U BREMEN

update.

University of Bremen Magazine

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Universität Bremen

THE HOUSING ADVENTURE

Where Bremen students live

YUFE: The Creation of a European University

Together for one goal: In the coming years, students, employees, and the management of the University of Bremen, together with seven partners, will establish one of the first European universities

The YUFE network – Young Universities for the Future of Europe – incorporates the eight universities Maastricht, Antwerp, Carlos III Madrid, Eastern Finland, Essex, Roma Tor Vergara, Cyprus and Bremen.

“It’s great to help shape this process,” says Kimberly David enthusiastically. The prospective teacher worked on the application for the European project as a student assistant in the International Office of the University of Bremen. When the decision was made in Brussels in summer 2019, she was very happy with the outcome, as were numerous others. The YUFE network will receive EU funding of five million euros for three years. The application was also amongst those with the best score: 97 of the 100 points. A total of more than 50 networks applied and 17 will now receive funding.

Students Are Important Experts for YUFE

“We worked really hard on it,” says the 27-year-old. Kimberly David was not the only student involved as each partner university has students working on the YUFE project. “They are full members and important experts for all questions related to studying,” she says. Students will therefore be included in all committees and work groups of the YUFE network with a voting right and also on a managerial level. Additionally, there will be a student parliament with three students from each partner university.

Strong Regional Connections

Kimberly David has personally benefitted immensely from this partnership. “You learn a great deal about how universities work.” The international atmosphere at the meetings is also really rewarding. As the YUFE universities will be strongly connected with their respective regions, the prospective teacher also wants to use the contacts for this at her school in Bremen.

“With YUFE, we are really showing our strong commitment to Europe,” says Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter, President of the University of Bremen. “We welcome everyone who is contributing to the process to create a varied international study offer as well as exchange opportunities for employees in science and administration!” With regular meetings, the eight partner universities are currently still laying the foundation for the further project work. \ MEIKE MOSSIG

↗ http://unihb.eu/pZ3aAcGU
↗ www.yufe.eu

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Kimberly David worked on the application for YUFE as a student assistant at the University of Bremen. The prospective teacher continues to be involved in the project.
Photo credit: Matej Meza / University of Bremen

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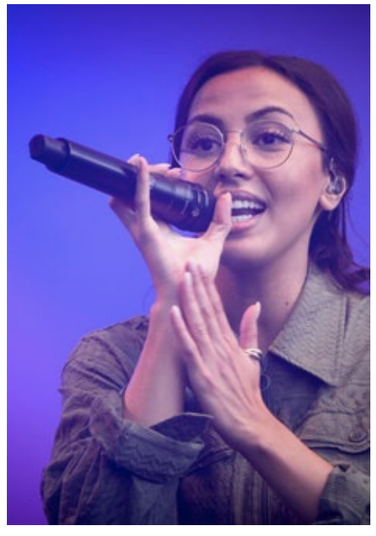

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in short

Fight Against Malaria in Thailand

Computer science students at the University of Bremen want to help reduce the spreading of malaria in Thailand. In association with the Mahidol University in Bangkok, they are developing an app-based system which documents the mobility of people living in the villages of the country's North West. The people living here frequently travel through regions in which the fever occurs. The students hope that the evaluation of the data will enable a better understanding of the paths of infection of the illness. "Mobility is a key factor in the spreading of malaria," says the head of the project, Dr. Thomas Borkowski.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/Y11YWggo*

3D Printing for Surgery

A research association led by the Center for Computing Technologies (TZI) is developing new procedures for surgery. It is planned that the use of virtual reality, artificial reality created with the aid of computers, computer assisted augmented reality and 3D printing will help improve the planning and realization of operations. The findings will also be used for training purposes and patient information. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research is funding the project with 2.2 million euros.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/KVm43Vpe*

Award for Good Supervision

For the first time, the University of Bremen has honored outstanding PhD supervision. Two first place awards were given to the mathematician Professor Iris Pigeot and the jurist Professor Andreas Fischer-Lescano. The Alumni Network of the University of Bremen donated the prize money of 2,000 euros per person. In his laudation, Vice President Professor Andreas Breiter said that good supervision includes individual opportunities and communication, integration into the research environment and practical research, as well as support in exploring possible professional perspectives.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/XRJ4O4fg*

Prize winner Professor Iris Pigeot, former Science Senator Professor Eva Quante-Brandt, prize winner Professor Andreas Fischer-Lescano and Vice Preisdent Professor Andreas Breiter (left to right).
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

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New Deans

Leadership change in the faculties of the University of Bremen: At the time of the editorial deadline for this issue, the heads of six faculties have assumed their two-year periods of office. Their work primarily involves the organization of the faculty's operational procedures and participation in the further development of course offers. The new deans are: Professor Wolfgang Bach (Faculty of Geosciences), Professor Gralf-Peter Callies (Faculty of Law), Professor Susanne Schmidt (Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor Manfred Hermann (Faculty of Human and Health Sciences), and Professor Lydia Murmann (Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences). Professor Rolf Drechsler has been reappointed and continues to lead the Faculty of Mathematics/ Computer Science.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/mp0ADlVL*

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World champions: The Bremen B-Human team won the final in Sydney against Leipzig.
Photo credit: Tim Laue / University of Bremen

Robots Become World Champions

The success story continues: With a 2:1 finish, B-Human – the joint team from the University of Bremen and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) – reclaimed the world champion title in Sydney, Australia.

After an amazing preliminary round with high wins, no conceded goals and just as great quarterfinal and semi-final games, B-Human was able to win in the RoboCup World Championship final against Nao-Team HTWK from Leipzig. Both teams were playing against each other in the final for the fourth time.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/mfeDjPnc*

Support for Digital Transformation

The University of Bremen is now receiving strategic support from renowned, external experts for the digital transformation. The university was able to win said support from the Higher Education Forum for Digitalization (Hochschulforum Digitalisierung). The question of how new and existing digital formats can be grouped and widely embedded in the degree programs and how the teaching staff can receive better support are the main focus. Teaching staff and students from the University of Bremen will also be included in the individual consultation process and be invited to talks and workshops on site. It is intended that the peer-to-peer consultation be completed by fall 2020.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/BI8gkZQJ*

What Should Be Done with Wastewater?

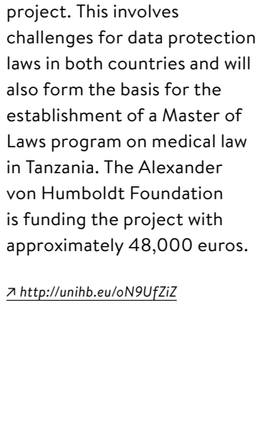
Sustainable tourism is the topic of a new working group at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Bremen. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is funding the group with nearly 2 million euros. The group is investigating the wastewater disposal in tropical coastal areas in the frame oft he booming tourism. Insufficiently cleaned wastewater is entering the sea, which can have consequences for the coastal ecosystems and health. The communities must therefore act. The group in Bremen is hoping for ideas on better wastewater disposal management.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/Zi3oPNaB*

Precise Maps for Autonomous Cars

In order to equip autonomous cars for the road, Scientists from the Center for Industrial mathematics at the University of Bremen are measuring the Bremen district of Borgfeld to the exact centimeter using several laser scanners. Precise maps form the basis for the shuttle upon request project. Thanks to this digital twin, comprehensive day-to-day driving manoeuvres and very rare, extreme situations can be simulated on an office computer. Thus, the basic algorithms for the controlling of an autonomous vehicle can be created on a computer.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/1S8eDWLP*



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Professor Benedikt Buchner (left) and Alex Boniface Makulilo.
Photo credit: University of Bremen

Big Data in Medicine

A team led by Professor Benedikt Buchner of the Institute for Information, Health and Medical Law at the University of Bremen and Professor Alex Boniface Makulilo of the Open University of Tanzania is investigating an electronic health card in a joint research project. This involves challenges for data protection laws in both countries and will also form the basis for the establishment of a Master of Laws program on medical law in Tanzania. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is funding the project with approximately 48,000 euros.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/oN9UfZiZ*

Nominated for the EMAS Award

The University of Bremen's eco-management is outstanding and sustainable, which is why it has been nominated as the German representative for the EU Commission EMAS Award 2019. Environmental protection, biodiversity and the incorporation of sustainability in teaching make the university stand out. Since 2004, the university has been EMAS certified (EMAS: Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). In order to improve biodiversity, there are many activities on campus: from the planting of old fruit trees, a solar power association and a student conservation group.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/J4iNT5cf*

SOCIUM: Archive To Be Accredited

The German Data Forum, an independent advisory board for the government, has accredited the Qualiservice research data center at the SOCIUM. The center archives sensitive data from qualitative social research and helps researchers document the findings of their work with the aim of making the resulting research materials available for the work of other scientists. This will enable the investigation and comparison of social research topics over long periods in the future.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/aChahhhC*

Guest Researches Migration Literature

Humboldt scholarship holder Dr. Serge Yowa from Cameroon is currently a guest at the Faculty of Linguistics and Literary Studies at the University of Bremen. The scholar of German from Central Africa will research

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Scholarship holder Dr. Serge Yowa.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

German migration literature in the next two years. His host is Professor Axel Dunker. Serge Yowa, who studied at the University of Yaounde in his home country, chose a research topic that is politically relevant when taking the current flow of refugees into consideration. "Discourse about countries of arrival and countries of origin interest me", he explained.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/eBG0BgR8*

CAMPUSiDEEN 2019: Prizes Awarded

Four of the six winners of the BRIDGE start-up competition CAMPUSiDEEN 2019 come from the University of Bremen. The "Erntewächter" (Harvest Guard), a sensor system for agriculture, was equally as successful as "Patavinus" which helps finders of lost items trace the owners with the aid of software and stickers. The teaching program platform CodingPlatform, which aims to make programming easier, as well as HUDDY, a start-up for individual, perfectly fitting and sustainable pullovers were also awarded prizes.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/BRIDGE*

The Housing Adventure

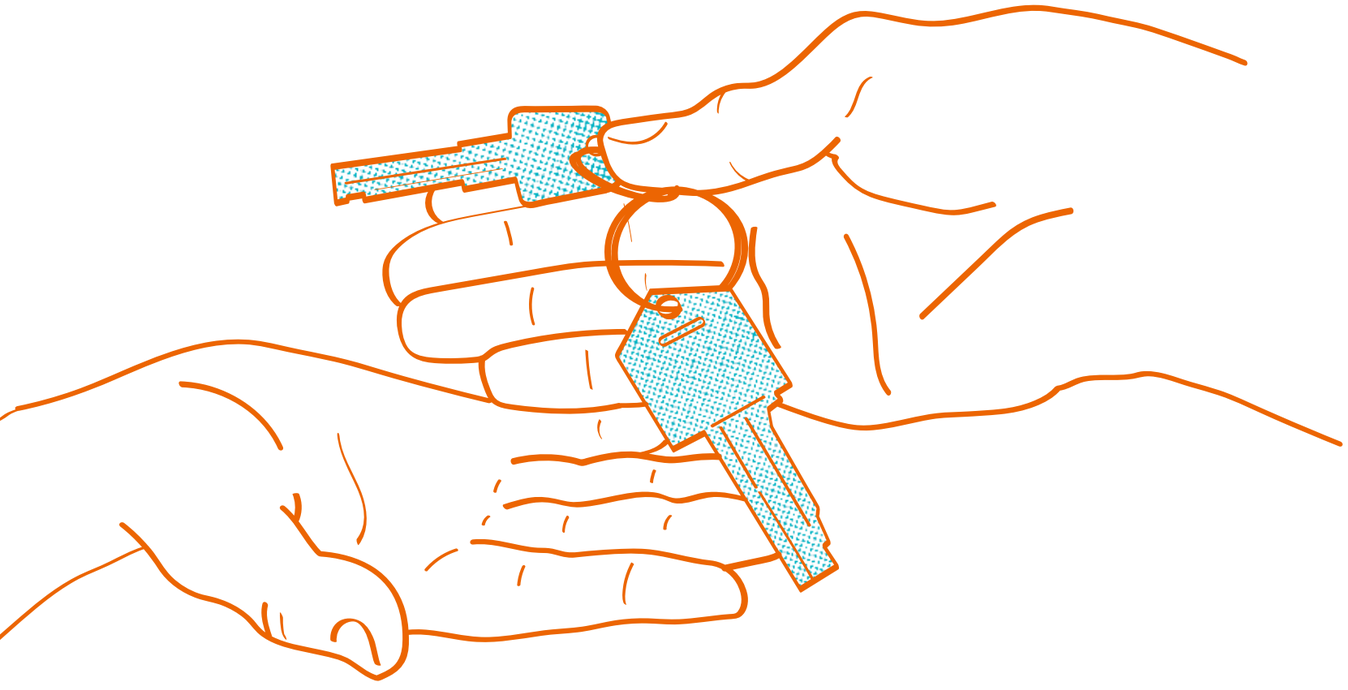
Where Bremen Students Live

"Are you already living somewhere or are you still looking?" is a question which many first semester students ask each other. Many of those who start their studies in Bremen are new to the city and are looking for their own or shared apartment for the first time. It can, however, take a while until something suitable is found. We spoke to three students about their experiences.

Alena has been living in Bremen since 2017. As it takes the bachelor student about two hours to get to Bremen by car from her home town of Norden it was obvious she would quickly have to find a place of her own in the city on the river Weser. She is very pleased with the one-room apartment she found in a quiet side street in the city's so-called Viertel district. "I was lucky and didn't have to look for a long time," recalls the 23-year-old who is studying cultural, communication and media studies at the University of Bremen. She only had to look at four apartments. It was only by chance that she was able to view her current home in the city's popular area. She didn't hear back from the landlords for a long time. "Then, out of the blue, I got a message about a viewing," recalls Alena. She subsequently had to respond quickly and, ultimately, got the one-room apartment.

"I was lucky and didn't have to look for a long time."

Alena, bachelor student



The bachelor student likes the atmosphere in the Viertel neighborhood of Bremen and the close proximity to many bars, cafes, restaurants, the river Weser and many activities.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Students can also live like this in the Student Services Oganization's accommodation: in a typical old Bremen building in the popular Viertel neighborhood.
Photo credit: Bremen's Student Services Oganization

Well-Prepared for the Viewing

Alena found the apartment in the Viertel neighborhood through an ad on the internet, which only showed a picture of the outside and a terrace. This, along with the peaceful location and the charm of the old building was decisive for her. "If you come from the countryside where you are used to a great deal of space you need a little freedom," she says. After the viewing it was became clear that is was "love at first sight" and she immediately accepted the offer. Well-prepared as she was, the student also had a folder with all her details, ready for the rental agreement.

Now, after two years in Viertel, Alena can't imagine living anywhere else. She loves the atmosphere there and would find it hard to live without being as close to bars and cafes, restaurants, the river Weser and many activities as she is. "I wouldn't want to have to live without this." Alena would only have considered a shared apartment at the beginning of her search. "It can be great fun," she says. "But it's nice to not always have to consider others." What is more, everyone has their own idea of tidiness and cleanliness. However, Alena doesn't feel lonely in her one-room apartment. A fellow student became her neighbor by chance and has been living next door for a while. "We often help each other out and chat," she says.

Rooms in Shared Apartments Are also Becoming More Expensive

Nevertheless, the shared apartment is still the most popular way of living for many students: there's always

Colorful and diverse: The Viertel neighborhood in Bremen.
Photo credit: Ingrid Krause / BTZ Bremen Tourist Office

something going on, it helps you make friends quicker and a room is often cheaper than a whole apartment. However, rooms in shared apartments are not available in limitless supply, says Christoph: “It seemed as though the search for my first shared apartment took forever,” says the student who is nowcompleting his master’s degree in computer science at the University of Bremen. The 25-year-old has moved twice and set up his current shared apartment himself a year ago with two friends. They heard about the flat in the Viertel neighborhood through another friend and Christoph likes living here.

However, a room in a shared apartment is no longer much cheaper than your own place. “The owners know exactly how to get the most money and often rent the rooms out for the price of a whole apartment,” complains Christoph. He currently pays half his monthly income for his room. The costs are similar for Alena although she adds: “I think that’s fine for the location and the apartment.” These experiences of both students confirm the findings of a study conducted by researchers of the University of Bremen on student accommodation in Bremen and Bremerhaven (see article on page 14/15).

Bremen has several areas which are popular with students for living: The Neustadt.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Living at Home with Parents as an Alternative

Whilst many students often spend a long time looking for somewhere suitable to live and go from one viewing to the next, Bremen locals have it a little easier. Not only do they often know people from whom they can get good tips and advice but they are also often in no hurry to move from home. Quite the opposite, in fact, as living at home with the parents whilst studying is seen as an appealing option for many. This is also the case for Lara – the 20-year-old lives near Bremen. “It takes me 20 minutes to get into town by train. I don’t mind it,” says the bachelor student. “Staying at home with my parents spared me the stressful apartment search and means I can save the money from my part-time job,” she explains.

How and Where Do You Look for an Apartment?

What tips are there for the apartment search? Online portals such as “WG-Gesucht” (rooms in shared apartments), notices in supermarkets or the noticeboard on the website of the City of Bremen are good places to start. It is, of course, also worth putting your name on the Student Services Organization’s waiting list for rooms. As the waiting times here are usually quite long, it is recommended you register early.

There isn’t, unfortunately, an ideal way of finding an apartment or room. “There’s always a little bit of adventure involved,” says Christoph. It is only over once you have spent your first night in your new home. “But sometimes this is only the real start of the adventure,” laughs the student. \ JONAS GEBAUER

Accommodation Required

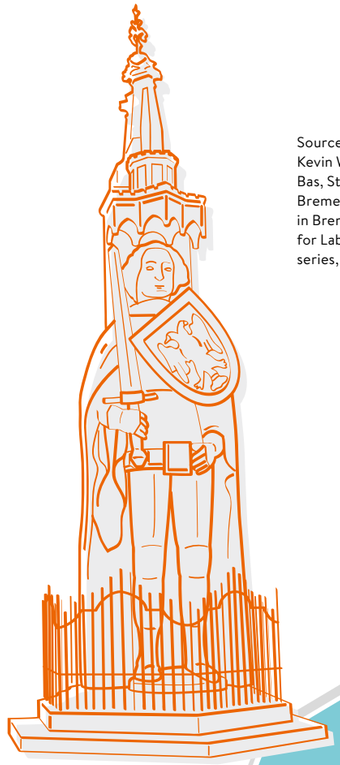
Housing shortage: How big really is the problem for Bremen's students?

A study conducted by the University of Bremen has investigated the housing situation of students in Bremen and Bremerhaven. Findings show that the situation has become critical. But there is hope as various building projects are set to provide more affordable student housing.

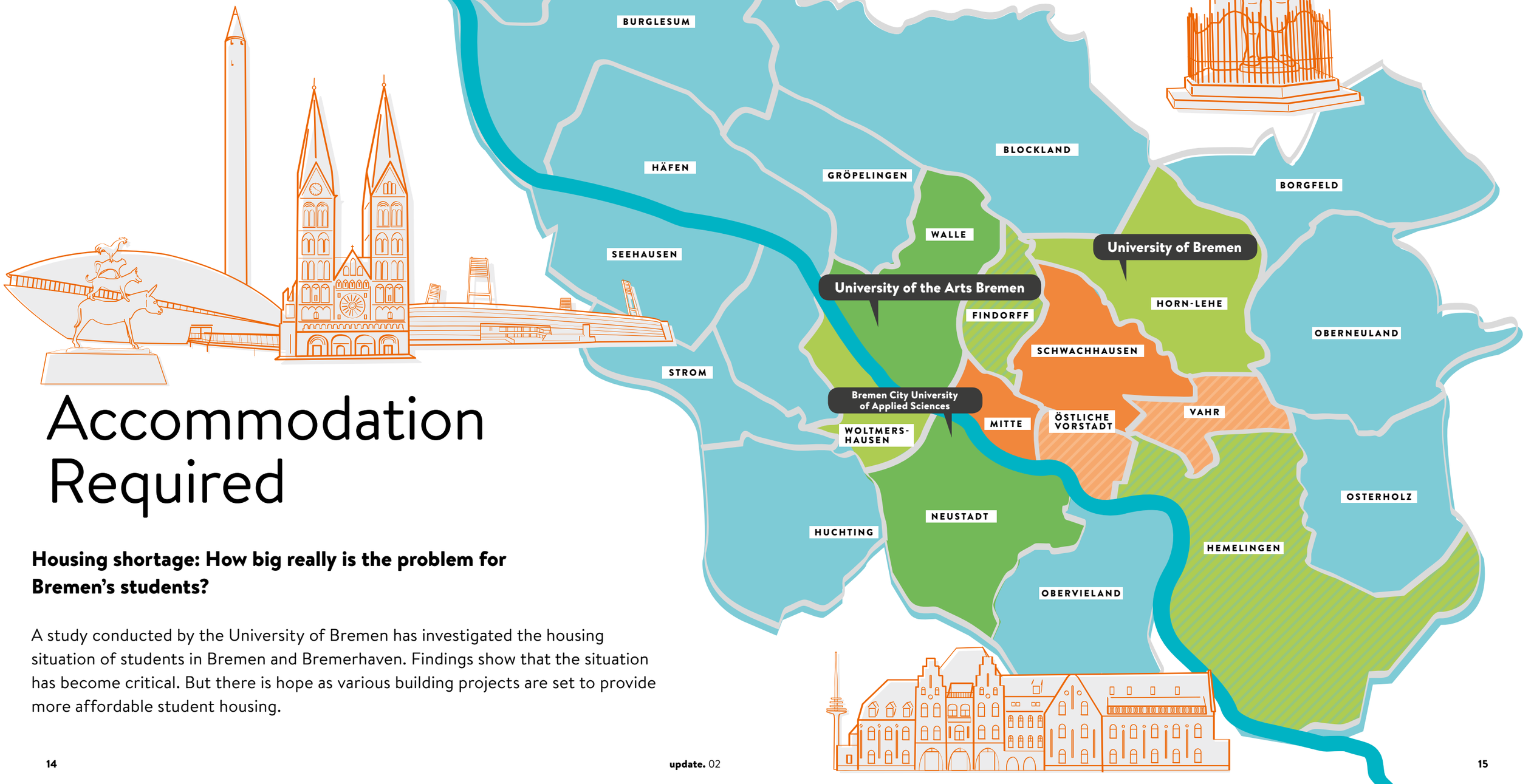
Student rent in Bremen in 2018*

NEIGHBORHOOD	Ø RENT	% STUDENTS
Schwachhausen	393,77 €	**8 – 12 %**
Bremen-Mitte	389,96 €	4 – 8 %
Vahr	380,59 €	4 – 8 %
Östliche Vorstadt	376,74 €	**8 – 12 %**
Walle	369,32 €	4 – 8 %
Neustadt	367,59 €	**> 12 %**
Findorff	361,16 €	4 – 8 %
Hemelingen	346,33 €	4 – 8 %
Woltmershausen	327,11 €	4 – 8 %
Horn-Lehe	312,15 €	4 – 8 %
Total of all students in Bremen	**373,80 €**	

*Gross rent for all types of accommodation (except living with parents). The table only includes neighborhoods in which at least 20 survey participants live.



Source: Ivo Mossig, Günter Warsewa, Kevin Wolnik, Fabian Fortmann, Jessica Bas, Student Living in Bremen and Bremerhaven (Studentisches Wohnen in Bremen und Bremerhaven), Institute for Labor and the Economy publication series, Bremen 2018



“The 2,042 housing spaces we have are always quickly gone.”

Hauke Kieschnick, Director of Student Services Organization

The study carried out by a research team from the Institute for Labour and Economy (iaw) and the Institute of Geography focused on questions concerning the students’ preferred areas to live and accommodation forms as well as rental costs. The representative survey from 2018 showed that the lack of affordable housing is a real problem for students. “About 70 percent of the students interviewed at Bremen’s universities rate the housing search as ‘very difficult’ or ‘difficult’,” says Dr. Günter Warsewa of the Institute for Labour and Economy (iaw), an institute of the Chamber of Employees of Bremen and the University of Bremen.

According to the study, the most common and popular form of student accommodation at Bremen’s universities is the shared apartment (32.7 percent). Striking is also the growing number of students who are living with their parents or relatives – probably as a reaction to the difficult housing market.

Neustadt is the Most Popular Area

Where do students like to live? The clear answer is Neustadt. According to overall student satisfaction with the housing situation, it is noticeably higher there than in other areas of the city.

Geography professor and co-author of the study Ivo Mossig highlights an unsettling finding: Sstudents who are not living with their parents or relatives spend almost half of their monthly disposable budget (49.1 percent) on rent. “This is a very high sum to spend on rent and clearly highlights the need for action in student housing in Bremen,” says the academic.

442 Applications for One Accommodation Place

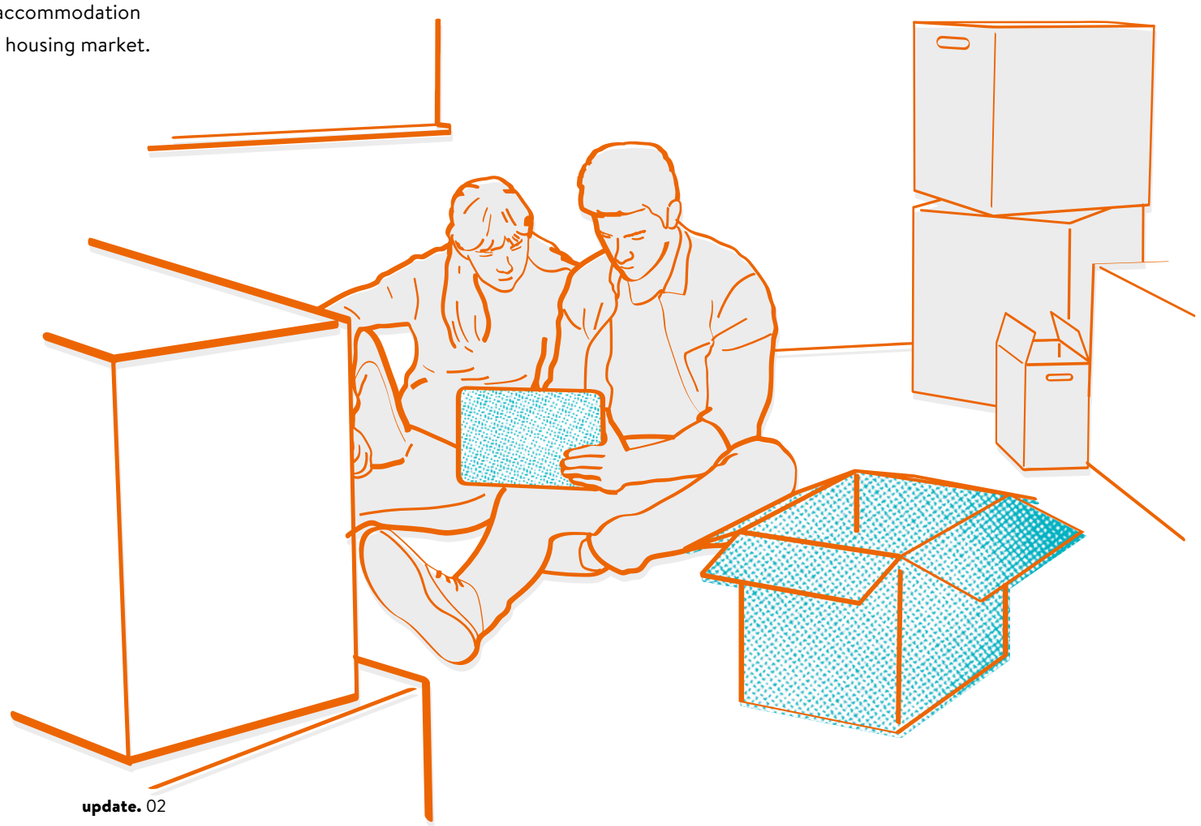
The student Student Services Organization is trying to counteract this but is unable to fulfil demand with its student housing rooms. “The 2,042 housing spaces we have, of which 136 are in Bremerhaven, are always quickly gone,” says Hauke Kieschnick, Director of Bremen’s Student Services Organization. In the 2018/2019 winter semester, there were 442 students on the waiting list for a room. “Although the Student Services Organization hasn’t had to put up emergency beds in gyms or hotels in Bremen yet, as was the case in Göttingen or Frankfurt in recent years,” said Kieschnick.

More than 750 New Student Housing Places Planned

The political sector has also become aware of the precarious housing situation and, according to the coalition agreement, the Bremen State government plans to create at least 750 new student housing places in Bremen and Bremerhaven by 2023. The construction of 380 housing places on the Emmy-Noether-Straße on the University of Bremen’s campus, which will later be managed by the student union, is already scheduled.

A further 175 places will be created on the Niedersachsendamm in Huckelriede, close to the Werdersee. A cooperation with the Bremer Heimstiftung also envisages 66 new places as part of the Ellener Hof project in Bremen-Osterholz. The Bremer Heimstiftung mainly manages housing for the elderly, yet it is intended that young and old from all cultural groups will live together in the Ellener Hof village.

A further interesting characteristic of the project is that the Ellener Hof will also be Bremen’s first climate quarter with the aim of reduced greenhouse gas emissions with climate friendly daily living. Although affordable housing will continue to be limited, this new additional accommodation will certainly ease the situation in Bremen’s housing market.



↑ According to the study, Neustadt is the most popular place to live for students who like the area’s vibrant cultural and bar/restaurant scene. Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

research

Nanoscaffolds for the Medicine of the Future

Biophysicist Professor Dorothea Brüggemann and her research group are developing new materials for use in the human body

Wound plasters made from the body's own proteins or biological coatings on implants that facilitate in-growth in the body – one day, all of these things will exist. When it comes to fundamental research for applications of this kind, sometimes coincidences can be helpful at the interface where biology and physics meet. As was the case of doctoral student Karsten Stapelfeldt, who suddenly discovered nanofibers in places he did not expect to find them while performing tests with a scanning electron microscope. Together with colleagues, he started searching for correlations – with sensational results.

←

From examinations with the scanning electron microscope to a natural fibrinogen scaffold that you can touch: Doctoral student Karsten Stapelfeldt and research group leader Professor Dorothea Brüggemann. Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

“Fiber scaffolds made from natural materials would be an outstanding aid for patients with blood-clotting disorders.”

Professor Dorothea Brüggemann

160 170, 180 cm are normal body heights around the globe. However, when it comes down to the details, humans are infinitesimally small – we are dealing with measurements in the micrometer range on the cellular level. These cells are surrounded by nanostructures, for instance fibers with a size of a few billionths of a meter. “This is where our work begins,” says Dorothea Brüggemann, leader of the Emmy Noether research group for nanoBiomaterials at the Institute for Biophysics, University of Bremen. “We are developing fibrous nanoscaffolds that we want to introduce into the human body and on which cells establish themselves.” These nanomaterials can be fitted with additional functions to help people in various ways.

The best example of the work from Brüggemann's research group is a three-dimensional protein scaffold with which the researchers have impressed experts. This scaffold, which might one day even be produced using human blood, could then help heal wounds as a kind of ‘biological plaster’. Normally, the human body closes smaller wounds with a crust known as a ‘scab’. “Fibrinogen, a protein found in blood plasma, is converted into fibrin by the enzyme thrombin. The result is the formation of nanofibers,” says Karsten Stapelfeldt, explaining the process. “The resulting tissue, which consists of microscopically small fibers, ensures wound closure in the human body and supports the healing process. We have produced a biologically inspired fibrinogen network of this type in the laboratory without adding enzymes.” In the meantime, with the help of Bremen patent utilization agency InnoWi GmbH, a European patent application has been submitted. The discovery has great potential for the future.

Material from Your Own Blood

“Normally, when people have wounds they use plasters and dressings that also function as a wound cover –a synthetic one,” Dorothea Brüggemann points out. “In the future, the usage of the body's own fibrinogen could enable the production of a bioresorbable wound dressing that can slowly be absorbed by the body. Our vision: Some day, every person will be able to have their ‘own biological plaster’ that will be perfectly accepted by their body.” She imagines a future where “people will perhaps have some blood taken in their infancy stages in order for their body’s own material to be stored for such applications.”

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Master student Stephani Stamboroski (left) and post-doctoral fellow Dr. Jana Markhoff are amongst the scientists who are learning more thanks to their work in the Emmy-Noether research group.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

Irina Walter (front) completed her bachelor's degree in physics with thesis work in Brüggemann's research group. Here she is working together with doctoral student Naiana Suter on the cell culture in the sterile bench. Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

Emmy Noether Funding

As part of the Emmy-Noether Program, Dorothea Brüggemann's research group for nanoBiomaterials is financed with over 1.6 million Euros by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It is intended to give particularly promising junior scientists the opportunity to qualify for a university professorship within six years by leading a junior group. One of the funding requirements is the submission of an excellent research project outline. The program was named after the mathematician Emmy Noether (1882 – 1935).

Using the scanning electron microscope, Karsten Stapelfeldt examined the self-organization process, which forms ultra-fine fibers out of dissolved protein that then connect and create a nanoscaffold. The research group subsequently took a closer look: How are the fibrinogen networks formed? As soon as the mechanism was decoded, they went about producing a layer of natural fibrinogen scaffolding a few micrometers thick that could actually be held in your hand – the first step towards a 'natural' wound dressing.

From Small to Big

A "multi-scale approach for the development of biologically inspired fiber scaffolds" is how Dorothea Brüggemann describes the core of her work. "We research and develop on a nano-level, however we also want to understand the underlying atomic and molecular range," she says. She has been collaborating successfully in this field with the Hybrid Materials Interfaces research group, which is led by the production technician Professor Lucio Colombi Ciacchi. "We want to specifically control and monitor cells that are several micrometers in size with our nanoscaffolds. The scaffolds that we build should then essentially be macroscopically visible, such as the fibrinogen scaffolding to be used as a wound dressing. That's why it is multi-scale: Understanding of the small things, application in the big things."

Once the 'blueprints' and mechanisms of the natural fiber scaffolds have been researched in detail, many application possibilities are imaginable for multifunctional fiber scaffolds. For instance, if it were possible to integrate medication into the scaffolds, it would then be possible to introduce them as an aid right into specific areas of the body. "Fiber scaffolds made from natural materials would also be an outstanding aid for the blood clotting of patients with blood-clotting disorders, so-called hemophiliacs," says Dorothea Brüggemann, naming another possible application option.

The Focus Is also on Collagen

Another protein that the research group is focusing on is collagen. It occurs in large amounts in the skin or in blood vessels and is very flexible. "We are using another self-organization process to produce nanofibers from collagen. Additionally, we have developed a procedure where micrometer-sized areas of a material can be precisely coated with collagen nanofibers," Naiana Suter from the team explains. "Cells can sense whether they are on a fibrous or smooth surface. They grow into fibrous areas, and spread out on smooth surfaces. This allows the development of cell structures to be selectively controlled." This research result was also registered for patent approval after consultation with InnoWi GmbH. The possible application: "To monitor how an implant is being accepted by the body – particularly as bones also consist of collagen to a large degree." Since hip implants, for instance, are generally made from titanium and polymers, a coating of this kind would definitely be appropriate: "The cells would then come into contact with protein fibers and not with metal or plastic."

Another one of the research group's plans combines the expertise of various fiber scaffolds with ceramic biomaterials. Post-doctoral fellow Dr. Jana Markhoff is investigating how nanofiber scaffolding can be used as a coating for nanoporous ceramics in the MIMENIMA (Micro-, meso- and macroporous nonmetallic Materials) research training group. The goal is to develop new material combinations as biomaterials from it.

Research of nanobiomaterials: Dr. Jana Markhoff is thawing cells that have been stored frozen in the nitrogen tank.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

The application ideas of the research group range from implant coatings to personalized medicine.

Work with “Magnetic Fibers”

If that weren't enough: Dorothea Brüggemann and her team also work with chitosan, a material that occurs in a similar form in the shells of insects, spiders and crustaceans. “Chitosan can be purchased as a ready-made powder. We make fibers out of it, which we then combine with magnetic nanoparticles in cooperation with PD Dr. Michael Maas from the field of advanced ceramics.” Later, these 'magnetic fibers' might even be able to move in the body. The work of the research group is moving in the direction of targeted fiber orientation. “In this way, the direction of cell growth may even be able to be controlled with magnetic fibers externally,” Dorothea Brüggemann, the Emmy Noether Award winner, says.

However, that is a vision of the future. Dorothea Brüggemann's research group still has a lot of work to do before research results emerge in real applications: “Especially as we are moving in the direction of medical applications, which is an extremely challenging area,” the leader of the research group explains. To begin with, the foundations have to be developed: “Next, we will test how cells react to our fiber networks and how they grow under various conditions. In order to examine the mechanical stability of our new scaffolds, we are also cooperating with the Bionik-Innovations-Centrum B-I-C at the Bremen City University of Applied Sciences.” Small steps instead of big leaps – that is how science works. \ KAI UWE BOHN

Radio Bremen reported on Professor Dorothea Brüggemann's research on the “buten un binnen” show:
↗ *http://unihb.eu/Brueggemann*

YouTube

Profile

- [x] **Research-based learning**
- [ ] **Successfully completing a doctorate**
- [ ] **Making a career in science**

“I wish to keep researching in the field of wound healing.”

26-Yeal-old Timo Wunsch worked in Brüggemann’s working group for his master’s degree

Timo Wunsch learnt about the advantages of research-based learning at the University of Bremen.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

Production engineering with a focus on material sciences – is the master’s degree that Timo Wunsch completed at the University of Bremen. The 26-year old, who previously completed his bachelor’s degree in biomimetics at the Bremen City University of Applied Sciences, worked intensively in Professor Dorothea Brüggemann's research group for his master thesis. “In producing fiber networks from the blood protein fibrinogen, I performed a mechanical analysis of larger samples. In other words, I determined the resilience of the material and examined its suitability for wound healing.” He graduated in the late summer of 2019. Now Timo Wunsch is waiting for a funding opportunity to also do his doctorate under the supervision of Dorothea Brüggemann. “The start of 2020 will reveal whether funds will be available. I will use the time up until then to fulfill a dream: I would like to hike the 800 km long Camino de Santiago from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.”

25 Years' Core Repository

Facts and figures on an institution which has helped the university gain a great reputation during the past 25 years

1994, Schuppen 3 (a dockside warehouse) in Bremen's Europahafen port: Cores obtained in expeditions as part of the IODP (International Ocean Discovery Program) are stored in Bremen for the first time. Under the leadership of geoscientist Professor Gerold Wefer, the university had successfully taken part in a bid for establishing a new "Core Repository." Since then, a unique collection of deep-sea samples has been stored in the hanseatic city – one of only three sites worldwide. Since 2005, the cores have been stored directly on the university campus in the MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences. The center is, however, running out of space and will therefore be expanded in the coming years.

→ The photos in this article show the core repository and the science and sampling parties. Photo credit: Volker Diekamp / MARUM

158.16 Kilometers

is the distance you would have if all the cores stored in Bremen were to be placed in a row next to one another. The cores are stored in more than 250,000 plastic boxes. Half of these – those with the black caps – are available for sampling in the repository's laboratories whilst no material is being taken from the other half for the time being – those with the red caps. These will instead be archived for some time in the future when analytical new developments will enable even better investigation findings.

90 Expeditions

form the basis of the core sections stored in Bremen. These took place – as they still do – as part of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) and the predecessor programs DSDP and ODP and often with the participation, or even under the leadership, of scientists from the University of Bremen.

35 Science and Sampling Parties

have been held at the core repository so far – get-togethers of international researchers at which cores are examined and there is a direct exchange on the initial findings. These parties are always a highlight of the Bremen Core Repository and also regularly draw the attention of international marine scientists to the university.

200 Scientists

come to Bremen every year, irrespective of the science and sampling parties, to work on the materials stored here. Together with curators and researchers from MARUM, they take more than 40,000 samples from the core halves each year – more than a million so far. Advanced and further training mainly draw a younger generation to Bremen's Core Repository: Since 2007, MARUM has been holding a summer school here supported by the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) and since 2015, an additional format; the training courses.

Six Oceans

form the origins of the cores stored in Bremen. The repository holds samples from the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Arctic Ocean, North Sea, Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. Samples from other maritime regions are stored in College Station (Texas, USA) and Kochi (Japan). \ COMPILED BY KAI UWE BOHN

Video of the Bremen Core Repository's jubilee:
↗ *http://unihb.eu/Bohrkernlager*

“The Lobbyists Have Professionalized Themselves”

A study conducted by the University of Bremen reveals why there is little progress in agricultural and environmental policy

Dr. Guido Nischwitz never anticipated this. The Süddeutsche Zeitung had only just published an article about his study, ‘Interrelations and Interests of the German Agricultural Association’ and it wasn’t long until the telephone lines were inundated with calls. Since then, Nischwitz, head of the Department of Regional Development at the Institute for Labor and the Economy (iaw), has become a media star. German broadcasters ARD and ZDF, the TV program die Heute-Show, various radio broadcasters and more than 20 newspapers have reported on the research findings from Bremen. The geographer, together with his colleague Patrick Chojnowski, wrote the controversial 60-page paper on behalf of the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU).

↑ With his study on the interrelations in the agricultural business, Dr. Guido Nischwtz has become a media star. Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Mr. Nischwitz, you and your colleague uncovered interrelations on a large scale. You investigated 93 players and 75 institutions based on publicly accessible information and found out that representatives are also lobbyists and people exerting influence on a large scale are determining the agricultural policy. Was there any criticism here or even threats concerning this?

We worked very thoroughly and honestly and no one questioned our findings. What was interesting was that many of our interview partners from associations, administration and politics certainly didn’t want to be named or quoted in public. At the same time, officials with multiple roles from the agricultural and food industry and the agricultural business, who we revealed in the study, made themselves scarce. They didn’t want to publicly say anything about their many roles and the conflict of interests resulting from this. We received many positive calls at the institute particularly from small and mid-sized farming enterprises that praised the fact that someone had, at long last, finally said something. Ninety percent of agricultural enterprises are, after all, members of the German Farmers’ Association (DBV) or the regional associations. According to a current forsa (German market research institute) survey, more than half feel that they are being poorly represented here but are unable to get out of the system. In the villages and regions there is often social pressure to belong to the DBV which also offers a comprehensive service package. It is a little like the AA for farmers.

Can you briefly outline the problems that German agriculture faces and which initiated the study?

Biodiversity, water and air quality, the climate and animal welfare are all under threat. Everyone will be familiar with the current debates: nitrate contamination of the groundwater, use of glyphosate, insects dying out. At the same time, it is the small and mid-sized farming enterprises that are suffering from the consequences of the transformation in agricultural structures. Up until now, the German and

“There is the accusation that the necessary reforms and adaptations are being systematically weakened or prevented by lobbyists.”

European agricultural and environmental policy has hardly made any progress in solving urgent problems. The joint agricultural policy of the EU (GAP) represents almost 40 percent of the EU’s budget; it is the biggest budget item. Approximately 408 billion euros are being allocated between 2014 and 2020. Yet many attempts to couple the direct payments for the agricultural enterprises more strongly with effective environmental and animal protection requirements have been defused again and again. There is the accusation that the necessary reforms and adaptations are being systematically weakened or prevented by lobbyists. With our study, we wanted to ensure more transparency in the political decision-making process and follow-up any indications and signs of influence being exerted.

But this problem has already been known for a long time?

Yes, that’s exactly it. The negative impact of the intensification in agriculture has been criticized by the Advisory Council on the Environment, amongst others, since the 1980s, and the negative effects this has on humans, nature and the environment have been described. We already presented this in a similar study at the turn of the century. What has happened in the meantime? Not that much really but we have seen that the lobbyists have skillfully professionalized themselves further.

Can you give a few examples?

We took a closer look at the institutional and personal interrelations between politics, the financial world, the agricultural and food industry, agrochemical businesses as well as authorities and associations. In doing so, we identified around 560 interrelations, which we visualized with graphics. The focus was on ascertaining the managerial figures in supervisory committees and management boards which are relevant nationwide. What was noticeable here was that there are up to ten functionaries with various multiple roles with key positions in politics, associations and industry and they are usually closely associated with the DBV. They include its chairman Joachim Rukwied, who has at least 18 prominent positions and CDU parliament member and president of the Agricultural Association of Westphalia and Lippe, Johannes Röring, who has 15 positions. They are always included in important political decision-making processes. With the many different roles, you never know what their current function is.

Besides the ties between individual agricultural functionaries and the relevant interest-led companies, you also revealed various interfaces in your study that skillfully exert an influence on the public or offer a platform for the coordination of industry and agriculture.

Yes, it was particularly interesting that we were able to reveal these network hubs. These include the Liaison Office for Agriculture and Industry (Verbindungsstelle Landwirtschaft-Industrie e.V.), a platform which explicitly brings together management from the finance industry, agricultural trade, the agricultural-chemical field and the farmers’ association as well as the Forum of Modern Agriculture (Forum Modern e Landwirtschaft) which is, in its own words, a powerful institution in PR for creating a positive image of the agricultural industry. We assume that both associations not only exert an influence on sociopolitical debates but that they also want to influence political policy and decision-making processes.

But doesn’t the consumer have a significant say in things? There is, for example, particularly now, a greater public focus on climate protection – could pressure increase from this side and could ecologically produced products have an edge?

The social pressure for change in farming will increase although this also needs to be seen in consumer behavior in the stores. As long as people think that a pound of mince costs 2 euros at the most, nothing will change. Groceries in Germany have to offer value for money.

Your study ends with concrete recommendations for action. You not only demand a transparent lobby register of politicians in federal parliament but also the documentation of the “legislative footprint”. What is this?

I can explain this with an example: There is an ambitious proposal for a nationwide fertilizer ordinance to counter the nitrate contamination of our groundwater due to the entry of too much nitrogen-liquid manure. During many years of debates concerning this ordinance, a legislative package is finally passed in the federal parliament – far too late – which, according to experts, only exacerbates the nitrate problem instead of solving it. The EU Commission intervenes, yet again, and demands clear improvements. Why? When did someone speak to a parliament member and discuss this ordinance in the German federal government-federal state negotiations and influence this? And who exactly was involved? The “legislative footprint” should clarify this.

What would you like to see in the future?

I hope that we will succeed in restricting the influence of the farming lobby on the legislative processes and political fields as well as the environmental and rural development policy and finally tackle the problems that have already been known for decades. \ INTERVIEW BY KARLA GÖTZ

↗ *http://www.iaw.uni-bremen.de/ccm/navigation/index.en*

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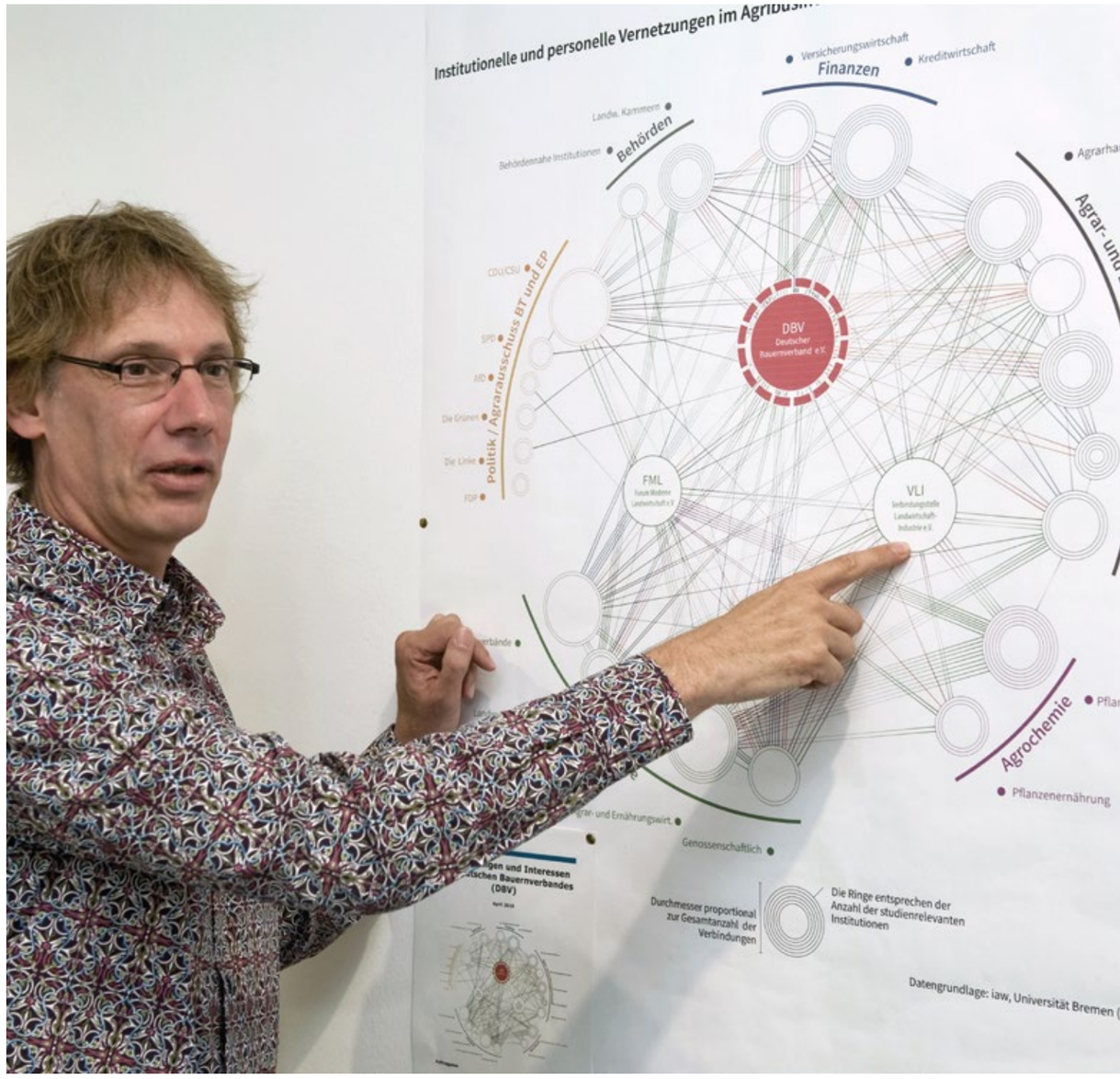
The ambitious legislative proposal for a restrictive fertilization ordinance has ultimately failed after many years of discussions.
Photo credit: Gina Sanders/adobe.stock



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The diagram visualizes influential associations revealed by Nischwitz and his colleague Patrick Chojnowski.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Profile:

Dr. Guido Nischwitz (57 years old) has been a research associate at the Institute for Labor and the Economy (iaw) of the University of Bremen since 2004 and is currently researching the topics regional and rural development policy, productive towns, regional public services as well as regional governance. Nischwitz was born in Bonn, studied geography at the University of Bonn, and did his PhD at the University of Vechta. He was also a research associate and head of research at the Institute for Ecological Economy Research IÖW for several years. Guido Nischwitz lives with his partner and has three children.

“It Is Writing Against Scholarly Opinion”

Historians at the University of Bremen are delving into the topic of slavery in the Old Empire

Since the 19th century, historians have maintained that slavery did not exist as a legal institution in early modern Germany. In 2017, one of their number, Professor Rebekka von Mallinckrodt, found strong evidence to the contrary. In the research project “The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and its Slaves,” she and her team are examining the extent and significance of human trafficking in the Old Empire.

“Our notion of slavery is strongly influenced by plantation slavery in North and South America,” Rebekka von Mallinckrodt, professor of early modern history at the University of Bremen, explains. “We assume that slaves were people who worked in their hundreds of thousands in sugar and cotton fields. This type of slavery did not exist here.” In the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation – under the rule of the Holy Roman Emperor from the Late Middle Ages to 1806 – it involved enslaved individuals or groups belonging to the household.

No Slave Laws in the Holy Roman Empire

In an essay on ‘Slavery and Western Civilization’, the renowned historian Professor Jürgen Osterhammel asserted as late as 2000 that: “There were slaves elsewhere; there were none in Germany. For Germans they were a long way away.” According to Mallinckrodt, the reason for this assumption was the absence of any legal basis for slavery in the Holy Roman Empire. “Researchers assumed that, because there was no

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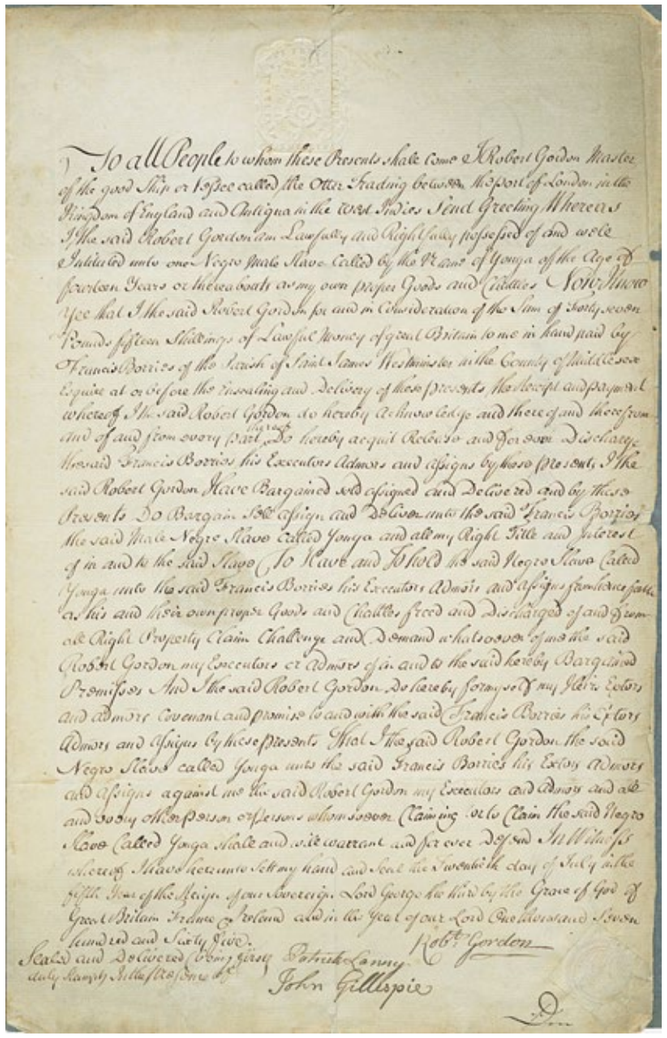
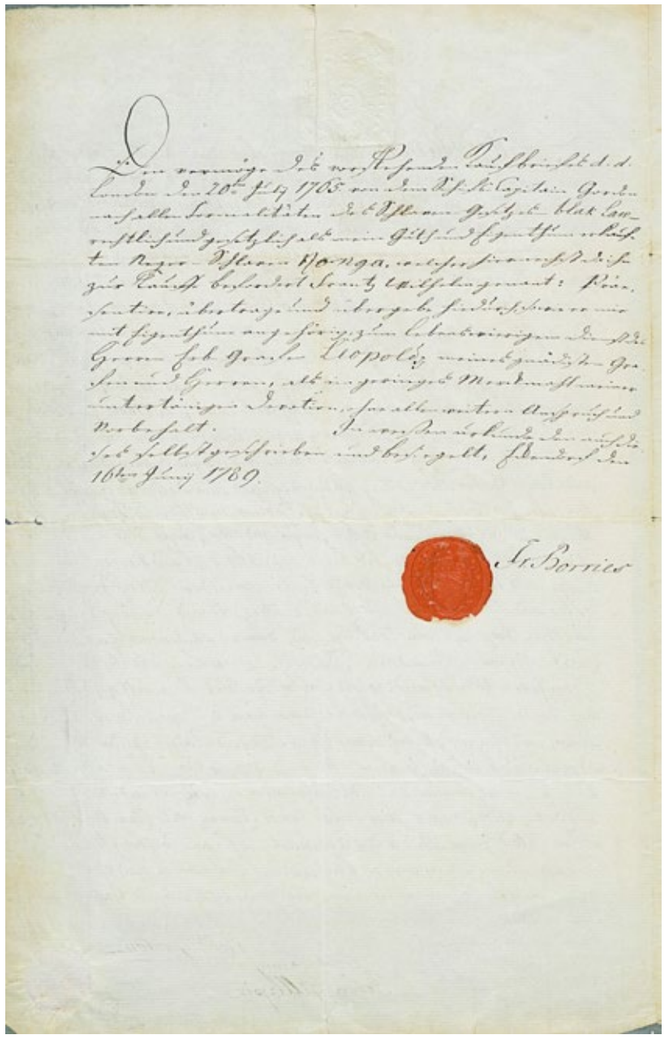
A man who remains nameless in the sources wanted to prevent his resale in 1780 with a petition to the King of Prussia, Friedrich II. (1712–1786). In a contemporary painting from 1734/35, Friedrich can be seen as crown prince with a black companion.
Photo credit: bpk / Stiftung Preussische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg / Daniel Lindner



To all People to whom these Presents shall come I Robert Gordon Master of the good Ship or Lopse called the Otter Trading between the Port of London in the Kingdom of England and Antigua in the West Indies Send Greeting Whereas I the said Robert Gordon am Lawfully and Right Solely possessed of and well Intituled unto one Negro Male Slave called by the Name of Yonga of the Age of fourteen Years or thereabouts as my own proper Goods and Chattles Now Know Ye that I the said Robert Gordon for and in Consideration of the Sum of Forty seven Pounds fifteen Shillings of Lawful Money of great Britain to me in hand paid by Francis Borries of the Parish of Saint James Westminster in the County of Middlesex Esquire at or before the Ensealing and Delivery of these presents the Receipt and Payment whereof I the said Robert Gordon do hereby Acknowledge and therefrom and of and from every part thereof do hereby acquit Release and for ever Discharge the said Francis Borries his Executors Admors and Assigns by these Presents I the said Robert Gordon Have Bargained Sold Assigned and Delivered and by these Presents do Bargain Sell Assign and Deliver unto the said Francis Borries the said Male Negro Slave called Yonga and all my Right Title and Interest of in and to the said Negro To Have and to Hold the said Negro Slave called Yonga unto the said Francis Borries his Executors Admors and Assigns from since part as his and their own proper Goods and Chattles freed and discharged of and from all Right Property Claim Challenge and Demand whatsoever of me the said Robert Gordon my Executors or Admors of in and to the said hereby Bargained Premisses And the said Robert Gordon do hereby for my self my Heirs Exors and Admors Covenant and promise to and with the said Francis Borries his Exors Admors and Assigns by these presents That I the said Robert Gordon the said Negro Slave called Yonga unto the said Francis Borries his Exors Admors and Assigns against me the said Robert Gordon my Executors and Admors and all and every other person or persons whomsoever Claiming or to Claim the said Negro Slave called Yonga Shall and will warrant and for ever defend In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the Twentieth day of July in the fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France & Ireland King and in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Sixty five.

Sealed and Delivered (being first duly Stamped) in the Presence of Patrick Lamy John Gillespie

Robt Gordon



London the 20th July 1765 Received of Capt. Gordon [illegible] Negro Slave Yonga as per Receipt Dated the 16th July 1789.

Fr. Borries

"The cases show that the institution of slavery legally existed."

legal status for slavery, there were no slaves." Although people of African descent did indeed live in the German territories, historians argued that they had been "rescued" and "bought and freed", or given servant status. "Researchers frequently assumed that these people were freed through baptism or by arriving in the Empire."

In documents relating to a petition and court proceedings from Brandenburg-Prussia and the Principality of Lippe, Rebekka von Mallinckrodt found evidence that slavery certainly did exist as a legal institution in the Holy Roman Empire. "The cases demonstrated that ownership rights were expressly and emphatically claimed and confirmed by the judicial system, the administration and the sovereign. They show that the institution of slavery legally existed." Both cases involved men abducted from Africa, whose petition or suit obliged courts and legal experts to comment explicitly on slavery.

Conflict Cases as Evidence

The first case – known to researchers as the "Legal History of a Purchased Moor"– dealt with a man, who remains nameless in the sources, held as a slave by the Prussian official Joachim Erdmann von Arnim (1741-1804) who in 1780 petitioned the King of Prussia, Frederic II (1712–1786) to avoid his resale. The legal experts from the Supreme Court of Berlin explained that the possession of slaves was permitted under natural law and that the petitioner could be legally resold by Arnim.

The second case arose in the Principality of Lippe. In 1790, the black servant Franz Wilhelm Yonga (approx. 1751–1798) filed suit before the highest Lippian court against his former master and owner, privy councilor Franz Christian von Borries (1723–1795). The reason for this was Yonga being gifted to Count Leopold zur Lippe in 1789. Von Borries had purchased Yonga as a fourteen year old in London from a ship's captain, had him baptized, and put him to work as a hairdresser and servant in his household. Yonga believed himself to have been freed by baptism, even though he received no wages throughout his years of service. In his own words, it was the hope of being taken care of in old age that helped him endure. Before the court, von Borries upheld his entitlement to ownership and justified it with slavery: "[…], he was and remained a slave and my bondservant, also a purchased chattel, […] he was and remained my property, which I could sell, exchange, or give away at will, […]." In this case, too, the court finally agreed with the slave owner. "It argued that baptism did not generally lead to liberation and that there was no law in Germany that overruled the rights of servitude," Mallinckrodt emphasizes.

“Slavery and serfdom are distinctly different from each other, and it is a distinction that contemporaries also make.”

Beyond this individual case, the Lippian Councils validated Roman law and thus the ancient concept of slavery for the “servitude of Negroes” in Germany. “No new practice was being documented here, instead a reality was being expressly named. Both legal cases constitute evidence for slavery practices in the Empire, even though there was no plantation slavery as in the colonies.”

The Difference: Slavery and Serfdom

There were indeed people in early modern Germany who were not free, who were forced to work, and were under the jurisdiction of their masters, namely serfs. However, von Mallinckrodt emphasizes the difference. “Slavery is clearly differentiated from serfdom by contemporaries: both amateurs as well as legal practitioners.” Serfs had a different legal status. “They were considered persons before the law and the right of subjects to take legal action had been in place since the German Peasants’ War in the 16th century. Not only did they have the option of taking legal action themselves, they could also testify as witnesses.” Slaves, by contrast, were not persons from a purely legal point of view: they were “human chattels”. Unlike serfs, they generally did not have a local network of family or relatives, and therefore had no resources at their disposal in the event of a crisis or conflict, as von Mallinckrodt explains. It was a much more difficult situation than for serfs. “Among lawyers there was a very clear awareness that these were two different things.”

Rebekka von Mallinckrodt describes her research as writing against scholarly opinion. Some colleagues react to her findings with skepticism because few such explicit sources have yet been discovered. For this reason it is important to find as many cases as possible. Refuting this skepticism however, is enormously motivating, because ultimately historical images of this kind are also important for today's society. The historian and her team examine all different kinds of source in order to tell the story of slavery in Germany. In addition to written material, such as letters, invoices and court records, they also, for instance, consult paintings. “During the early modern period, portraits featuring black servants as 'attendants' to the person being portrayed were in fashion. We are now trying to find out, on the basis of housekeeping books, whether these figures were simply a painting topos or whether they represented actual individuals.”

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Professor of early modern history, Rebekka von Mallinckrodt.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Difficult Sources

However, the overall search for sources has been arduous. According to von Mallinckrodt, this is due first to the lack of structures. There was no compulsory registration of slaves in the Holy Roman Empire as in France and the Netherlands. Second, it is because the trafficked persons were so young. “Taking action at the start of their bondage was less possible, and their emotional dependence on their owners was greater than if they had been adults.” Therefore it is not surprising that ego documents, such as the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano in Great Britain, have not yet been found for early modern Germany.

Slaves in the Holy Roman Empire were often children. “Merchants, missionaries, diplomats, sailors and soldiers brought them back from their travels in the colonies or Africa as 'exotic souvenirs'.” Once on European soil, the girls and (far more frequently) boys were often sold to members of the aristocracy at a substantial profit. “Unlike in the Americas, the purchase of slaves was less about labor,” Mallinckrodt points out. Prestige

The historian and her team examine all different kind of sources. In addition to written material, such as letters, invoices and court records, they also, for instance, consult paintings. This picture shows the Abbess of Herford Johanna Charlotte von Anhalt-Dessau, with the African boy “Carl Heinrich Leopold”. He entered her household in 1734. Photo credit: Municipal Museum of Herford

was the main motive of this human trafficking. This is indicated by the type of task to which they were put, their relatively high price, and the efforts involved in their acquisition. “Slaves were much more difficult to procure in Europe and more expensive than on the African Coast or in the colonies. Having an African to play the trumpet, set the table, or act as a carriage attendant for all to see was a status symbol, which, according to the historian, demonstrated wealth and social capital to one's contemporaries. “It showed that I could afford this and had the necessary connections to get these people.”

“As Young and as Dark as Possible”

Historical sources, such as order letters sent to Amsterdam and Lisbon, relate the purchasers' preferences. “In the majority of cases, children were preferred who were as young and dark as possible. The dark skin color was considered to be exotic, and the householders could show off how cosmopolitan they were.” According to von Mallinckrodt, there was a practical reason for the age of the children. “First of all, children were considered cute. In addition, they also learned the language quickly, were not perceived as threatening, and could be educated and shaped.”

Particularly in the 18th century – the peak of the Atlantic slave trade – the purchase of children is verified by many examples, as the researcher explains. Thus ship carpenter Martin Harnack bought a seven year old boy in Guinea and resold him in Prussia to the Königsberg officer Jakob Philipp Manitius (1698–1749) for one hundred Reichstaler. The purchase agreement states that Harnack transferred “the Moor boy as his previously bonded slave with all rights of bondage.” In 1752, two twelve year old, dark-skinned boys were “sent as a gift from Holland” to Count Ludwig Ferdinand von Wittgenstein-Berleburg (1712–1773). In 1734, the Abbess of Herford, Johanna Charlotte von Anhalt-Dessau (1682–1750) received the African boy who was later baptized “Carl Heinrich Leopold”. The “Soldier King” Friedrich Wilhelm I. (1713-1740), King in Prussia, also ordered and received boys from England. Rebekka von Mallinckrodt notes: “The people purchased as slaves were brought into the Old Empire and, it should be noted, resold or gifted there as a matter of course. This would not have been legally permitted with a serf.”

Information About the Project

“The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and its Slaves” project has been running since 2015. The total term of the project is five years. It is being funded by the European Research Council (ERC) to the amount of over one million euros. Two PhD students are writing their doctoral theses in the framework of the project, a historian is habilitating, and a database of trafficked people in the Old Empire is being constructed. The goal is to contribute systematically to a better understanding of the extent and significance of the abduction and enslavement of people in the Old Empire.

\ SARAH BATELKA

The Ingenious System of Hans-Christian Waldmann

Psychology professor assigns his students task of compiling an electronic dictionary

Nominated by his students, Professor Hans-Christian Waldmann was awarded the Berninghausen Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Since then, the number of students has doubled. He now gives lectures and seminars for 60 young people with up to 18 hours a week each semester. “It’s my calling,” says the professor who calls his subject “theoretical psychology”.

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Professor Hans-Christian Waldmann during the interview in his office on Grazer Strasse.
Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

The popular professor with his students who nominated him for the Berninghausen Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

“I’m mercilessly frontal in lectures. In seminars I don’t say anything.”

With his work, he wants to make concepts and terms in psychology from the history of thought understandable in an intercultural comparison. “I’m unbelievably retro in my didactics,” jokes the eloquent academic and says, “I’m actually anti-innovative.” Students are supposed to like this? This poses a few questions. Whilst talking to Professor Waldmann (the room is darkened, there are cuddly toys on the windowsill, maps of the Arctic tundra pinned to the wall), one thing becomes clear: his teaching methods represent an ingenious system. A high technological factor interchanges with analog and, in the good sense, old methods. The psychologist and statistician says he is “mercilessly frontal” in lectures. “In seminars I don’t say anything.”

Pooling Knowledge in WIKI

“What is teaching like today?” asks the 51-year-old rhetorically and answers, “Technocraticized, decoupled from the individual teacher, e-learning, downloads, PowerPoint and e-exams.” He only uses technology at the end of the semester. “I want the academic competence which my students have acquired, everything which we have intensively discussed in the past three months, to come together.” For this, they compile a WIKI, a type of dictionary or textbook, in which the knowledge is jointly entered and processed so it is available for everyone. It is the final product of “a joyous and painful process,” says the psychology professor with a smile.

Top Student Writes 14 Pages

A huge compendium is created with the names and thoughts of significant psychologists and philosophers, gestalt psychology, neuropsychology, social psychology, development psychology, religions, the body-mind problem, natural sciences and technology – everything is intensively examined, described and presented. This basis possibly makes it easier for the future psychologists to pass their exams. For this, Waldmann hands out notes, each with only one or two questions, which the students have three hours to think about. They write down their thoughts and flashes of inspiration on paper, by hand, and it is here that linked thinking helps. “My top students can write 14 pages,” beams the examiner. As he clearly has a good rapport with his people, he is also open to their wishes. “They asked me to also offer a multiple-choice test and I was happy to comply with this.”

Educating Decision-Makers

these are not simply any old games as the method is also connected with the future profession. “I want to educate decision-makers but not those who think they have a monopoly on the truth,” emphasizes Waldmann. Psychology, in particular, has many different methods and schools of thought. Future therapists need a theoretical approach and must dare have their own viewpoint whilst being aware of as many different approaches as possible in order to later look after their patients. And you need to be able to speak to them. PowerPoint can’t help here. He, as lecturer, also needs to be engaged and take a stance. Professor Waldmann loves controversies. They establish the fields of conflict, which characterize his profession. He chooses the word “Überfremdung”, or “over-foreignization”, as an example that he takes apart and conjugates with his students. The subject matter also includes religions.

3,000 Years in One Weekend

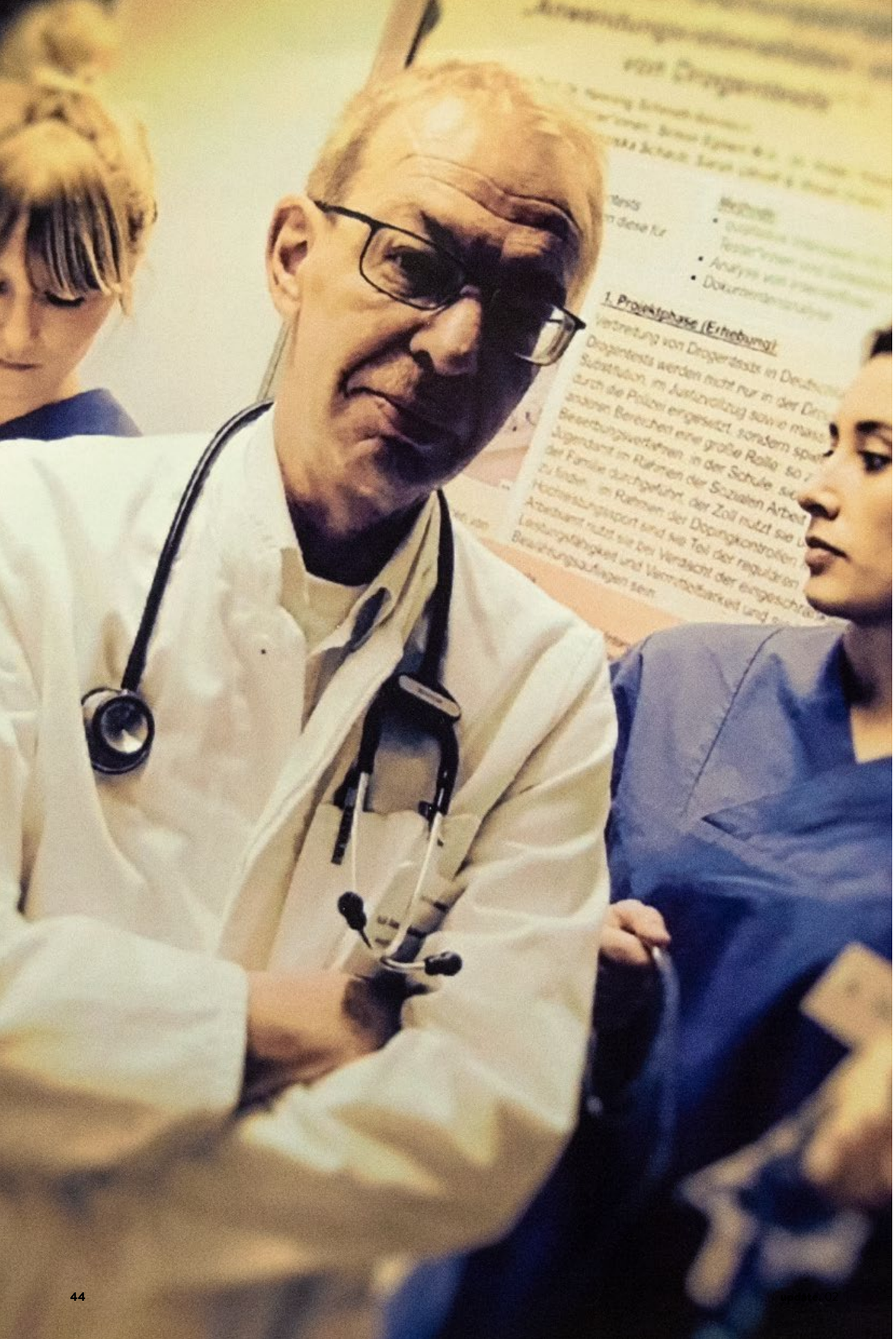
So, to sum up: input in lectures, controversies, discussions and networking in seminars, a pooling of knowledge in WIKI followed by the exam question. See above. Some wishes remain unfulfilled, even for Waldmann. He dreams of spending a whole weekend in one go with his students in the lecture hall – discussing and comprehending the history of thought of psychology (literally: teaching of the mind). But security would probably turn up says the innovative teacher, waving his hands.

Hiking Is Like Yoga

Now all he needs to do is explain the cuddly toys and the maps. “If students with children come to me, they like playing in my office. The pink walrus is a favorite and Graf Zahl only has one tooth left.” Waldmann talks openly about his time as a single dad. And the maps on the walls? They refer to his hobby – hiking. However, not just anywhere but alone on the perma-frost soil of the tundra or the endless forests of the Taiga. “I seek sensory deprivation, isolation and look inwards, it’s like yoga.” There’s no doubt about it, the psychology professor is always good for a surprise. \ KARLA GÖTZ

Profile:

Prof. Dr. Hans-Christian Waldmann was born on May 22, 1968, in Mannheim. He studied psychology in Heidelberg between 1988 and 1993 and graduated with a diploma. He became a father for the first time in the sixth semester. After his studies, he worked as a research associate at the University of Mannheim and joined the University of Bremen in 1995 where he did his PhD and then habilitated in 2000. In 2010, he was appointed as a professor and today works at the Department of Psychology. In third-party funded projects, Prof. Dr. Hans-Christian Waldmann develops tests and screening methods for school enrollment, amongst other things.



university & society

On the Dark Side of Life

For over a decade, forensic psychologist Professor Dietmar Heubrock has been a sought-after advisor for the police, the judicial system, security forces and humanitarian organizations

He questions children and adolescents who have experienced terrible things on behalf of investigating authorities. His advice is sought when people throw rocks off of highway bridges, hurt horses or plan terrorist attacks. He also helped catch the notorious 'Masked Man': Dietmar Heubrock, Professor of Psychology at the University of Bremen and head of the Institute of Forensic Psychology, knows his way around those places where the world shows its ugliness. Where death, violence and abuse prevail – on the dark side of life.

←

Doctor and nurses: A simulated scene with Dietmar Heubrock and his employees Carina Englert (left) and Ronja Müller. The team at the Institute of Forensic Psychology took the photo to illustrate their own publication about dangerous caregivers with regard to the killing of patients. Photo credit: Leonie Janssen / Institute of Forensic Psychology

A short feeling of omnipotence that quickly goes away again: People who throw rocks from bridges onto passing cars are often pushed around and put down.
Photo credit: lightninsam / stock.adobe.com

Forensic psychologist Professor Dietmar Heubrock's know-how is sought-after when it is a matter of death, violence and abuse.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

"During the 'high stress phase', shortly before a crime is committed, there are clear behavioral characteristics that make the perpetrator 'visible'."

The first thing that catches your attention are the police hats on top of the filing cabinet. Then the doctor's coat, including stethoscope, the uniform jacket, and small police dolls. There are a lot of pictures on the walls and a framed thank you letter, all of which create the impression that this office has a lot of stories to tell. And so does its 'resident' of course, forensic psychologist Professor Dietmar Heubrock. "I was given these items of police equipment as a thank you for my help with the investigations," he says. "When a case was solved, I was sometimes allowed to choose something. I got the doctor's coat because we wanted an eye-catching image for the cover photo of our most recent publication. The publication is about how to promptly detect dangerous caregivers with regard to the killing of patients." In this context, Niels Högel, former nurse and suspected murderer of over 100 people can be named. The photo with the doctor's coat is very well done, so we are using it to illustrate this article as well.

A glimpse towards the bookshelf reveals what the forensic psychologist's teaching, research and consulting work deals with. "A Mind Running Amok", "Deadly Lust", "Stalking in Germany", "The Big Encyclopedia of Serial Killers", as well as "New Weapon Legislation 2016" – these are the subjects that detective novels and thrillers are made of. Except that for Dietmar Heubrock and his team, they aren't fiction – they are the brutal reality. Evil people abduct, abuse, and kill children; they throw stones at passing cars, or remove manhole covers at night. They torture helpless animals, fire shots and drive through crowds of people, or blow themselves up as suicide bombers.

What Makes Perpetrators Tick?

Detectives and legal experts are never as familiar with the psyche of these people as independent specialists are, like the professor at the University of Bremen. He examines the mechanisms that impel these people, tries to figure out what makes them tick, how to recognize them and what gives them away. He passes this knowledge on to the people who are supposed to prevent crimes – or catch the perpetrators once crimes have been committed. And he talks to the victims, primarily with children and adolescents. Before the turn of the millennium, when Dietmar Heubrock was still a scientific assistant at the Center for Rehabilitation Research (Zentrum für Rehabilitationsforschung) rehabilitation research at the University of Bremen, he established and managed the Neuropsychological Outpatient Clinic for Children and Adolescents. "Today, I benefit from all those years of

experience dealing with critically ill children and youths," the 60-year-old shares. "You have to come across as an authentic person and have a certain ability to empathize so that the distressed person opens up."

The questioning of traumatized victims as 'witnesses in investigative proceedings' for the authorities is truly a highly sensitive matter. According to Heubrock, you can ruin everything within seconds, causing the children and youths to close themselves off for good. "The amateur often thinks that as a psychologist, I assess and diagnose the person across from me. However, it is the other way around: The young witness is diagnosing me. Do I really mean that? How am I coming across? What is my intention? Why am I helping the police? What do I want from him or her? When I give the person across from me time and answer their questions – including the ones that aren't asked but are hovering in the room – then it is possible to successfully enter into a relationship of mutual trust, and the actual questioning can begin."

Such as in perhaps in the most prominent case that Dietmar Heubrock helped solve – that of the "Masked Man", as the perpetrator, Martin Ney, was called due to his covered face. He committed at least 3 murders and 40 sexual offenses against children between 1992 and 2001. He would enter school retreats and private homes, or creep into tents in North Germany to commit his crimes. A team of investigators, including Dietmar Heubrock, tracked down the Masked Man for many years. An important part of solving the case was the questioning of an 18-year old witness, who was abused by the Masked Man ten years prior. He eventually identified the perpetrator. "This victim was still severely traumatized even after the court proceedings. I stayed in dialog with him, even after the trial ended," Heubrock says. In 2016, the Norddeutsche Rundfunk broadcasting station put out a 60-minute long-term documentary called 'The Boy and the Masked Man' (Der Junge und der Maskenmann), in which Dietmar Heubrock and his work play an important part.

His advice is sought-after: Dietmar Heubrock at a training course at the Police Academy of Lower Saxony in Hann. Münden, were he gives a talk about audio-visual questioning during dialogs with child victims and witnesses. Photo credit: Police Academy Lower Saxony

The Omnipotence of the Stone-Thrower

The university professor is consulted again and again for his expertise. From findings on site, talking with witnesses and investigators or reading investigation results, he tries to assess the perpetrator's psychological condition and characteristics. 'Stone-throwers' for instance, are often 'losers', people who haven't really settled into their lives, or have been pushed around or 'put down'. "For a small moment, they feel all-powerful while performing these acts, like the ruler over life and death," Heubrock says. "But this feeling passes very quickly, which is why acts of this kind are always repeated within short intervals." Horse-ripping, on the other hand, is in his experience often carried out by people who act out of vengeance and choose a defenseless target for their anger. "They then project their anger towards a person from their biography onto the animal, thereby acting it out," the psychologist explains. He often speaks very carefully about his work, so as not to disclose any details of the investigative police work.

The situation at the crime scene often provides a glimpse into the psychological aspects, into something that the perpetrator did there that he or she would otherwise not do. Motives play a huge role – as well as the witness hearings described above. "When a witness says something that they themselves aren't so sure of, or that they don't impart any great significance to, it can reveal an exceptionally crucial part of the overall puzzle." Taking a look at the perpetrator and their story can also make some 'inconceivable' acts more understandable, "but not any more acceptable," the Psychologist maintains.

Research Topic: Terrorism

A more recent focus of his work is terrorism, to be specific: attacks by suicide-bombers. This topic has become the focus of research for Heubrock. He is part of a core working group of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Terrorism Research, and has published much on this topic. He frequently trains groups with his know-how, such as the GSG 9 (the elite tactical unit of the German Federal Police), special operation task forces or bodyguards of prominent politicians. This is because there are clear behavioral characteristics during the 'high stress phase', shortly before a crime is committed, that make the perpetrator 'visible'. "Someone who recognizes the signs and interprets them correctly may just be able to prevent an attack," Heubrock hopes. In addition, the expert from the University of Bremen always provides his extensive knowledge and wide scope of experience free of charge. "I don't want to profit from it." \ KAI UWE BOHN

Link to the NDR-documentary 'The Boy and the Masked Man' (Der Junge und der Maskenmann): ↗ *http://unihb.eu/Maskenmann*

YouTube

Successful in biomarker research, now also successful with a start-up: Nina Winter (front), Meike Spiekermann, Gazanfer Belge (seated), and Arlo Radtke have received international attention for their work at the University of Bremen.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

Tracking Down Testicular Cancer

How two graduates from the University of Bremen turn valuable research results into a marketable product with their start-up

You've studied, completed a doctorate, done successful research – now what? There was a day when Dr. Meike Spiekermann and Dr. Nina Winter also found themselves faced with this question. Spiekermann had collaborated on groundbreaking development in testicular cancer diagnostics and Dr. Winter had completed research and her doctorate in human genetics. As promising scientific results were ripe to be marketed, the two of them had the courage to start their own company: miRdetect.

During her studies in biology at the University of Bremen, Meike Spiekermann chose to major in human genetics. She wrote her diploma thesis and PhD dissertation under the supervision of PD Dr. Gazanfer Belge, one of the leading researchers in the area of testicular cancer – and thereby contributed to the first notable successes in this area (see text at bottom of page 53). "The response both from the clinical side as well as from the scientific community was incredible," she tells us today. She continued with this topic. 'MicroRNAs as biomarkers for patients with testicular germ cell tumors' was the subject of her doctorate and a continued scientific path seemed to be mapped out. The crowning moment was a publication in "European Urology", one of the major urological journals.

However, there is no automatism that ensures successful research will also lead to a promising scientific career. Nina Winter studied technical and applied biology at the Bremen University of Applied Sciences and then did her doctorate at the former Center of Human Genetics of the University of Bremen, however in quite a different subject area – tumor and prenatal diagnostics. Because she, like Meike Spiekermann, was faced with the question of what to do after completing the doctorate it was decided: "We are going to start our own company. The results of the biomarker research in the area of testicular cancer were so promising that we saw a market opportunity," Nina Winter explains.

Malignant Tumor in Young Men

Around the world, urological clinics are waiting for a tool that can make both the detection as well as follow-up treatment of testicular cancer easier and safer. Testicular cancer is the most frequent malignant tumor found in men between 20 and 45 years of age. An important aid in assessing the progression of the disease is determining the concentration of biomarkers in the patient's blood. However,

Testicular cancer is the most frequent malignant tumor found in men between 20 and 45 years of age.

reliable marker were unavailable to clinicians for a long time – now they are available thanks to research performed at the University of Bremen. The scientists involved have patented their work. “This was an important prerequisite for founding our company. We were advised by UniTransfer, the transfer point at the university. Being accompanied by InnoWi, the patent utilization agency of Bremen, was a big help. The EXIST Transfer of Research program, financed by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, then helped us make the first steps possible – in essence the specific development of the business idea,” says Meike Spiekermann.

miRdetect GmbH was then founded in May 2016, not only by the two biologists acting as managing directors, but also with the involvement of the research and user side of things. The company name refers to microRNA 371, the marker that detects testicular cancer. “It was not easy to get the funds together for the business start-up. But the idea and the product convinced additional investors – and also some of our relatives,” Nina Winter says with a smile.

Test Kit Will Soon Be Approved

The result of the work of miRdetect is a test kit that contains all the necessary reagents and should soon be sold to laboratories ‘ready-to-use’. “Several major customers in Germany are already emerging. The test is still in the approval process, however we will probably see it on the market by 2020,” says Meike Spiekermann. “Medical technology is a very big challenge for a start-up. The approval of medicines or products is a rocky road.” However, the fact that miRdetect came up amongst the top ten of 72 submitted business models in the Science 4Life Venture Cup in 2017 – a nationwide competition for the best business plans in the fields of Life Science, Chemistry, and Energy – shows that the start-up was considered to have great chances as a company by experts.

Whilst the bosses of miRdetect still shared their offices at the university and at the Bremen Innovation and Technology Center (BITZ) during the establishment of their company, they have now landed further north. “Despite a long search, there were no suitable facilities that met our needs in Bremen,” Nina Winter explains. They finally found what they were looking for in Bremerhaven: miRdetect has about 125 square meters of office and laboratory space available to them at the Bio Nord Biotechnology Center, which is also an environment that matches the work they are doing. And they are creating high quality jobs. For instance, Dr. Arlo Radtke, who conducted the most recent major research study with 37 European clinics together with PD Dr. Gazanfer Belge at the Faculty of Biology/Chemistry, was hired by miRdetect as soon as that work was completed. “Arlo Radtke brings the most up-to-date scientific know-how with him – and naturally the contacts to the clinics and laboratories that will possibly be part of our client base in the future", says Meike Spiekermann.

Other Types of Cancer as a Long-Term Goal

In the long term, both managing directors plan to expand the tumor verification procedure from testicular cancer to other types of cancer as well. “It is a lot of work – however, we know that our method can also be applied to other biomarkers,” Nina Winter explains. “However, that is still a vision for the future. We are taking it one step at a time!”

\ KAI UWE BOHN

Press release on Gazanfer Belge’s tumor research:
↗ *http://unihb.eu/Belge*

↑ Market opportunity thanks to successful biomarker research: The start-up miRdetect intends to expand to provide a tumor verification procedure for other types of cancer in the medium term. Photo credit: miRdetect GmbH

“Medical technology is a very big challenge for a start-up.”

Dr. Nina Winter, managing director of miRdetect

Tumor Research at the Highest Level

The work group surrounding human geneticist PD Dr. Gazanfer Belge (Faculty of Biology/Chemistry) plays an important role internationally in the research of biomarkers for testicular cancer. In 2012, a biomarker was found that signified a major step forwards in the detection and follow-up treatment of testicular cancer. In a subsequent study lasting several years – financed by the Wilhelm Sander Foundation for cancer research with 170,000 euros – this biomarker was progressively further developed in cooperation with 37 European clinics.

The accuracy of the marker is verifiably so high that clinical application is in sight. The results of this study were published in one of the highest-ranking scientific journals in the world: the Journal of Clinical Oncology. Due to the spectacular success of the research performed at the University of Bremen, the German Cancer Aid (Deutsche Krebshilfe) has decided to finance another follow-up study with 183,000 euros. The German Association of Urology (DGU) awarded the Bremen study with the Maximilian Nitze Prize at the German Urologists Conference in September 2019 – the highest scientific award of this guild.

Ponies and Parties

Enjoying fun and athleticism at the same time: The Student Equestrian Group Bremen combines community, tournaments, and fun

The greeting on Instagram says it all: “#ohhhhbremen! Do you like ponies and parties? Then come on by – we're excited to meet you!” The Student Equestrian Group Bremen returned, after a long break, in 2016. . It is open to anyone who studies in the Hanseatic City of Bremen and also feels comfortable on horseback. The latter aspect however, isn't completely true: the horses may be the connecting element, and the focus is on student competitions – yet fellow students who have nothing to do with equestrian sports, but just like spending time with a fun group of people are also welcome in the circle of the Student Equestrian Group.

↑ Nadja Neubauer during the jumping test at the CHU semi-finals in Lüneburg. Photo credit: Lünegrafie

This is because the Student Equestrian Group Bremen, the core of which consists of University students, goes out together a lot – mostly in the colder season when both the exam season and the regular competition season are over and the riding has moved indoors. The cornerstone of German student equestrianism, which represents more than 50 riding groups from university towns and cities, is the “Concours Hippique Universitaire”, which is French for “student equestrian tournaments”. Lea Remke – the current team leader of the Student Equestrian Group – and fellow riders Nadja Neubauer and Lotte Schröder, do not know exactly where this term comes from. “It doesn't matter though, because we just use the abbreviation CHU!” There are a good dozen of these tournaments across Germany within a season, and you need an invitation to participate. The group from Bremen is invited frequently: “We have travelled all the way to Dresden.”

Does that mean transporting the horses through the republic every weekend between September and May? “Not at all!” the three riders explain. “That is a special characteristic of student equestrianism: At the tournaments you ride on new horses that are provided on location by the organizers.” On the one hand, this makes planning and execution of an event of this kind a real challenge, because the participants also need to have accommodation, which includes a diverse, entertaining, colorful, and fun program. On the other hand, however, this means that the guest teams can dedicate themselves fully to the event, which includes chatting, laughing, parties and riding.

Fun As as Important as the Sport Itself

One thing quickly becomes clear about the team from Bremen: fun, diverse activities and enjoyment are just as important as the sport itself. The Student Equestrian Group was established in December 2016. “Since then, we have met almost every Wednesday at a regulars' table at different bars or restaurants in Bremen's city center,” Nadja Neubauer says. Of course, they don't just talk about riding but about all the important things in life, including academics. “Interestingly, a lot of us study law, but that is just a coincidence,” Lotte Schröder explains. Shortly after the Bremen group was founded, it participated in a CHU in Hanover in the spring of 2017 – and the winning team was: the Student Equestrian Group Bremen. “We weren't familiar with the system at all yet we still won. We were quite bewildered,” Lotte Schröder remembers.

Active Participants Need a Riding Badge

The system sounds difficult for amateurs, but for insiders it is clear as day. The most important requirement: all student riders must at least have a Class IV riding badge – proof that you can ride reasonably well. “After all, we are dealing with very sensitive and expensive animals that don't belong to us but

“We are open to everyone. Simply come and join in!”

Lea Remke, team leader of the Student Equestrian Group Bremen

On the way to the riding arena: Inga Meyenborg, Antonia Maaß, and Thassilo von Loesch are part of the Bremen Team and often train at the Hubertus Equestrian Club in Oberneuland.
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

Organising, riding, partying, having fun: Lotte Schröder, Lea Remke and Nadja Neubauer (from the left) are amongst the driving forces of the group and the dedicated chairpersons. Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

The university logo is just as much a part of the Bremen Student Equestrian Group as the riding boots they wear. After all, the majority of the riders study at the university. Here is a photo from their training – during competitions, the boots are spotless, of course … .
Photo credit: Kai Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

“Working on our own CHU brought our group even closer together.”

Nadja Neubauer from the Student Equestrian Group Bremen

to other people,” according to Lea Remke. She is a professional rider who trains horses at a farm in Sottrum, however her priority is currently her university degree. Usually, twelve teams from different university cities are invited to a student riding tournament. Each team consists of three riders – the rest of the crew are the important visiting fans, who support and cheer their team on. There are two days of riding, featuring dressage as well as jumping competitions in the categories A (Beginner), L (Easy), and M (Moderate). The best competitors qualify for the next round through a knock out system. “The special challenge for the active participants is that within the CHU competition system, you have to adapt to a different horse within just a few minutes, because they are switched in every round,” Nadja Neubauer explains.

After the victory in Hanover, the Bremen team participated in a whole series of CHUs and quickly got to know the riders from the other cities – as well as their similarities in academics, sports and partying. “We definitely do a lot of the latter!” Lotte Schröder points out. In this scene, organizing a tournament yourself is just as important as participating in the tournament, and in addition to the sport itself, the aspect of 'fun and enjoyment' has the same priority. The Bremen group hosted a CHU for the first time at the State Riding School in Hoya, just outside the hanseatic city of Bremen in March 2018,. In January 2019, a competition was organized on the grounds of the Hubertus Equestrian Club in Bremen-Oberneuland.

Airbed Camp for the Visiting Fans

“It is done with a lot of effort and attention to detail. Working on our own CHU brought our group even closer together and keeps us busy for several weeks,” says Lotte Schröder. “We have to find a riding facility, borrow horses from kind owners, find and set up a gym hall to sleep in, organize meals, provide honorary prizes, and of course, we have to organize an exciting party for Friday and Saturday night.” After the groups arrive, the student riders set up a big airbed camp, then the games, dancing, chatting and fun begins. “The mood is always terrific, even amongst those that have to actively ride the next day – they generally stay sober, since they will be riding later on,” team leader Lea Remke explains. The organization of a CHU quickly brings 60 to 70 people together, that's how many people come together now in Bremen, including all supporters. As a student equestrian tournament also costs money, finding sponsors is an important aspect as well. The University of Bremen also contributed and ensured, among other things, that the Bremen group compete in the tournaments in uniforms and with a big banner.

Established in the “Top 6”

Although the focus is on fun and camaraderie, good sport is also provided. Many riders from student equestrianism still also ride their own horses at their home clubs and some of them ride at club tournaments in level S (difficult) competitions. The Bremen Student Equestrian Group has quickly established itself in the “Top 6” among over 50 groups. And of course, there is also the German University Championship in horse riding, where focus on performance is even greater. To get into the finals – which take place in Vechta mid December 2019 – the Bremen riders must qualify at a special tournament.

The group rides impressive horses with corresponding dimensions – ponies are rarely seen. “It sounded cooler though for an Instagram greeting,” Lea Remke laughs. “And we are really open to everyone. We even have a handball player who has never sat on a horse. He thought our group was so much fun that he is often part of the team as a visiting fan. So, simply come to the regulars' table and join in!” \ KAI UWE BOHN

↗ *www.facebook.com/StudentenreitgruppeBremen/*
↗ *www.instagram.com/studentenreiter.bremen*

Rooms, media and post office: Busy Karsten Lehmkuhl enjoys his work. Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

Karsten Lehmkuhl: A Multitasking Man

The administrative unit head is a bastion of calm and dreams of a smart learning world for students

More than two decades ago when Karsten Lehmkuhl, a trained radio and television technician joined the University of Bremen, he determined his nickname by choosing “Lemmi” for his email address. Today, the friendly head is known as Lemmi throughout the whole campus.

He coordinates interfaces and resources which involve everyone – as administrative unit head, Karsten “Lemmi” Lehmkuhl is responsible for room planning and allocation, media procurement and the media office, as well as the post.

“I have a split personality,” he jokes with regard to his many duties. In his office, screens can be seen flickering, sophisticated electronics are incorporated in the meeting table and the telephone rings quietly but often. A sign hangs over his desk that reads “Situation under control.” His wife gave him this and she should know. In the daily deluge of demands, he is a bastion of calm. “I have two great bosses, the Director of Finance and Administration and the department leader and fantastic teams in all three areas,” he emphasizes on several occasions during our interview.

Rooms Free on Mondays

To plan all the rooms for lectures and seminars and also find the suitable areas for conferences and events is a challenge which he faces anew every semester. 7,000 lectures need to be accommodated in the winter semester and 6,000 in the summer semester. “I would really need 1,000 rooms,” he says but he only has 107. “Tuesdays and Thursdays is primetime,” says Lehmkuhl and points to the huge screen on the front wall of his office in GW2. This depicts how the seminars and lectures are interlinked with one another – an impressive display. “It can happen that a room is used nonstop from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.,” says the administrative unit head and laughs: “Something is always available Monday mornings between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.”

A Dream of a Learning World for Students

In the media office next door, it’s possible to borrow audiovisual communication media – anything from projectors and photo cameras to dictation devices. “We are also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep and control and programming,” says Karsten Lehmkuhl. He and his team “particularly enjoy” the latter, the creative field. “We program and develop our own software, make the equipment user-friendly, i.e. lecturer friendly (grins), and continuously learn about the latest technology at exhibitions and on courses.” The membership in the Working Group of University Media Centers (AMH) is also inspiring. With this, Karsten Lehmkuhl and his team can learn about and compare the facilities of the other universities. “In comparison, we’re in a good position,” he says. His dreams and visions include a “learning world” for students with intelligent networking, state-of-the-art equipment, multimedia tables and mobile partition walls. “Perhaps this will come with the new seminar center,” he hopes.

“We are service providers and the students and lecturers are the customers.”

“Everything Is Possible”

Behind all this work and enjoyment in the job is also a philosophy: “Everything is possible. We are service providers and the students and lecturers are the customers,” he says explaining his conviction. “We fulfil peoples’ wishes without seeing them and, in this, we sometimes have to work a little magic.” Anyone who looks closely will notice that the event office is made out of glass and the doors of the adjoining rooms of the media office are wide open. Transparency is key.

However, Lemmi who is usually friendly and helpful can also get quite cross particularly when care isn’t taken with resources. The most recent example: in a well-equipped room, a lecturer taped her paper teaching materials onto 75-inch screens (which cost 3,500 euros each). “I nearly went through the roof.” Graffiti and random placarding also really annoy him and if this happens, he often takes photos and looks for the perpetrators.

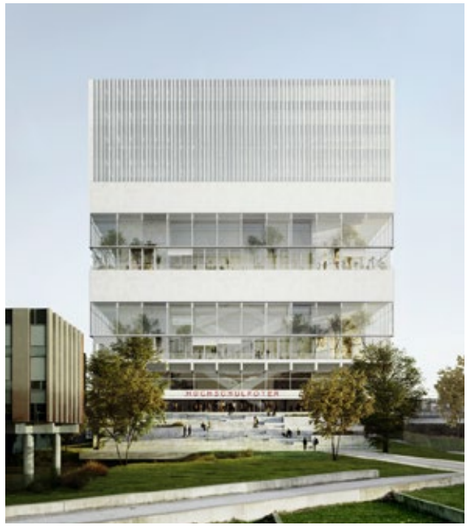
Handball Co-Trainer

As an expert in the field, Karsten Lehmkuhl also sees how digital dependency is increasing amongst the younger generation and how it can lead to a loss of a sense of reality. He has three children – a grown-up daughter and 16-year-old twins. “I make sure that they’re not always stuck behind the screen and, instead, maintain their social contacts,” he says. In their home town of Delmenhorst, all three are in the handball team (HSG) – the boys as top players and the father as a co-trainer. The team is so good that they go on long-distance tours through Lower Saxony at the weekends. “I drive a good 1,000 kilometers a month,” he says proudly. No question: whether in his job or in sport, Karsten Lehmkuhl is in control of the situation. \ KARLA GÖTZ

Diggers, Construction Cranes and Cement Mixers

New buildings for teaching and research are currently being built on campus

The modernization of the University of Bremen is progressing – extensive building and renovation projects in the coming years are set to give the campus a whole new look and provide improved study and research conditions.



The planned new lecture hall and event building directly on the boulevard. Photo credit: E2A Eckert Architects, Zurich

Diggers, construction cranes and concrete mixers are currently determining the look of many areas of the university and it will remain like this for some time. “In the next ten years it is planned that 200 million euros will be invested in new buildings and a further 150 million in renovations,” says the Director of Finance and Administration of the University of Bremen, Dr. Martin Mehrtens.

The university needs new buildings as it is bursting at the seams – despite all creative attempts to counteract the shortage of space. What’s more, this shortage is also proving to be very expensive as the university currently has to pay rent for about 40,000 square meters.

BIOM: Optimum Research Infrastructure

The construction of the new teaching and research building BIOM for the Biology department on the James-Watt-Straße, North West of the university boulevard is already well underway. This is due to be completed by the winter semester 2021/22. With 6,000 square meters, the building will offer room for 1,000 students and 100 employees. A new building was needed as the old natural sciences building (NW2) stems from the 1970s and no longer fulfils current requirements for research and teaching in biology. “State-of-the-art laboratories and facilities in the BIOM will create the ideal working conditions and strengthen the outstanding and internationally-orientated research and teaching profile of the University of Bremen,” explains the Director of Finance and Administration of the University of Bremen.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new BIOM building was held in early May 2019: Director of Finance and Administration Dr. Martin Mehrtens, Manfred Schütte-Thuy (Bremen State Science Department), President Professor Bernd Scholz-Reiter, former Science Senator Professor Eva Quante-Brandt, Senate Director of Building Professor Iris Reuther, architect Johannes Kister (left to right). Photo credit: Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

New Building to Strengthen Marine Research

Building work for the new center for deep sea research (Zentrum für Tiefseeforschung – ZfT) near to the MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences of the University of Bremen – is also due to commence soon. The cost of 38 million euros for the project with an effective area of approximately 4,000 square meters will be shared between the federal government and the state. The funds also include costs for a remote-controlled diving robot for work up to a water depth of 5,000 meters. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023.

Five New Lecture Halls

A major building project is being planned for the central campus area – a new lecture hall and event center (HVZ) will be built directly on the university boulevard and next to the NW2, in front of the GEO building. The winning design of the architectural contest incorporates a compact yet light-flooded building which, with eight stories, is orientated to the height of the Mehrzweckhochhaus (MZH). This will offer room for five lecture halls, one faculty and offices. Construction begin is planned for 2021, the 50th jubilee of the University of Bremen.

In order to make the construction of the new building possible, there will be considerable rebuilding work undertaken on the Boulevard.

Redevelopments Gather Pace

Extensive and urgently-needed redevelopment projects can now also finally start. Alongside the structural restoration of the NW2 building on the boulevard, the renovation of the MZH with its striking red building front is also due to start in the next three years. The Natural Sciences 1 (NW1) and Humanities and Liberal Arts 1 (GW1) buildings on the Universitätsallee are also planned to be renovated by 2023 at a cost of six to seven million euros each.

The Future Is in Sight

If the University of Bremen is to continue growing, it is well-prepared for it. Two areas on the Robert-Hooke-Straße are planned for use as possible expansion areas. The site here, in the direct vicinity of the Bremen Institut für Produktion und Logistik GmbH (BIBA) and the Engineering Sciences 3 (IW3) building, could offer space for new institute buildings. An area south of the Barbara-McClintock-Straße, not far from NW1, would offer space for a new natural sciences building. \ STEFANIE MÖLLER

“Social Factors Are of Major Importance”

The new health manager of the University of Bremen discusses what we need for a healthy workplace

Alexandra Baumkötter has been the health manager of the University of Bremen since the start of 2019. Her work includes analyzing working conditions and developing health measures. In this interview, she discusses what a healthy workplace is and how the university and its employees can contribute to this.

Ms. Baumkötter, what do we need for a healthy workplace?

Firstly, you have to say that work, in general, is a protective factor: people who do not work are ill more often and have poorer health than people who work. Working conditions, on the other hand, can have a negative or positive effect on our health and a healthy workplace, therefore, involves several factors. It depends on how these are put into practice.

What aspects are important here?

On the one hand, there are the general workplace conditions: What is the room like? Is there too much noise, is it too hot or similar? Is the workplace well-equipped? Can I, for example, sit comfortably at my desk? A further key point is the work organization. What are the time-related requirements of the work like? Am I able to organize my work? Will someone stand-in for me if I am ill? Do I receive all the information I need? Am I able to understand the decisions of management and are these transparent? Mental health also places a significant role: Do I feel sufficiently qualified for my work? Do I understand my work, is it meaningful for me? Social factors are also of major importance: What is the work atmosphere with my boss like? What is this like in the team? Is my work appreciated? And what is the cooperation culture like?

What has the greatest effect?

All factors should always be viewed as being connected. Social factors, however, are of considerable significance and research has shown this. Especially the cooperation with our colleagues as well as the social support represent an important factor in our health. If things are going well in this respect, employees feel good and at ease and are able to work well. The same is true for the negative aspects – if there are conflicts in the team or with supervisors this can quickly lead to employees becoming ill and not being able to work for longer periods. How the work is organized also has a major influence on employee

→ In the university’s Occupational Health Management (BGM) department, Alexandra Baumkötter ensures the work structures of the 3,500 employees are as conducive to health as possible.
Photo credit: Matej Meza / University of Bremen

“Managerial employees are role models as well as a group which is under particular pressure.”

wellbeing. There are, therefore, many starting points for creating a workplace which is conducive to health.

How does your department help employees feel comfortable in their workplace at the university?

A key element of our work in occupational health management focuses on involving employees in the organization and structure of their general working conditions. In 2018, the university conducted an employee survey. The findings of this will be analyzed in terms of individual areas within workshops in the coming years in order to enable us to develop, together with the employees, customized health measures at the university. There are always two starting points for this task: One of them is that we need to establish offers for a healthy lifestyle. However, a greater challenge lies in organizing the structures at the university and in the individual areas so that they are conducive to health. The findings of the survey highlight the areas where action is needed and these include, for example, an appreciation of work and the time-related demands of the work. We want to specify the topics in the workshops and find solutions together with the colleagues.

What can be proactively done for a healthy workplace?

You can codetermine the social factors, for example, by being respectful and cooperative with one another. You are also able to actively do something for your own health. The University of Bremen has many offers and options for its 3,500 employees.

What for example?

Several employees, for example, find it difficult that they spend so many hours sitting down and, as compensation for this, we have developed the “Active Break”. Work teams meet twice a week for 15 minutes to carry out exercises, stretching and to clear their heads. We train one person in each group to instruct the others.

Are there other health offers?

Many employees suffer from tension. We recently acquired mobile massage devices, which can be hired from administration and the faculties free-of-charge. Other areas in the university also offer employees various opportunities: For example, the University Sport Association on the campus offers a varied sports and exercise program. Some employees do yoga here. Occupational Safety offers free ergonomic advice and Personnel Development offers further training on health-related topics. And, for anyone who wants a little peace and quiet at work, there is also the Room of Silence in building GW2.

What role do managerial employees play in health management?

They have a key role as they are role models. Employees look at their supervisors to see what they do for their health and use this as an example. Managerial employees also considerably determine the working conditions and are, at the same time, a group which is under considerable pressure. This is because they are in a “sandwich position” as they are confronted with the demands of both their seniors as well as their employees on a daily basis. Management therefore requires a special program which the university offers and also intends to expand. Information on this is available on our website.

↗ *http://unihb.eu/BGM*

\ INTERVIEW BY MEIKE MOSSIG

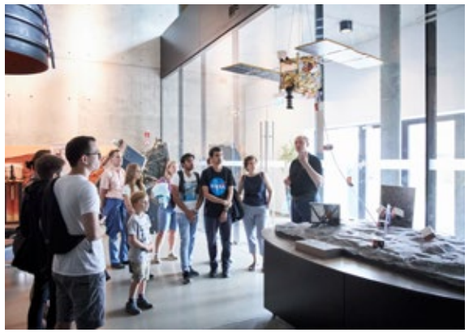
Employees can choose from one of many activities offered by the university’s sports association to keep fit.
Photo credit: Hochschul-sport e.V.

If things are going well in the team, employees feel good and are usually able to work well.
Photo credit: Matej Meza / University of Bremen

“The ‘Active Break’ which we have developed offers compensation for the many hours spent sitting down.”

Profile:

Alexandra Baumkötter has several years’ experience as a health manager in the university sector. Prior to joining the University of Bremen, the 34-year-old spent seven years working in occupational health management at the University of Oldenburg. Between 2012 and 2016 she helped establish health management and occupational integration management at the Jade University of Applied Sciences. Alexandra Baumkötter was already familiar with the University of Bremen from her days as a student: she did her bachelor’s and master’s studies in health sciences here between 2005 and 2011. She now works in the Occupational Health Management (BGM) department.



Science – To Touch, Experience, and Marvel At

Impressions of OPEN CAMPUS 2019

An all-round success! On June 15, around 20,000 visitors came to the University of Bremen's fourth OPEN CAMPUS to learn about and actively participate in the university's research and various programs. In the evening, everyone celebrated in the campus park – the concerts by Namika and Megaloh really set the festival mood. The next OPEN CAMPUS will be in 2021 when the university will also celebrate its 50th jubilee!

More information about OPEN CAMPUS here:
↗ *https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/open-campus/*

The photos in this article were taken by Martin Bockhacker / University of Bremen

Freitag 22.3.

Warum Männertage?

...Irgendwas ist los mit der Männern: Die alten Schablonen, die nur die Wahl lassen zwischen z. B. Macker und Softie, schwul und hetero, wollen nicht mehr passen. War oder war Adolf oder soll ich als Mann sein? Die Frauenbewegung hat viel ins Rollen gebracht, wichtige Impulse gegeben, festgefahrene Strukturen aufgebrochen. Jetzt ist es an der Zeit, daß auch wir Männer uns bewegen, unser Leben vom Männerstatus entwickeln.

Zur Vorgeschichte

Wir, einige Männer aus drei Bremer Männergruppen, haben uns hier mehrfach getroffen, um Männertage vorzubereiten und durchzuführen. Die positiven Erfahrungen unserer ersten »Männertage« in der Öffentlichkeit auf dem Gesundheitstag 1984 in Bremen haben uns dazu ermutigt, die dort bei den beiden Veranstaltungen »Die sexuelle Lust« und »Die zärtliche Lust« angefangene Art, fortzusetzen und noch zu erweitern. Um hierfür einen geeigneten Rahmen zu schaffen, haben wir in Zusammenarbeit mit der Universität Bremen die Männertage vorbereitet. Wir haben es bei den 501 Teilnehmern der Veranstaltungen erlebt und erwarten jetzt wie damals, daß auch viele andere Männer Lust und Interesse haben, sich weiter mit ihren/unseren Rollen auseinanderzusetzen.

Alle Veranstaltungen finden im Mehrzweckhochhaus (MZH) der Universität Bremen statt.

Was kann passieren?

...daß Männer sich zerfleischen, daß Männer zueinander weggetrieben werden, daß Männer Erfahrungen machen, die sie einander näher bringen, daß Männer Mut bekommen, sich mit sich und anderen auseinanderzusetzen.

Dies alles und noch viele kann passieren in den vorbereiteten Veranstaltungen, aber auch in spontan, während der Männertage organisierten Gruppenbildungen, zu bestimmten, selbstgewählten Themen.

Wir wollen eine breite, offene und direkte Auseinandersetzung von Männern für Männer.

Es sind drei Tage nur für Männer

Zu den Kosten

Alle Veranstaltungen sind kostenlos, die Männertage können keinen Gewinn machen.

Geld ist demnach nötig. Wir brauchen Euro-Unterstützung, deshalb spenden auf das Konto:

Uwe Kramer, Kto.-Nr. 4164830, Stichwort »Männertage«, Sparkasse Bremen.

Kontoadresse: Jörg Ehrenforth, Friesenstr. 69, 2800 Bremen (v.i.S.d.P.)

Die Vorbereitungsgruppe: Manfred Schmid, Heiner Schlichting, Bernd Wiedenmann, Uwe Kramer, Jörg Ehrenforth, Herwarth Ernst

Gestaltung: designerei, Bremen

Männer in Bewegung !
Jürgen Griffel
15.00 – 17.00 Uhr
MZH 7260

Der kranke Mann – der gesunde Mann
Arno Kneisel
15.00 – 17.00 Uhr
MZH 7530

Männerrolle, Stütze und Belastung unserer Identität
Rat und Tat Zentrum für Homosexuelle, Bremen
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
kl. Senatssaal

Gewalt gegen Knaben Mütter als Täterinnen
Gerhard Amendt, Uni Bremen
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
MZH 5360

Männer spielen miteinander !
Günther Hollenfeld, Uni Bremen
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
MZH 5310

Offener Erfahrungsaustausch: Sexualität
Herwarth Ernst, Uwe Kramer, u.a.
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
MZH 6420 Treffpunkt

Männer schreiben über sich: Gedanken, Gefühle, Beziehungen
Klaus Kuhnke, Bremen
Frank Schulz, Hamburg
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
MZH 6130

Frau weg – was nun ?
Heiner Schlichting
15.00 – 18.00 Uhr
MZH 5390

Ich verstehe meine Frau/Freundin nicht mehr
Jörg Ehrenforth
15.00 – 19.00 Uhr
MZH 5390

Donnerstag 21.3.

Eröffnungsveranstaltung

19.00 Uhr großer Senatssaal
Einleitende Worte, Sketche, Musik, ...
»drei von uns« Pantomimen Theater

1

“That Time of the Month for Men”

In 1985, the first ever Bremen Men’s Days took place at the university

From March 21 to 23, 1985, the MZH of the University of Bremen transformed into a man’s world when the “Bremer Männertage” (Bremen Men’s Days) were held there under the motto: “That time of the month for men.” The idea for the event stemmed from the third nationwide Health Day which had also been held at the University of Bremen in 1984. The “nur für Männer” events (“For men only”) unexpectedly proved to be extremely popular.

2

1
Whether the male role, men in motion or mothers as culprits, men discussed their roles with a diverse program. Photo credit: Archive of the University of Bremen

2
Male get-together at the university: In March 1985, the MZH turned into a man’s world.
Photo credit: Archive of the University of Bremen

The preparation group consisted of representatives of various men’s groups in Bremen and included psychologist Jorge Ehrenforth and carpenter Herwarth Ernst, who both later also published the conference transcript and men’s book “Gegenstimmen.”

The “New Man” at the Center

The initiators summed up their motives for holding the event in a flyer, which the Verdener Allerzeitung newspaper quoted on March 6, 1985: “The women’s movement set the ball rolling in many respects, provided important impulses and shook up entrenched situations. Now the time has come for us men to also bring about change and develop new ideas of what it means to be a man.” Meanwhile, on March 14, 1985, the Nordsee-Zeitung newspaperwrote that many men are tired of “having to live up to a role which is forced on them and of functioning only the eternally strong ones.” The event therefore wanted to focus on the “new man” – freed of old-established gender clichés which could only be found in the black and white domain of the “tough bloke” or the “softy” or were somewhere between homo and heterosexuality.

No part of the event was ever open to women. This was not, however, be viewed as an affront to women, nor as a tit-for-tat response to the “Bremen Women’s Week”, which had been open only to women but, instead, only represented the wish “to, for once, have an unrestricted forum.” (Delmenhorster Kreisblatt newspaper of March 14, 1985).

Time for Discussions

The Men’s Days offered plenty of opportunity for discussions on various topics such as “men in women’s professions” or “federal army men,” male sexuality in general, homosexuality as well as relationship problems. Disputes with parents were also discussed, particularly with a view to an understanding of the role of the men’s own fathers who found the search for a “new male identity” more alien than anything else.

Alongside the debates, there were also plenty of interactive participation opportunities, such as theatre performances by men for men, a percussion workshop, as well as relaxation exercises under the motto “Men in motion.”

Critics: “Woolen Sock-Wearing Wimps”

As expected, there was also criticism in the run-up to the event. Wherever gender identities are being radically stirred up, you will, of course, also have “traditionalists” and “reformers” clashing with one another. An article in the ZEIT newspaper of March 29, 1985, wrote that many “established men” who had no interest in questioning their understanding of their role, rejected the event from the start. They scornfully declared that only the “woolen sock-wearing wimps who don’t get on with women [...]” would take part in it. Some businesses in Bremen even banned any publicizing of the event which had the potential to “disturb the peace in the business.”

Despite this, the event organizers were still able to celebrate their event being a success. With around 1,000 visitors per day, the response was much greater than had been anticipated. The Bremen Men’s Days enjoyed a crowning finale on the Saturday evening with a “men only party” at the Hochschule für Technik college.

\ MARVIN KREMER,
UNIVERSITÄTSARCHIV BREMEN

Contact Jörg Ehrenforth for more information about the “Bremen Men’s Days”:
↗ ehrenforth@uni-bremen.de

people

Cornelius Torp was appointed professor of modern and contemporary history at the University of Bremen in March 2019. After studying history, economics and sociology and a period spent at the London School of Economics (LSE) in Great Britain, he completed his doctorate in 2004 with a thesis on the effects of the

Photo credit: private

first globalization wave on the German economy and politics before 1914. Before habilitating at Halle University in 2014, he also studied at the European University Institute in Florence (Italy) and the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies. Torp was most recently acting professor at the FU Berlin, LMU Munich and the University of Augsburg as well as the holder of the Hannah Arendt Visiting Chair at the University of Toronto (Canada). At the University of Bremen, Cornelius Torp will now further deepen his research on the history of the welfare state and the age.

Björn Rost was appointed professor of ecophysiology of marine phytoplankton in the Faculty of Biology/Chemistry in April 2019. Alongside his

Photo credit: AWI Kerstin Rolfes

work at the Alfred-Wegener Institute, Helmholtz-Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI), Rost has been teaching at the university since 2010. After studying biology at the University of Hamburg, he received his doctorate in Bremen in 2003 with a thesis on the carbon acquisition of calcifying microalgae. In 2008, he received an ERC Starting Grant from the European Research Council. Rost has been associate head of the Marine Biogeosciences Section at AWI since 2015. His research examines molecular, physiological and ecological processes in marine phytoplankton in order to better predict their reactions to climate change.

Photo credit: Marco Lezzi

Norman Sieroka was appointed professor of theoretical philosophy in the Faculty of Cultural Studies in April 2019. He grew up in Teufelsmoor, near Bremen, and studied philosophy, physics and mathematics at the universities of Heidelberg and Cambridge. He completed his doctorate in physics and philosophy and has held various posts including visiting professor of the philosophy of science at the University of Notre Dame (USA) as well as associated member of the Center of History of Knowledge in Zurich. Between 2004 and 2019, Norman Sieroka worked at the ETH Zurich (Switzerland) where he continues to be a member of the directory board of the Turing Centre as well as the governance board of the "rethink" initiative. Norman Sieroka's research fields include time, natural philosophy, philosophy of the mind and the philosophy and history of physics, mathematics and modern data science.

Photo credit: Lukas Klose

Before **Arndt Wonka** assumed the professorship of European political and social sciences at the Institute for European Studies in April 2019, he worked at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) for ten years. His scientific career began with political, sociology and law studies at the universities of Konstanz and York (Canada). His doctoral studies then took him to the University of Mannheim and his post-doctoral studies to the Institute of Advanced Studies in Vienna (Austria) and the Mannheim Center for European Social Research. Wonka's main current research field is in political mobilization through interest groups and political parties in EU politics.

Patrick Sachweh has been professor of sociology with a

Photo credit: Philipp Jarke

focus on comparative social research in the Faculty of Social Sciences and a member of the SOCIUM – Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy since April 2019. After studying social sciences at the universities of Mannheim and Bloomington (USA), he completed his doctorate at the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) in 2009 with a thesis on interpretative patterns of social inequality. His research focuses on the change in inequality, welfare state and economy from national and international comparative perspectives.

Markus Janczyk has been professor of research methods and evaluation and head of the working group 'Research Methods and Cognitive Psychology' at the newly established Department of Psychology in the Human and Health Sciences faculty since April 2019. In 2003, he completed the first state exam for the teaching degree for special needs schools at the Heidelberg University of Education before studying psychology at the University of Halle-Wittenberg and the University of Nevada at Reno (USA) where he completed his diploma in 2008. After receiving his doctorate in 2010 at the Technical University of

Photo credit: private

Dortmund, he habilitated at the University of Würzburg in 2014 with a dissertation on experimental works on human behavior. Between 2014 and 2019, he was junior professor of cognitive psychology at the University of Tübingen. His main areas of research include behavior planning and multi-tasking, memory as well as the understanding of language.

The members of the Minds, Media, Machines (MMM) science network named professors **Tanja Schultz** and **Michael Beetz** as speaker duo in

Photo credit: University of Bremen

Photo credit: University of Bremen

April. They are taking over the position from Professor Kerstin Schill, who has been president of the Institute of Advanced Study (HWK) since October 2018. Both work in the Faculty of Mathematics / Computer Science. Here Schultz is head of the Cognitive Systems Lab while Beetz is director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IAI) and spokesperson of the collaborative research center EASE. Minds, Media, Machines is an interdisciplinary research network that aims to contribute to the transfer of human performance onto technical systems.

Julia Brühne was appointed junior professor of transnational media literature studies in May 2019. She studied romance,

Photo credit: Eddie Rossi

American and theatre studies in Munich and Santiago de Compostela (Spain) after which she went to Mainz University in 2009, where she completed her doctoral studies in 2014. Between 2014 and 2019, she was research assistant and teacher for special duties for romance literature and cultural studies in Mainz. Brühne is particularly interested in how past and current social crises are reflected, replicated, captured and transformed in literature, film, series, painting and social media.

Educationalist **Ludwig Huber** died on May 10, 2019, at the age of 82 years. Huber was professor of pedagogy at the University of Bielefeld and expert for research-based learning. Prior to entering into emeritus status in 2001, he also led the Oberstufenkolleg (preparatory college) of

Photo credit: University of Bremen

the University of Bielefeld as scientific head. Ludwig Huber's publications on research-based learning form an important conceptual pillar in the orientation of teaching and learning scenarios at the University of Bremen, which is reflected in the mission statement, teaching and strategy 2018-2028. Moreover, Huber provided support for the University of Bremen as a member of the expert circle for the ForstAintegriet project.

Photo credit: University of Bremen

Bettina von Helversen was appointed professor of general psychology at the new Department of Psychology of the University of Bremen in May 2019. After studying psychology at Erlangen University, she completed her doctorate at the Humboldt University of Berlin with a scholarship from the IMPRS LIFE PhD program at the Max-Planck Institute of Human Development in Berlin. She habilitated at the University of Basel (Switzerland) in 2015, where she worked as research assistant from 2009 to 2016. She subsequently held a SNSF professorship of the Swiss National Science Foundation for cognitive decision-making psychology at the University of Zürich (Switzerland). Her research focusses on how people make judgements and decisions.

Bremen junior researcher **Matheus Eduardo Leusin** has been honored for his research

Photo credit: Matej Meza

on the global race for artificial intelligence. In June, he was awarded the EAEPE-EMAEE junior researcher prize 'Best Political Economy Paper' at the European Meeting on Applied Evolutionary Economics (EMAEE) at the University of Sussex in Brighton, Great Britain. Leusin studied engineering sciences at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil. He is a research assistant and doctoral candidate in the working group 'Innovation and structural change' led by Professor Jutta Günther and a member of the graduate group 'Diginomics' in the Business Studies & Economics faculty.

Dr. **Dini Adyasari** of the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) and

Photo credit: ZMT

the University of Bremen was awarded the 2019 Bernd-Rendel Prize at the beginning of June. Since 2002, the German Research Association (DFG) has been annually awarding the prize for scientific purposes, which comes with 2,000 euros prize money, to geoscientists who have not yet completed their doctorate. Adyasari comes from Indonesia, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the Institute Teknologi Bandung in 2010. She completed her Master of Science in Environmental Technology at the University of Stavanger in Norway. As a doctoral candidate she conducted research in the working group 'Submarine Groundwater Discharge' at the ZMT since 2015. Adyasari has, meanwhile, completed her doctorate at the University of Bremen.

Dr. **Friederike Gesing** of the artec Sustainability

Photo credit: private

Research Center has been accepted into the group of the Postdoc Academy for Transformational Leadership 2019-2021 by the Robert-Bosch Institution. The European program is aimed at the next generation of leading scientists in the field of sustainability and transformation research. The academy's focus is currently on "Scaling Sustainability" which deals with complex sustainability challenges according to various standards. Gesing is contributing her ongoing research in the environmental practice field of nitrogen.

Professor **Thomas Frauenheim** has been awarded a research prize as part of the Thousand Talents Program for international scientists in China and has been appointed professor at the Computational Science Research Center (CSRC) Peking (China). With an extensive research budget, the physicist will help establish a new branch of this institute in Shenzhen in Guangdong, a special economic zone in South China. Frauenheim's research subjects include computer-aided material sciences and he is developing the open source software package

Photo credit: private

DFTB+, which is being used in academic and industrial research worldwide for the development of new materials.

Elda Miramontes García was appointed junior professor for sedimentology in the Geosciences faculty and at the MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen in June 2019. She studied marine sciences at Vigo University (Spain) from 2008 to 2013 and researched submarine slides and deep-sea sediment dynamics from 2013 to 2016. García completed her doctorate as an assistant at the Ifremer National Institute for Ocean Science

Photo credit: Volker Diekamp / MARUM

at Brest University (France) in 2016, where she was also a postdoc between 2017 and 2019. Her research interests lie in the formation of sedimentary systems in the deep sea with special focus on the influence of seabed currents on deposition processes.

Scientists of the University of Bremen have won the Best Research Demo Award at the IEEE Computer Society Annual Symposium on VLSI (ISVLSI) which was held in Miami (USA) in July. They were honored for the "fiction" software which they developed together with researchers of the University of Linz and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence

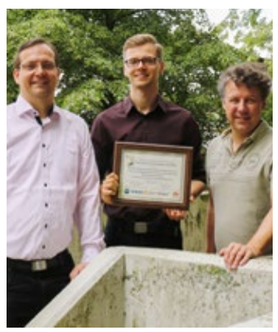


Photo credit: University of Bremen

(DFKI). The software enables the fully automated design of pioneering nanotechnologies. Professor Rolf Drechsler and Dr. Daniel Große (both University of Bremen and DFKI GmbH), as well as Marcel Walter (University of Bremen) participated in the work.

Prof. **Rolf Drechsler** (right) and Dr. **Daniel Große** (left), both from the University of Bremen and DFKI GmbH, and **Marcel Walter** from the University of Bremen (center).

Computer science professor **Kerstin Schill** was voted to be one of two vice presidents of the German Research Association (DFG) in July. Schill has been head of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroinformatics since 2003 and was dean of the Computer Science / Mathematics faculty until 2018. She has been president of the Institute for Advanced Study in Delmenhorst since 2018. Schill studied computer science at the Technical University of Munich and completed her doctorate in human biology at the Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich. From 2012, she worked in scientific self-

Photo credit: Kai-Uwe Bohn / University of Bremen

governance as a member of the specialist faculty for computer science at the LMU, from 2014 as senator and since 2018, she has been a member of the DFG Commission of Experts for Science in the Digital Age.

Professor **Michael Schulz** was voted into the senate of the German Research Association (DFG) at its general

Photo credit: Margit Wild / / MARUM

meeting in July. The marine scientist has been the director of MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen since 2012. As a member and director of DFG senate commissions, he has been active in the committees of the DFG since 2004. The senate of the DFG is the council for scientific policy-related concerns. It is responsible for overall research matters and advises governments, parliaments and authorities with scientifically-based opinion.

In the re-elections of various committees in July 2019, the senate of the German Research Association (DFG) voted Professor **Karin**

Photo credit: University of Bremen

Gottschall of the University of Bremen into two important committees. Gottschall is professor of sociology in the Social Sciences faculty and departmental head of the SOCIUM Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy of the University of Bremen. She has become a member of the DFG Senate Committee for Collaborative Research Centers and, with this, also a member of the DFG Grants Committee for Collaborative Research Centers.

Professor **Werner Schliwa** died on July 27, 2019, at the age of 94 years. After working as a junior high school teacher, Werner Schliwa began his scientific career in the field of zoology in Oldenburg in 1958 and later in Braunschweig. He began his work in teacher training at the Bremen School of Education in 1968 and, in

Photo credit: private

1973, joined the University of Bremen where he taught didactics, zoology and botany. Schliwa was known for carrying out various Alpine-Mediterranean excursions. As an educationalist, he co-published a series of schoolbooks and conducted research on "experiments in biology lessons." Werner Schliwa was given emeritus status in 1992.

In the frame of the research fellowship for experienced researchers awarded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Professor **Cristiano Mazur Chiessi** joined the MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen in August 2019 for a six-month stay. During his research stay, Chiessi will focus on the effects of climate change on the Amazon rain forest and the so-called Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, colloquially known as the Gulf Stream. Chiessi was a student of the University of Bremen during his doctoral studies as he completed his PhD there after his geology studies at

Photo credit: private

the University of São Paulo (Brazil). From 2012-13, Chiessi was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Delmenhorst.

Professor **Franz Petermann** died on August 1, 2019. He was appointed professor of clinical psychology at the University of Bremen in 1991 and worked in the fields of clinical psychology and psychological diagnostics, as well as development and rehabilitation psychology.

Photo credit: University of Bremen

In the German-speaking region, he is regarded as the co-founder of child psychology. He established an outpatient clinic for children and young people at the University of Bremen – the Center for Clinical Psychology and Rehabilitation (ZKPR). Petermann, together with Professor Olaf Köller, was the head of the research association "BRISE – Bremen Initiative to Foster Early Childhood Development" of the Federal Ministry of Research and Education since December 2016.

On October 1, 2019, Professor **Eva-Maria Feichtner** started her second term in office as vice president. The Academic Senate (AS) reelected her as vice president with a clear majority in June. Within the University Executive Board, she will be responsible for the areas "International" and "Diversity" at the University of Bremen until 2022. Her first term in office began on October 1, 2017. Prior to this, the mathematics professor was a member of the Academic Senate for several years and representative for inclusive study. Feichtner sees the further development of international partnerships,

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especially with Cardiff University and within the framework of the YUFE network on a European level, as her main duty for the coming years. A further important issue of hers is the promotion of equality and diversity at the university.

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