping the emergence of new extremism in Europe project at the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and subsequently moved to the Leibniz Institute for Media Research in 2016. Cornelius Puschmann has been a guest scientist at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, and the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University, amongst other locations.



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