



»On the Trail
of the Excellence Initiative«

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ROMY WOLLTE UNSERE IT-STRATEGIE MITGESTALTEN. WIR GABEN IHR DIE MÖGLICHKEIT DAZU. Im Frühling 2009 wurde Romy mit dem Aufbau einer IT-Management-Schulung betraut, um die Implementierung eines neuen Betriebsmodells zu begleiten. Heute ist diese Ausbildung ein strategisches Programm zur Prozessoptimierung. Die daraus resultierenden Impulse bedeuten für uns einen grossen Schritt – die Erfahrungen und Kontakte zum Top-Management für sie einen Karrieresprung. Lesen Sie Roms Geschichte unter credit-suisse.com/careers

Dear Reader,

The University of Konstanz has always been full of life and activity. Thanks to the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments, the university received additional impetus in 2007. Every area of the university, from research to academic services, took up this fantastic opportunity and increased their efficiency and performance even further. The top academics feel more comfortable in Konstanz than ever before, as proved the number of prizes that have been awarded. For example, the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize – the most highly valued research prize in Germany, presented six times to Konstanz – conferred on Jürgen Osterhammel; the Max Planck Research Award presented to Aleida Assmann; and the various Reinhart Koselleck-Projects for Konstanz researchers, which have all impressively proven the university's feats and accomplishments.

Without the promotion of young talent, there would be no top performance. With the Zukunftskolleg, a unique hotbed of talent for young academics from all over the world; the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology; the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, with its PhD programme on »Cultures of Time« as well as numerous doctoral researcher programmes; an international centre for young researchers at the University of Konstanz has been created. Indeed, this may soon even be further strengthened with the proposed Graduate School of Decision Sciences.

This fruitful and productive growth has been made apparent for all during the past four years as new buildings have been erected. I would be delighted if you would allow me to take you on a personal guided tour through the new premises and facilities, of which all of us can be very proud, in this special edition of uni'kon. I am particularly pleased to see that the kindergarten »Kinderhaus«, with its stunning architecture, has just been opened. This, too, will serve to create new life on the campus, enabling all of us to look into the future with optimism.



Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rüdiger
Rector of the University of Konstanz





Building P-Nordarm

Ever more new research alliances are emerging in the natural sciences at Konstanz. We, the University's Executive Staff, truly welcome this development. The new building, the so-called »Nordarm« (northern extension) of the physics tract, has now created the space needed to form new innovative constellations and initiatives.



Building V

Academic Staff Development, Research Support, Communication-Information-Media (KIM), the Executive Support Unit for Quality Management, Controlling and also Communications and Marketing: this new range of services meant that the administrative building had to be increased with an extra floor.



Building J

Built even before the successes within the Excellence Initiative, the Book Area J is the youngest part of the library and represents a future that has already begun: with its new literature search engine, »KonSearch«, one can search through an incredible 100 million titles.



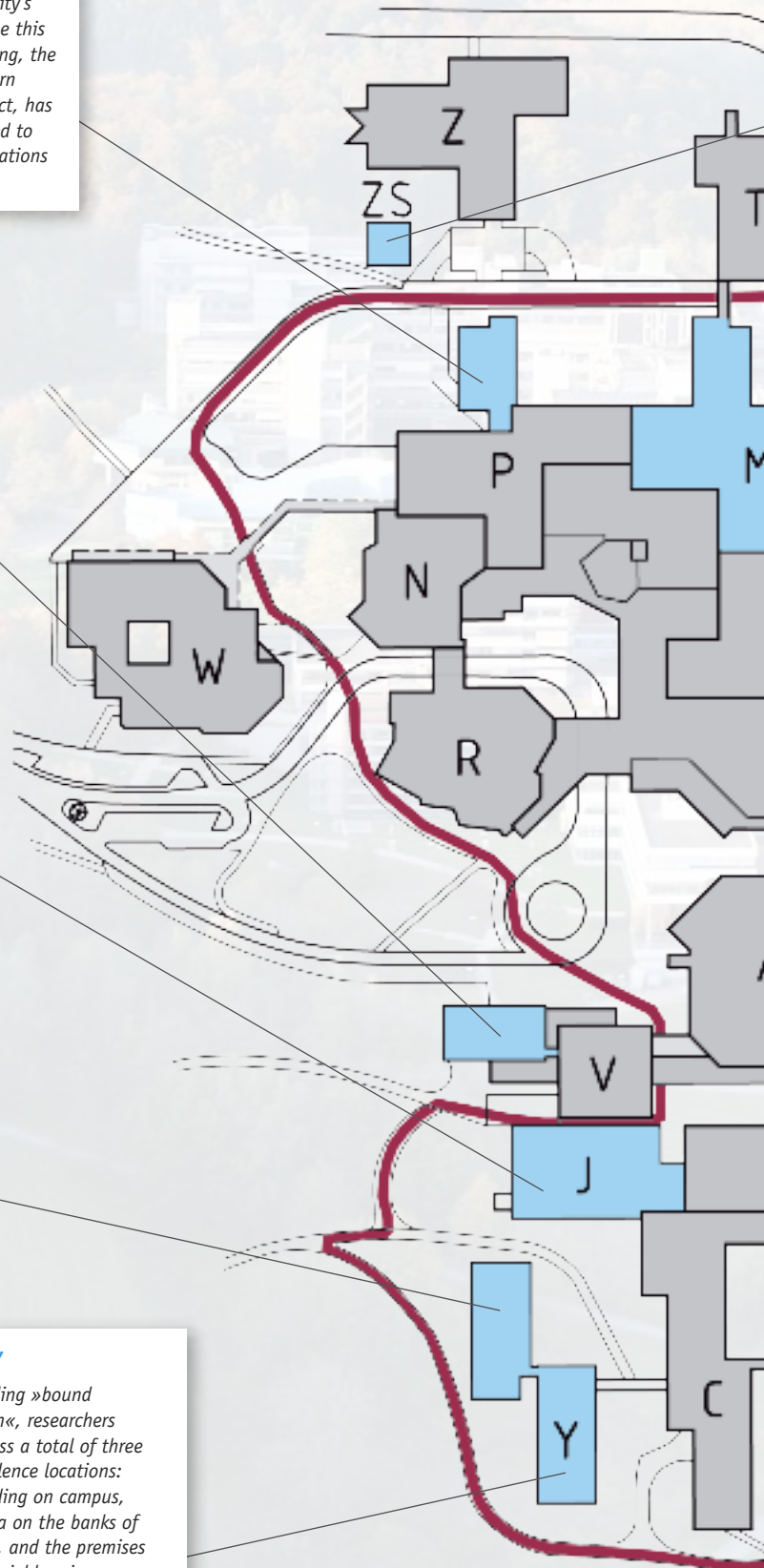
Building Y

The Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration« and the Zukunftskolleg share half each of this double building. To the rear, the Zukunftskolleg now has a home of its own at the university's campus: more can be achieved by working together than working alone.



Building Y

Under the heading »bound decentralisation«, researchers are spread across a total of three Cluster of Excellence locations: the new Y Building on campus, the Bischofsvilla on the banks of the Rhine River, and the premises of Seeburg in neighbouring Kreuzlingen, Switzerland.



Building ZS

Behind this enclosure lies a single but gigantic gadget, more than four metres high: the new scanning tunnelling microscope at the University of Konstanz. It is truly multi-talented, being not only capable of analysing nano objects, but also being able to manipulate them. As its metrological readings are so sensitive, the device has to be surrounded by concrete.



Building M

Home to Professor Elke Deuerling's working group, who with the »Freedom for Creativity« used one of our future concept possibilities for the application initiative of a special research area. The new research field is one more milestone in interdisciplinary cooperation between the fields of Chemistry and Biology at the University of Konstanz.



Building ML

The new building is scheduled for completion in autumn 2012 when the Konstanz Research School Chemical Biology will move in and, if everything goes to plan, will be joined by the proposed collaborative research centre for »Chemical and Biological Principles of Cellular Proteostasis«. The working groups currently still based at the district »Sonnenbühl«, our only »outpost«, will also move here.



Building F

A hopeful future lies behind these walls. With the proposed Graduate School of »Decision Sciences« we have moved into the second phase of the Excellence Initiative. On the basis of the draft proposal, Professor Leo Kaas was invited to submit a final proposal. The results will be seen on 15 June 2012.



»Kinderhaus«

My favourite new building, not only because of its fantastic location but also because it has brought us one enormous step forward in promoting families and therefore progress in gender equality. Above all though, because of its user community: it has room for children aged between six months and six years. They will love their new house. I guarantee it.





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› Institutional Strategy

Being drawn up specifically for the purpose of participating in the Excellence Initiative, the Institutional Strategy of the University of Konstanz is designed precisely to take advantage of the special features and characteristics of a university that is located along the banks of Lake of Constance and the tri-border area. It declares a »Culture of Creativity« as its fundamental principle.



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› Cluster of Excellence

With professorships and institutional measures, the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration« has ensured that the University of Konstanz continues to be an internationally networked centre of cultural studies research even beyond the term of the Excellence Initiative.



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› Gender Equality

Gender-neutral concepts, support for families and for women have been combined in one complete package. They form their own pillar within the university's Institutional Strategy and exert an influence on each and every area within the university itself.



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› Internationality

Being visible at an international level and bringing international cutting-edge research to Konstanz, while also promoting the international mobility of students, internationalisation is fostered at several levels at the University of Konstanz.



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› Communications

In the course of the Excellence Initiative, a new Executive Support Unit for Communications and Marketing (KUM) was established. It aims, through projecting a unified image of the university and supporting its dialogue with the public, to increase the university's visibility.

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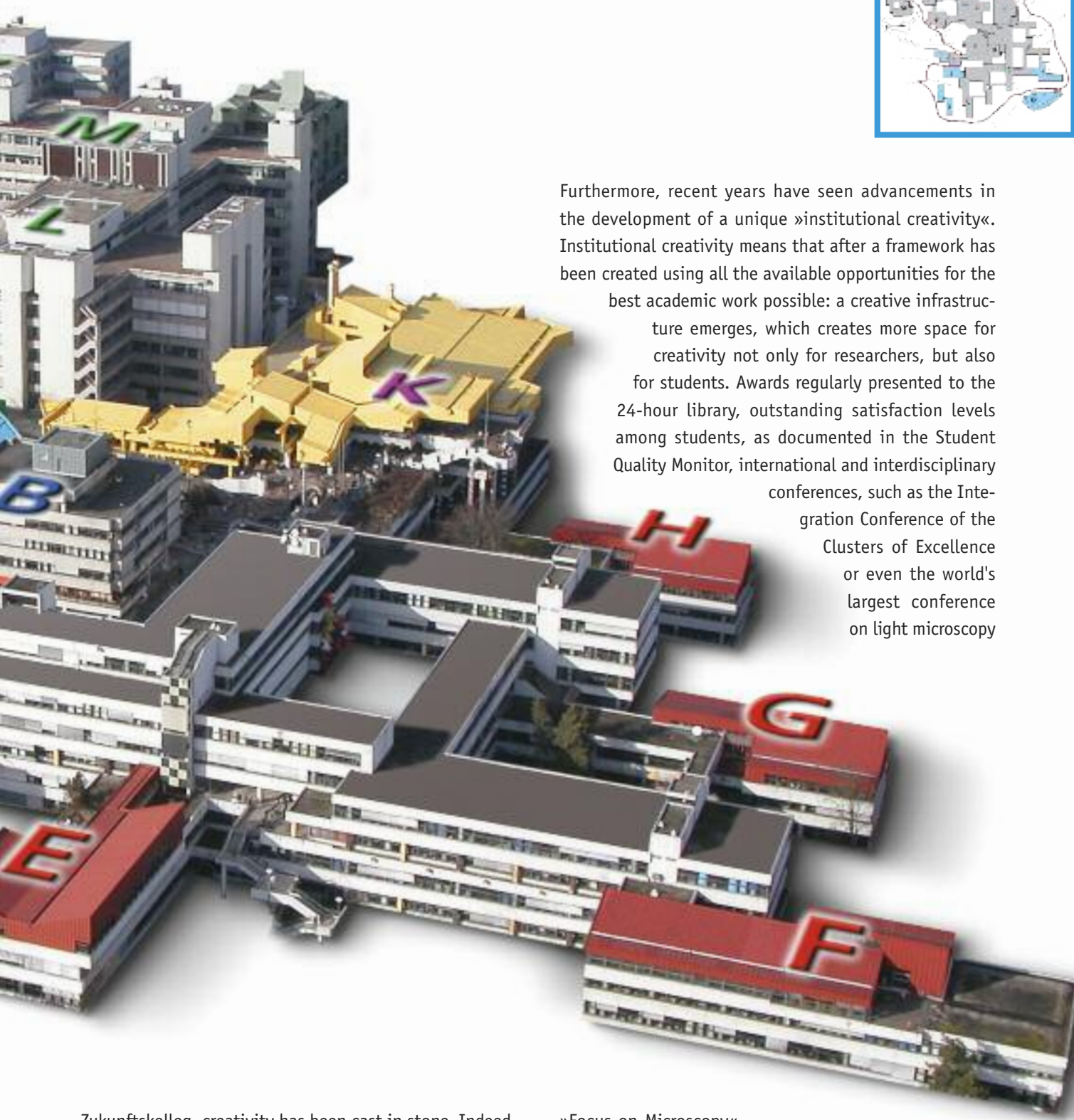
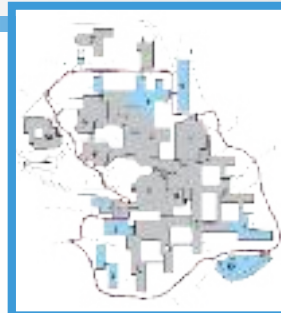
»Modell Konstanz«

Creativity in Research, Teaching and Study

Small but excellent? More than that: small and versatile, fast, flexible and also highly focused, open and extremely innovative. The Institutional Strategy of the University of Konstanz is so convincing because it's perfectly tailor-made: it uses the university's special features and characteristics to the best of its ability in a region where three countries meet, along the banks of Lake Constance, in order to nurture a »Culture of Creativity«. This culture was stated to be the fundamental principle of the Institutional Strategy drawn up for the Excellence Initiative by the German federal and state governments.

Those who look more closely at the university will soon understand that in all its various activity fields and areas, the establishment of creative instruments, creative forms of collaboration and the courage to engage in creative research approaches

have asserted themselves throughout. Besides the core priorities in promoting top-level research and young researchers, this also means that the creativity itself has presented ideal conditions for top-level research. In the research initiatives, in the freedoms for creativity, and in promoting young researchers, as practised at and by the



Furthermore, recent years have seen advancements in the development of a unique »institutional creativity«. Institutional creativity means that after a framework has been created using all the available opportunities for the best academic work possible: a creative infrastructure emerges, which creates more space for creativity not only for researchers, but also for students. Awards regularly presented to the 24-hour library, outstanding satisfaction levels among students, as documented in the Student Quality Monitor, international and interdisciplinary conferences, such as the Integration Conference of the Clusters of Excellence or even the world's largest conference on light microscopy

Zukunftskolleg, creativity has been cast in stone. Indeed, creativity also presents itself in concrete projects, such as the infrastructural platforms, which pave the way for the best possible interdisciplinary collaboration and use of facilities by developing a bundle of specially focused offerings produced by the research infrastructures.

»Focus on Microscopy«
– all these features, to name but a few, have proven at a national and international level:

The »Modell Konstanz« is both effective and convincing.
» hd.

Freedom for Creativity

Professor Elke Deuerling used the opportunities created in connection with the Institutional Strategy at the University of Konstanz to submit a proposal for a Collaborative Research Centre.

From her office, Professor Elke Deuerling can look down directly onto the building site for the new premises of Chemical Biology. Just a few weeks ago, the topping out ceremony was celebrated, and although the noise of the construction work cannot be overheard in her office, the Professor of Molecular Microbiology raves about the view: »It is a real pleasure to watch this building, one that is of such importance to us, grow every day«. Even though the interdisciplinary cooperation between the biologists and chemical scientists has become part of everyday business due to institutions such as the Konstanz Research School Chemical Biology or the study programme, Life Sciences in Konstanz, collaboration between the two disciplines is still not an everyday occurrence in the academic world. With Elke Deuerling's new research initiative, a further milestone will be added, with which cross-disciplinary cooperation in Konstanz can be further extended.

The biologist came to Konstanz in the spring of 2007 and has since then not only set up her professorship and her working group, but has also started a joint initiative for a Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) with a total of 18 sub-project leaders. Entitled »Chemical and Biological Principles of Cellular

Proteostasis«, a proposal was submitted to the German Research Foundation (DFG) under Deuerling's lead responsibility, which combines the Departments of Chemistry and Biology.

Its research objective focuses on the activity of protein molecules. Each biological cell has many thousands of various proteins which keep the cell working and enable them to adapt to their surroundings. The proposed SFB aims to study which processes

can be used to control the proteins and their activities in space and time. The decisive factor in this project is the interdisciplinary research approach: »What is important about our initiative is that the collaboration between groups from the fields of chemistry and biology can serve to develop new research methods and strategies that had previously not been accessible for us«, says the molecular biologist of one of the great opportunities of the research project.

»Being able to watch the growth of what is, for us, an immensely important building, is a real pleasure.«

Prof. Dr. Elke Deuerling



Prof. Dr. Elke Deuerling has been responsible for the working group on Molecular Microbiology at the University of Konstanz since 2007. She was previously a Heisenberg Fellow and Group Leader at the Centre for Molecular Biology, University of Heidelberg. Her research work has been distinguished several times, for example with the FEBS Young Researchers Award for the most outstanding publication.

The on-site review of the initiative has already been completed, however, the scientist clearly points out that the decision on the SFBs will only be made in November. The rapid submission of the proposal was made possible not

least by two actions in the Institutional Strategy of the University of Konstanz: at first, the initiative was started as a research initiative, namely the »Interdisciplinary Research Center for Proteostasis« with a start-up grant provided from the third funding line of the Excellence Initiative. After the first review of the research concept, when the German Research Foundation (DFG) had recommended a full proposal to be submitted, Elke Deuerling was able to draw on additional support from the Institutional Strategy: the »Freedom for Creativity«. Using this tool, it is possible to release outstanding researchers from

their academic self-administration duties and to allow them to apply for a reduction in their teaching commitments, through which special research projects can be advanced.

Specifically, this means that Deuerling was able to employ a postdoctorate researcher for a period of one year, who looked after the Bachelor's students and took on individual teaching commitments and duties. As a result of this support, she was given the room she needed to concentrate on drawing up and coordinating the SFB proposal. In this way, Deuerling was not only given more time for her re-

»The flexible framework for the design of open spaces plus the direct channels of communication in Konstanz have greatly contributed to us being able to drive the development of this proposal forward so quickly, efficiently and, so far, successfully«

Prof. Dr. Elke Deuerling

search initiative, but was also assured that neither the support given to the students nor her own research would suffer from this priority focus. »The flexible framework for the design of open spaces plus the direct channels of communication in Konstanz have greatly contributed to us being able to drive the development of this proposal forward so quickly, efficiently and, so far, successfully«, emphasised Elke Deuerling. How the project proceeds will be seen in the winter – by then, the building site in front of her window will have made some progress. **hd.**

International Tandem Partners

»Freedom for Creativity« not only benefits the research projects of individual researchers, but the University of Konstanz as a whole – and, above all, its students. With the objective of advancing internationality in teaching and research, visiting academics from all over the world are invited to Konstanz, where they serve as so-called tandem partners, to fill in the teaching of those researchers who had access to »Freedom for Creativity«. Consequently, the proportion of English-taught courses has increased and, by intensifying liaisons before, after, and of course during their time as tandem partners, the University of Konstanz's worldwide network is extended even further.

These international contacts arise above all as a result of the commitment of the tandem partners, and also of the University's students, who benefit from the international support provided at top level. Furthermore, the tandem partners contribute to keeping teaching and research at the University at the highest level in comparison with international standards – a system everybody profits from.

Info

Infrastructural Platform INCIDE

Creativity in Research, Teaching and Study

Since October 2009, the University of Konstanz has had an Infrastructural Platform, the INCIDE Centre (Interdisciplinary Centre for Interactive Data Analysis, Modelling and Visual Exploration), which was established to support researchers in the analysis and visualisation of acquired data. Headed by the Junior Professor of Visual Computing, Dr. Dorit Merhof, the centre was placed at the interface between the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology, the Department of Computer and Information Science, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Research Training Group on »Explorative Analysis and Visualisation of Large Information Spaces«.

Particularly in the fields of biology and chemistry, highly-complex scientific data is collected, for which information scientists at INCIDE develop algorithms and research analysis techniques. In the field of image processing and data visualisation, INCIDE collaborates closely with the Bio-Imaging-Centre (BIC) at the University, which specialises in the fields of high-resolution optical microscopy, digital image acquisition, and signal quantification.

After the first two years, the interim report for the infrastructural platform is impressive: INCIDE has in this time contributed to some 40 individual projects and offers a regular Bio-Informatics Consultation service as well as continuing education and training courses for fundamental image processing tools. »Naturally, the initial challenge was to convince the computer scientists of the fact that we are able to develop techniques for analysing their data that are not only faster and more efficient, but are also more precise and reliable than manual processing,« says Dorit Merhof, explaining the initial reservations at the centre, which were overcome through presentations and open days.

However, the work done by INCIDE must by no means be understood as purely a service. The collaboration between data analysis experts and academics from the fields of Biology and Chemistry ensures that the interdisciplinary synergies are used as efficiently as possible. The research goal at the centre, namely to raise and acquire projects



Junior Professor Dr. Dorit Merhof received her doctorate following her computer science studies at the Chair of Computer Graphics, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. This was followed by a two-year stay abroad in Oxford, where she had a research position in the industry and worked together with the University of Oxford. Since October 2009, Dorit Merhof has been at the University of Konstanz as Assistant Professor of Visual Computing and heads the infrastructure platform INCIDE.

with which new research relevant algorithms can be developed, has already been fully met and is reflected, not least, by the numerous successful publications that have been produced in recent years.

» hd.



The Focused Nurturing of Young Talent

The Zukunftskolleg

Promoting young researchers at top-level: the Zukunftskolleg is one of the major pillars of the Institutional Strategy at the University of Konstanz. Located in the tri-border region on the banks of Lake Constance, an international centre for young researchers has been developed with a basic structure that can be focused on four key characteristics: independence, autonomy, interdisciplinarity and no administrative constraints – this is how young researchers should be able to research at the Zukunftskolleg. On the one hand, the up-and-coming academics are offered the space needed for their own, independent research. On the other, the cross-disciplinary work done within the community of fellows, coupled with close ties between the university's departments and infrastructure, offers the essential backing for the young researchers.

Twice a year, five exceptional post-doctoral scientists from Natural Sciences, the Humanities and Social Sciences all over the world are chosen to become Fellows of the Zukunftskolleg in a competitive selection procedure.

The 40 selected Fellowships in total are awarded for 18 months and extended by up to a total of five years if the Fellows have had their external funding proposal approved within the first two years. The promotion of young researchers at the Zukunftskolleg does not concentrate solely on a disciplinary or financial level, however: from providing support with the proposal submission procedure through opportunities for inviting Senior Fellows to Konstanz, as well summer schools and workshops and all the way through to childcare services, the academics not only get the backing they need but also all the support and assistance required to strengthen their position. They learn at an early stage to deal with funding proposals, manage human resources and staff, raise external funds and to present their work not only at disciplinary level but also at a cross-disciplinary level. Communication is

a decisive factor for success at the Zukunftskolleg: from the common rooms to the weekly Jour Fixe and the annual academics retreat, the Fellows explain, listen, discuss and understand – across all subjects, languages and academic ranks.

› hd.



Spoilt for Choice

Zukunftskolleg Fellow
and Philosopher of Science
Dr. Samuel Schindler chose
the University of Aarhus,
Denmark



Dr. Samuel Schindler has been a Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg since July 2009 and a Member of the Board of the Zukunftskolleg since April 2011. He was selected for the Emmy Noether Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG) in January of this year and was assigned a research group for his project »Towards a New Epistemology of Science«.

Dr. Samuel Schindler must, for his research competencies, master three disciplines all at once: first of all, he is a philosopher of science who studies the history of science, from which he examines theories that have their roots in the natural sciences. It was not only because of this interdisciplinary approach, but rather above all on account of his academic career path that he became an exemplary Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg at the University of Konstanz. His research project »Towards a New Epistemology of Science« was selected for the Emmy Noether Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG) at the beginning of the year, and is currently only the fifth philosophical project of presently more than 600 projects to have received this distinction so far.

»Without the integration into the Zukunftskolleg, I would never have come up with the idea of applying for this kind of external funding support,« says Samuel Schindler and also pays tribute to the support that he was

provided with during the proposal submission process. Only shortly after the approval for the DFG programme, a further career prospect did open up for the third youngest Zukunftskolleg Fellow: since October 2011, the Konstanz academic holds a professorship at the Department of Science Studies at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. Consequently, he had to choose one of the two career paths that had been paved through his work at the Zukunftskolleg.

Samuel Schindler's research work addresses a concept on »theory-led data reliability judgements«. This theory is best illustrated by historical case studies, such as the discovery of the DNA structure by James Watson and Francis Crick from 1953. According to the state of research at the time, there was seemingly contradictory evidence presented by the biophysicist Rosalind Franklin. Where on the one hand, the evidence seemed to indicate a helix structure, other collected data seemed to contradict this idea. The English scientist, Rosalind Franklin, tried to

develop a DNA structure that reflected the situation for both data sets. Watson and Crick, by contrast, saw their assumption of a helical structure confirmed by the fact that only one of these data sets corresponded with a theoretical deviation, including, amongst others, that of Crick. The two researchers ignored Franklin's »anti-helical« dataset by assuming that this dataset had to be erroneous – without, however verifying this in detail.

How can this behaviour by the researchers be explained? What caused the scientific community, despite the published negative facts, to see Watson and Crick's structure as confirmed? Questions like these

lie at the heart of Samuel Schindler's project. He assumes that theories with certain properties and characteristics steer researchers in the assessment of experiments. In the case of the discovery of the DNA structure, for example, the »elegance« of the theory contributed to its positive evaluation. The elegant (but as yet unconfirmed) replication mechanism at the time, suggested by the double

»Without the integration into the Zukunftskolleg, I would never have come up with the idea of applying for this kind of external funding support.«

helix, had made a decisive contribution to the fact that Watson and Crick's model had been taken so seriously, in contrast to the seemingly positive evidence and contrary to the seemingly negative evidence. With case studies like these, Schindler casts doubt on the traditional differentiation between theories and data evaluation. He assumes that both these problem areas are closely interlinked with

each other in scientific practice. In further historical case studies, such as the discovery of »neutral flows« for example, Schindler tries to verify the thesis of theory-led data reliability judgements.

Dr. Samuel Schindler

Even though the Zukunftskolleg Fellow could not take the DFG programme with him to Denmark, he is confident that he will be able to advance his research work in Aarhus: »The combination of the history of science and research philosophy of science and research practised in Aarhus offers me an ideal research environment«, says Schindler, looking forward to his future.

» hd.

Success in Numbers

Since the foundation of the Zukunftskolleg in November 2007, 22 Fellows have left the Kolleg with success and in this way, long before the end of their funding, have been able to use the springboard of the Zukunftskolleg for their continuing career path. In the meantime, 14 of these Fellows have directly received a professorship and two a permanent position in a research institution.

So far, the Fellows alone have raised more than 6.5 million Euros from external funding organisations. Furthermore, numerous prizes have been awarded, with which the young academics from the Zukunftskolleg have been distinguished, such as the Karl Winnacker scholarship and a total of three ERC Starting Grants. Among the Fellows currently working at the Zukunftskolleg, there are six Emmy Noether Group Leaders, a Helmholtz Young Investigator Group Leader, a Sofja Kovalevskaja Awardholder, a Heisenberg Fellow, and a member of the WIN-Kolleg at the Heidelberger Academy.

Info

Voluntarily Undertaken

uni'kon: *Professor Galizia, how did you come up with the idea of introducing a code of practice for young researchers at the University of Konstanz?*

Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia: While looking after and supervising junior professors, we realised that in some cases, the requirements and evaluation criteria for young researchers were not sufficiently known about. We initially wanted to create clearly defined conditions for the junior professors and to ensure that decisions were transparent throughout respective career paths. We were mainly concerned with the fact that when we, as a university, employ young academics, we take on responsibility that we must meet fairly and squarely. When the working groups for this project were already running, the idea came up in discussions with the University Council to make a binding arrangement for all postdoctoral young researchers and to set fundamental values backed up by the university. The university's code of practice on gender equality served as the ideal role model for this.

uni'kon: *Why does the University of Konstanz, in particular, need a code of practice for young researchers? Are the up and coming researchers worse off here than at other universities?*

No, exactly the opposite. Absurdly, one of the most difficult points when drawing up the code of practice was convincing also our colleagues that we needed to write it down on paper. Many responded as follows: »We've been doing this for a long time, what do we need a code for?« That's a fact, after all, the University of Konstanz is very advanced in many of these aspects. However, it was key for us to document the items listed in the code as fundamental values for our university work in order to consciously explain these values in our programme.

uni'kon: *How can young researchers be supported across the subjects? Are there not great differences between disciplines?*

Of course, but there are also basic similarities: in all the subjects, the natural path for young researchers is to progress from a supervised phase into their own research



Prof. Dr. Giovanni Galizia is a Professor of Zoology and Neurobiology at the University of Konstanz and has been the Director of the Zukunfts Kolleg at the University since October 2009. In this role, he has headed two of the three working groups for the statements on promoting young talent and gave uni'kon an interview on the university's new Institutional Commitment.

work. The early independence of the researchers is important here, because an academic needs the liberties and rights necessary for engaging in independent research work, such as the right to supervise the doctoral theses of the candidates that the academic has acquired for him- or herself. A right like that is not self-evident at Germany's universities, but is to be made possible here. As being a supervisor is a major responsibility, we do not automatically give all the postdoctorate students this right, but rather give them the opportunity to earn the status of a »Young Researcher at Konstanz«, which guarantees the right to supervise doctoral studies. The aspects documented in the code of practice for young researchers apply equally to all young academics. These fundamental values of transparency, responsibility and reliability affect us all.

» Interview by Helena Dietz.





Bound Decentralisation

The Cluster of Excellence

»Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«

»We want to completely rethink the socio-scientific problem of integration and, in doing so, include recent developments and questions that affect politics and society«, says Professor Rudolf Schlögl, coordinator for the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, established at the University of Konstanz in 2006. The interdisciplinary research institution is dedicated to this hot topic, in cooperation with international partners, in basic theoretical form. The alliance of subjects from various philologies from history, philosophy, sociology, political science through to law, researches social integration and disintegration at all social levels and under particular consideration of their cultural foundations.

Two strategic decisions have proven to be sustainable: on the one hand, the term »culture« was understood as a relational, heterogeneous force field with diffused boundaries instead of a spatial-holistic value. On the other hand, the term »integration«, was placed next to its antonym »disintegration« as being of the same origin. This new definition has led to important insights on such different and diverse fields as civil war research or cultural semiotics.

By establishing five professorships as well as using additional institutional measures, the Cluster of Excellence has ensured that the University of Konstanz remains an internationally-networked centre of cultural studies research beyond the period of the Excellence Initiative. With its various parts – the Konstanz Institute for Advanced Study, the five Cluster professorships, the Young Researcher Groups, the included PhD programme »Cultures of Time« and the Master's programme on the Cultural Foundations of Europe –

»We want to completely rethink the social-scientific problem of integration and, in so doing, include completely up-to-date developments and questions that affect politics and society.«

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schlögl

it forms a decentralised yet simultaneously closely-networked research structure whose effects extend deep into the involved departments. This organisational format continues to be developed and opens up excellent opportunities for individual researchers to pursue the inherent logic of their questions while benefiting from the interdisciplinarity. This »bound decentralisation« has its symbol in the three Cluster of Excellence locations: the new building Y1 on campus, the Bischofsvilla at the Konstanzer Seerhein and the premises at Seeburg in neighbouring Kreuzlingen, Switzerland.

msp.

Wednesdays from 4 till 6 pm

The PhD programme »Cultures of Time«
explores the history and present of various time concepts



Prof. Dr. Jürgen Osterhammel, Professor of Modern and Recent History at the University of Konstanz since 1999 and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize Holder 2010 is Coordinator of the PhD programme »Cultures of Time«.

The passing of time is not perceived in the same way everywhere – this is a concept that humankind has to get used to. As much as it may be self-evident to see one's own perception of time as shaped by culture and epoch, differing perceptions of time can be seen both in history and in the present. The PhD programme »Cultures of Time« fundamentally assumes that time in each respective cultures is »modelled« depending on the circumstances and needs. When the interdisciplinary institution for training young academics, part of the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, comes to its scheduled completion in October 2012, 13 dissertations are expected to have been submitted that thoroughly examine time as a cultural product.

Three doctorates have already been completed: Dr. Miriam Lay Brander's dissertation is the very first and it has already been awarded with the Young Talent Prize of the town of Konstanz and was published as a book (see also page 54). A further dissertation has been submitted, and »the others are on the home stretch,« says Dr. Michael Kempe, Academic Coordinator for the PhD programme. He refers explicitly to the spokesman Professor Jürgen Osterhammel when he adds: »We are very satisfied with the course taken by the PhD programme«. The goal here is to train young researchers in order to gain new research findings. Thus the organisation of such a course of lectures plays a double role, advancing the doctoral students in their academic working techniques and simultaneously supporting them on the subject. »Wednesdays between 4 and 6 pm« was developed into a profitable reference point: besides seminars and presentations, a so-called writing workshop is also held.

The doctoral researchers present concrete texts for discussion. »They learn a lot when dealing directly with the texts,« says Michael Kempe, explaining the procedure. The responses are very good. The work on the various time concepts in the course of history or the individual social or cultural groups cover perspectives from the Middle Ages through to the present-day, in interdisciplinary exchange



between history, sociology, political science and literature. Topics are addressed here such as the work of Thomas Malang, which analyses the European integration process from a temporal aspect. In the second completed dissertation, sociologist Dr. Leon Jesse Wansleben studies how analysts of the stock exchange deal with the theme of attention, given the simultaneity of information, price fluctuations flickering across the screens with gains and losses.

The young researchers of the PhD programme have uncovered the aspect of time in the topic of »attention«. This primarily deals with various practises of attention in changing social and societal contexts, time patterns such as volatility and length, surprise and familiarisation, stagnation and acceleration.

The thesis, that the present is characterised by extremely accelerated time with the corresponding attention

problems, is being critically examined. An overview of the various attention practises that are being worked on during the course of lectures will be provided in a digest that is currently being planned.

After all, time, or its differentiated perception, is an aspect in which the issue of integration/disintegration

plays a key role, suitably placing the PhD programme into the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«. The particular attention of the course applies both to the (diachronic) evolution over time as well as the (synchronic) organisation of societies in which individuals and groups locate themselves in varying orders of time. From here, the topic of integration and disintegration is seen from a decidedly temporal perspective.

Dr. Michael Kempe

»We are very satisfied with the course of the PhD programme.«

› msp.



Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schlögl holds the Professorship of Modern History at the University of Konstanz. He is the Coordinator of the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration« as well as the Cultural Studies Research course of lectures on »Norms and Symbols: the cultural dimension of social and political integration« established by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Rudolf Schlögl has taken on a Reinhart Koselleck Project on social communication processes in the early modern age.

All in All

uni'kon: *Professor Schlögl, ever since the foundation of the Cluster of Excellence, it has been possible to observe that this kind of research alliance has developed a tendency towards institutional segregation. Why do Clusters veer towards such a life of their own?*

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schlögl: A Cluster of Excellence is simply a large institution – and it has a lot of money. Therefore it is, initially, almost a natural reaction to say that the money belongs to the authoritatively involved researchers and nobody else.

uni'kon: *What is bad about the tendency towards becoming independent?*

It's not good for the Cluster, because it can no longer take up the dynamics from its university surroundings. It is bound for petrification right from the start. Only if a Cluster acts within the university as a reflective device can it do both: take up academic energy from the university in order to return it as academic creativity.

uni'kon: *What is the situation like in this respect regarding the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration« in Konstanz?*

Our Cluster had a different concept right from the start. For us it was a very deliberate decision to build the Cluster into the university by not designing it as a closed area. Consequently, it is not a defined group of key contributing researchers, the so-called »MBWs«, but instead an open structure.

uni'kon: *What does that mean?*

That the Cluster's resources are not only accessible to the key contributing academics (MBWs), but also open to all the cultural studies researchers who engage in the Cluster's subject and methodology. Although we mentioned a group of key contributing researchers (MBWs) in the proposal, we also mentioned that the members of the Cluster are the participating departments. The second part of the idea – and I am happy to mention that it was my own idea – consisted of enabling these departments to resolve membership decisions. With these, the departments make it possible for all researchers to submit proposals to the Cluster. At the same time, they commit to taking the interests of the Cluster into consideration when filling positions, as long as these are relevant to the Cluster.

uni'kon: *What has been achieved with this?*

First of all, it led to a high degree of acceptance for the Cluster, secondly the Cluster developed an additional structural effect – sustainability in the sense of a concentration on cultural studies – and thirdly, the Cluster thus also developed into a strong dynamic generator.

uni'kon: *How did you perceive this integration process at the Cluster as part of the university community?*

The culture of the University of Konstanz includes a substantial degree of fairness among colleagues, and there is a mature culture of conflict management. Opinions can be given, but from a specific point on the focus is always on the continuing functionality of the university. Konstanz is very pronounced in this respect. From my point of view, this is a bit of good fortune, because it gives the university a chance to become fit for the future.

» Interview by Maria Schorpp.

»DEIN NAME«

Autorenlesung mit **NAVID KERMANI**

Donnerstag, 27. Oktober 2011, 18.00 Uhr
Kloster und Schloss Salem, Neues Museum

Eintritt frei!

*»Dein Name« ist ein Roman,
der das Privateste ebenso in den Blick nimmt
wie die Geschichte, in der wir leben –
ein Buch, das unser Bild der Gegenwart
nachhaltig verändern wird.*

(Hanser Verlag)



Kooperationspartner:





A Quasi Virtual Institute

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Weltecke created the Orient Forum, a platform for cross-disciplinary oriental research at the University of Konstanz

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Weltecke has held the Professorship of the History of Religion and Religious Cultures in Europe at the University of Konstanz since 2007. One of her research focuses is »The Orient and Europe in exchange«. Within the Cluster of Excellence, she is a leading academic. Her dissertation, »The Historical Book 2004«, was awarded the 2001 Ernst Reuter Prize of the Free University of Berlin; and in 2007 she received a research grant from the German Research Foundation (DFG) for her post-doctoral project »Unbelief and Religious Doubts in the Middle Ages«.

It all started with a chat over a cup of coffee to which Professor Dorothea Weltecke had invited academics from the University of Konstanz whose research interests focused on the Orient. Today, the conversation over coffee has become a quasi virtual institute that meets on a regular basis to exchange ideas and information, fosters contact with academics from abroad, offers events and in addition, provides information on all the courses that focus on the Orient at the University of Konstanz. The Orient Forum is a platform that brings researchers together and enables students to benefit from it.

Dorothea Weltecke is a Professor of the History of Religions and works, among other things, on the Christian Orient. As one of the principal investigators, she is a member of the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, in whose supportive framework the Orient Forum was created. The Orient Forum is the platform on which the historian would like to bring together

as many Orient researchers working at the University of Konstanz as possible. With this new organisational structure, in which members from the departments of Literature, Sociology, Law and Historiography are taking part so far, the field of Oriental Studies has established itself at the University of Konstanz without it having to be specifically set up as a department. And all that on a relatively informal basis. »We don't have any elections, nor do we have any articles of association or statutes, we just sit down together«, is how Weltecke describes the regular exchange between the Orientalists at Konstanz. If anything, the historian is the unofficial speaker who keeps the group together.

This information exchange for mutual and academic benefit has now expanded. Contacts with the Universities of Tübingen and Zurich, both of which have large Oriental institutes, complement Konstanz's spectrum, represented by the projects of the individual network participants.

»In my opinion, the networking is the most important aspect, and that the individually-researching Orientalists can have a forum in which they can exchange ideas with each other.«

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Weltecke

Some of these Oriental-oriented researchers only came to Konstanz through the Cluster of Excellence. Research is done from the historical and contemporary perspectives on the societies of Northern Africa, the Middle East; on canal-building in 19th century Egypt as well as on an ancient Armenian myth.

Through this increased networking with other universities such as Zurich, for example, the Orientalists from Konstanz expect to acquire research resources. The creation of a collaborative project is not the overriding objective here: »In my opinion, the networking is the most important aspect, and that individually-researching Orientalists have a forum in which they can exchange ideas with each other«, explains Weltecke.

Besides the conversations and discussions, she can well imagine a colloquium of her own in the future for presenting and discussing individual theses. As a form of concentrated competence, the platform should be-

come more visible, both for research as well as for teaching.

Otherwise, it is a common practice to make use of existing structures for the Orient Forum's

research. That means placing presentations in the Cultural Studies course of the Cluster of Excellence or in the colloquies of the field of historical science. Of course, the students should also benefit from the networking: a virtual lecture catalogue has been available now for three years, which lists all the courses focussing on the Orient and teaching the first fundamentals of Oriental languages: Arabic or even Aramaic. It was extremely popular among students in the last summer semester.

All in all, courses with an Oriental reference are very well attended. The range of offerings will increase together with the demand. A fringe subject has become current and popular with the help of a modern networking strategy in Konstanz.

» msp.



Dialogue of Memories

The Research Group on »History and Memory« examines the role of memory in integration processes

At the time that the research group »History and Memory« was moved into the Bischofsvilla at the Konstanzer Seerhein, the Cultural Studies course already existed. The research activities of both interdisciplinary cultural study institutions profit largely from their Fellows whom they invite from all around the world to the former residence of the Episcopal Dean's Residence to continue working on their projects. One of the group's ambitions is to increase the number of scientific collaborations. The research group that the cultural studies scholar from Konstanz, Professor Aleida Assmann, was able to establish with the funds provided by her Max Planck Research Award has meanwhile also moved closer to the course in terms of academic organisation, a key part in the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«: the group is an associated member of the Cluster of

Excellence. The spatial proximity to integration research and memory research corresponds with conceptual interests.

The research group focuses primarily on the question of the role that memory plays in social and political integration processes.

Times of greater upheaval deliver the background to this issue; societies that have mastered wars, changes in systems or regime crimes, but also the Europe of the present-day with all its integration tasks. »The battle of memories« is understood in this context. Aleida Assmann speaks of a »split European memory«: »This split memory develops as a result of the flash point between two focal points of remembrance, the Holocaust and the Gulag, whose incompatibility still impedes Europe's integration«. Twelve Fellows have, since 2009, been guests working together with the private docent Dr. Birgit Schwelling, who heads the research group, and Dr. Nina Fischer, the academic coordinator, to break down the core topic into individual projects. The historian Dr. Marco Duranti studied the Holocaust's influence on the human rights declarations in Europe. The Holocaust is also Nina Fischer's research field. At an upcoming workshop in December on the topic of the search for people and their mortal remains as a consequence of wars and violent crimes, her contribution will deal with the Jewish-American author Daniel Mendelsohn, in whose book »The Lost. A Search for Six of Six Million« he writes about the search for six of his family members who died in the Holocaust. As a result, a more recent trend becomes visible, which the scholar of literature describes in terms of the fact that »individual fates, faces and names are focused upon more than individual groups.«

The workshop, like most others, originates from collaborative projects with Fellows. The psychologist Karin Mlodoch will report on an Iraqi women's group's struggle for the remembrance of their men killed in a massacre. »We are interested, in particular, in how individual mourning becomes a social initiative, and in the next step we are interested in forms of remembrance that develop from this«, explains Birgit Schwelling. The research group leader herself is working on the transnational understanding initiatives after the Second World War in Europe, on which another workshop was held on the role of civil societies in political reconciliation processes.



Prof. Dr. Aleida Assmann has been a Professor of English Studies and General Literary Studies at the University of Konstanz since 1993. She received the Max Planck Research Award in 2009, and previously the Paul Watzlawick Ring of Honour in the same year. She was presented the Doctor honoris causa of the University of Oslo in 2008, and was distinguished with the Philip Morris Research Prize in 1999.



Through such individual projects and small-scale collaborations, the interest is in the continued development of a remembrance theory.

The connection between remembrance, silence and forgetting is reconsidered: in contrast to other trends, they should not be understood as mutually excluding terms, but rather as »options on a continuum dependent on the specific situation that mesh with each other in various compositions and contexts.«

Further subprojects are dedicated to this theoretical interest, such as that of overcoming national self-references in a dialogue based culture of remembrance. The national memory, says Aleida Assmann, no longer exists in Europe in isolation, and rather is closely bound with other national memories. »A united Europe requires no top-down, prescribed uniform memory, but it does need a self-critical discussion on the mutual continuation of national historical images.«

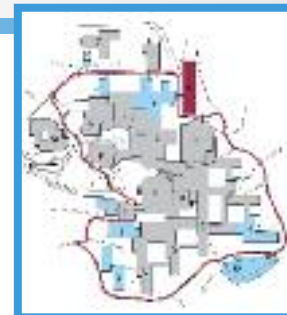
» msp.

Outstanding Minds

Some of the most outstanding research figures at the University of Konstanz are represented at the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«: Aleida Assmann, Professor of English Studies and Literature, is a Max Planck Research Award winner (2009), Paul Watzlawick is a bearer of the Ring of Honour (2009), Philip Morris Research Prize Winner (1999) and Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Oslo (2008); Jürgen Osterhammel, Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, is a Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz winner (2010), as is Albrecht Koschorke, Professor of Modern German Literature and General Literary Studies (2003), who has also won the Prize of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (2002). Finally, with Rudolf Schlögl, Professor of Modern History and Coordinator of the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, an historian was inducted into the funding programme of the Reinhart Koselleck projects of the German Research Foundation (DFG) for the first time.

Info





In Touch with the Building Blocks of Life

The Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology (KoRS-CB)

The American academic publishers, »The National Academies Press«, formulated one of the core key challenges of our time as, »explaining the process of life in chemical terms«. The Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology has set out to accomplish precisely this mission: exploring the interface between chemistry and biology, investigating how physiological processes are controlled at a molecular and atomic level, and, in so doing, acquiring deep insights into the building blocks of cells: what properties and characteristics do the individual proteins have? How is the functional interaction between the building blocks of life organised, and how can we utilise these processes? The graduate school focuses on the five closely interwoven core research areas: synthetic chemistry, cellular biochemistry, biomedicine, biophysics, and computational life sciences.

The Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology was founded to create an ideal environment for educating and training researchers at the interface between biology and chemistry. Its interdisciplinarity promotes knowledge in other fields and lively academic exchange, thus paving the way for new research impulses.

The graduate school is an integral part of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Konstanz, and is closely linked to the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Computer and Information Science. The training programme at the graduate school builds on the natural sciences Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes at the University of Konstanz, and, in particular, the »Life Science« degree programme. The close networking with the degree programmes is being increasingly intensified through individualised Master's programmes and fast track options.

Furthermore, the doctoral students are offered a wide range of courses in research relevant soft skills.

The graduate school offers its doctoral students a methodological foundation for a successful career path in leading academic institutes and industrial companies. The close ties with industry are expressed in the intensive cooperation and collaboration with regional and international companies. Since its foundation in April 2008, the graduate school has grown from 23 to 80 doctoral researchers today.

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Door to Door Research

Doctoral Researcher Tobias Strittmatter gets inspired at the Crossroads between Biology and Chemistry

»It's almost funny«, laughs Tobias Strittmatter, doctoral researcher at the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology: »My chemical lab is right at the end of Level L9, on the right hand side. This is where I synthesise, this is where I produce my compounds. On the other end of the corridor, directly opposite, is where I have my molecular biology lab, in which I can test my compounds on self-experimented enzymes. And on the way between the two labs, I meet all my colleagues from the working group.«

The formula for research collaboration can be so simple: A short walk from one end of a building to another, on the way a bit of small talk with scientists in the corridor, and there they are: your research partners. Indeed, the route that Tobias Strittmatter takes is reflected in his cross-disciplinary work. »Exchange is constantly taking place, research is proceeding door to door,« says Strittmatter.

Whether he climbs stairs to get to the next floor, where he can draw on the screening platform from the neighbouring workgroup, or whenever he needs a specific chemical or would like to use a special working method, or if he wants to get support in the data analysis from bioinformaticians, the appropriate expert is sure to be found next door. »Adjacent research« is understood here quite literally.

Tobias Strittmatter is doing research, approximately half-half, in the working groups of Professor Andreas Marx, Professor of Cellular and Organic Chemistry, and the

Molecular Geneticist Professor Thomas U. Mayer in whose group he characterises and verifies new agents for his research work on cells. It is precisely this combination that Tobias Strittmatter was looking for when he applied to



»Exchange is constantly taking place, research is proceeding door to door.«

Doctoral Student Tobias Strittmatter

the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology: »After graduating from my studies, I wanted to focus on active pharmaceutical ingredient research. The Konstanz Research School offered me the opportunity to do exactly that, due to the fact that Professor Marx works so closely in his research on nucleic acids and DNA polymerases in collaboration with Professor Mayer, who screens and classifies new agents using the chemical-genetic approach.«

We are looking for »small molecule inhibitors«, explains Strittmatter about his research project: »It is about finding an efficient active pharmaceutical ingredient in order to use it as a chemical instrument for studying proteins. Using the

active agent, we specifically cause a so-called chemical knock-out. A certain protein is selectively switched off, meaning that it no longer functions, after which we analyse the knock-out's effects on the cell. A positive side-effect of our research is that we study active pharmaceutical ingredient that later can also supply ideas for medical therapy approaches.«

Strittmatter largely draws on the research impulses of neighbouring fields: »In your own field, you are the expert yourself. However, since I look for new approaches in other fields, I learn something else with it.« The next research impulse sometimes waits just a corridor away. **» gra.**

A Gold Mine and its Structure

uni'kon: *What kind of influence has the degree programme »Life Science« on the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology?*

Prof. Dr. Andreas Marx: The Life Sciences' degree programme has essentially brought together the two departments of Chemistry and Biology. It has resulted in the students and graduates getting to know each other beyond their working groups and disciplines, which is possibly the most important success. It enables collaborations to develop without the working group leaders acting as initiators. Such collaboration is one of the building blocks of the graduate school.

uni'kon: *Did the Degree Programme's creation already set the track for the graduate school?*

In 2002, long before anybody had even talked about the Excellence Initiative, the degree programme in Life Science was launched, on the recommendation of an evaluation process at state level to bring the Departments of Biology and Chemistry at Konstanz closer together.

When other sites thought about this idea in the course of the Excellence Initiative around 2006, we had already had our offering running for five years. We are now in the process of drawing up the interim report and looking at how much has grown in collaborations between these departments since then, and the results are indeed remarkable.

The impact can be clearly seen in the number of outstanding collaborative publications by cooperating working groups: In 2007, when the Konstanz Research School was founded, we had three of these. By 2008, we already had six, and now in 2011, we have 20 – and the year is not even over yet. It is advancing skywards; it has become a matter of course to work together.

uni'kon: *Is biology still conceivable without chemistry, or chemistry without biology?*

Yes, for sure. They are both enormous research fields that can still persist in certain areas, even without cooperation partners from the fields of biology respectively chemistry. However, there lies a gold mine at the fault line between the two subjects that hasn't been explored as properly as these two research areas.

uni'kon: *The Konstanz model is strongly based on the recipe of »Teaching from Research«. But doesn't research also draw on teaching?*

Is teaching a driving force for research? Certainly, that is evident. The training in the Master's field is very strongly research-oriented in Konstanz; students work together with doctoral students, i.e. very close to the pulse of research. The skills and abilities these students are practising in the lab will undoubtedly generate new research questions. These working methods have a key role in research. The big research questions are present in the back of our minds, but how do we implement them? We are in need of people who have internalised the working techniques of both fields. The education and training in Konstanz is in this sense very close to research.

uni'kon: *How do you evaluate the development of chemical biology in Konstanz?*

We have not yet reached the saturation point in the growth curve – we're still climbing. It's good to see how it's getting wings.

» Interview by
Jürgen Graf.



Prof. Dr. Andreas Marx is Vice Rector of Research and Coordinator of the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology. Marx has been a Professor of Organic Chemistry/Cellular Chemistry at the University of Konstanz since 2004.

The Architecture of Ideas

Interdisciplinarity is embedded in the layout of the University of Konstanz

The word »interdisciplinarity« is often perceived as an abstract term which is hard to perceive tangibly. In the case of the University of Konstanz, however, interdisciplinarity has a very concrete foundation. To see it, all you need is a view of the building: the University of Konstanz was designed as a campus university – with no physically separate departments, all the institutions and facilities are located in the same place. It's a simple concept, but one with a far-reaching effect: whenever an academic sets out for the refectory, walks to a seminar room or boards a bus, he or she will bump into colleagues from other faculties and enter into conversations with them. Research collaborations in Konstanz often begin with a chat in a corridor or a café, and those who take a look into the university's inner courtyard during the summer will find a lively gathering of students and academics from every department in discussion with one another. This particular strength of the university has been consistently expanded upon since its foundation. The university buildings have been arranged in a way that generates a creative environment for the exchange of ideas between academics from different disciplines. Such encounters give rise to a culture of mutual inspiration, which in turn may lead to the development of new research fields.

How departments grow together in this way can best be observed in the interlinked degree programmes at Konstanz. In »Literature – Art – Media«, three humanities' subjects whose approaches and prospects complement each other have been successfully merged. The Life Science degree programme has brought together biology and chemistry in the natural sciences and created the foundations for the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology. In the social sciences, a degree in »Early Childhood« crosses not only

»Emerging from the culture of encounter is, a mutual and reciprocal inspiration that flows into the development of new research fields.«

disciplinary borders but also international ones, through intensive collaboration with Swiss research institutions including, among others, the Thurgau University of Teacher Education (PHTG) in Kreuzlingen and the Marie Meierhofer Institute of the Child, Zurich. Further examples of cross-disciplinary study opportunities include the courses »Cultural Foundations of Europe« and »Mathematical Financial Economics«. This interdisciplinarity is particularly deeply embedded in the institutions of the Excellence Initiative: the Konstanz Research School of Chemical Biology originated from the idea of merging once-separated disciplines; the newly-conceived Graduate School of Decision Sciences aims to pool together the perspectives of the social sciences sub-

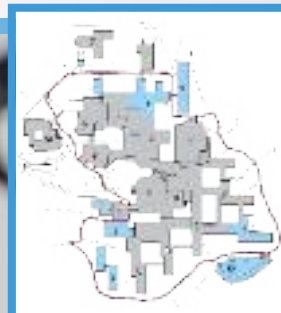
jects. Where individual disciplines address the topic of human decision-making from their own particular point of view, the proposed Graduate School now intends to create a comprehensive understanding by bringing together these various approaches. The Konstanz

Research School of Chemical Biology, funded since 2007, covers a highly topical research field positioned between biology and chemistry. The cultural studies work done by the so-called Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«, would have been inconceivable without the mutual, reciprocal encounters between the disciplines.

The Zukunftskolleg literally personifies the interdisciplinary idea. The concept creates a unique community of young academics and established researchers from all subject areas and fields of study.

Research theses are debated in a discussion group made up of contributors from across all disciplines. It is not unusual that the most productive suggestions arise from a disciplinary area that nobody would have expected.

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Looking Beyond the Horizon

The Graduate School Decision Sciences, which was applied for during the second programme phase of the Excellence Initiative, grows through its interdisciplinarity. Proposal co-ordinator Professor Leo Kaas explains in this interview why disciplinary specialisation and interdisciplinarity do not necessarily have to contradict each other; and defines the role that the Master's programmes at Konstanz play for the Decision Sciences.

uni'kon: *Professor Kaas, if a psychologist, an economist and a political scientist are asked how they come to decisions and what consequences arise from these, you will receive a conclusive answer from each of them. Why is that not sufficient?*

Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas: Various social science disciplines do absolutely consider decision-making behaviour, however they all have various premises and differing priorities. That is of course not a problem in itself, because each discipline addresses its own questions. However, in many areas these disciplines overlap. Important questions about the future pertain to many disciplines at the same time, and it makes no sense to process these in blinkered, separate ways. To this extent, I think that an important key for the future lies in being able to look beyond these borders without losing sight of individual specialisations.

uni'kon: *The Graduate School of Decision Sciences was conceived for this purpose: it unites these various perspectives under one umbrella. So, is interdisciplinarity the foundation stone of the Decision Sciences?*

Yes, indeed. We have divided the whole Graduate School into four core research fields. There is an extremely strong interdisciplinary foundation in two of these areas of study in particular already, however the other two are both fundamentally transdisciplinary as well. These fields have not, however, simply appeared from nowhere: we have been setting up research networks in these areas for many years now, and it is these upon which the Graduate School has been built.

uni'kon: *In practice, what shape does the interdisciplinarity take*

Interdisciplinarity takes on many different forms: it can be joint co-authoring of publications, the joint organi-

sation of workshops and courses, or the cross-disciplinary support and supervision of doctoral students.

uni'kon: *It is the doctoral researchers who are at the heart of a Graduate School: what does this interdisciplinarity mean for them?*

From the moment they are accepted into the school, doctoral students are brought together. As a rule, they all begin at the same time, in October, and get to know each other and their various backgrounds. They then mainly work in one of our four research fields, however they also learn about concepts from the others: they take up a number of common courses and are in constant contact with not just each other but also the professors and young academics from other fields. I am convinced that a lively exchange will take place across the disciplinary borders.

uni'kon: *Will the training of doctoral researchers be increasingly shifted towards foreign disciplinary areas?*

We do not want to abandon the important basic education and training in each discipline – that would be fatal. Every student should be anchored in their specific academic field and encouraged to produce outstanding academic achievements in that area. The advantage of the Graduate School is, however, that the psychologist can also attend the courses offered by the economists and vice-versa. We hope to see new impetuses and perspectives develop as a result.

uni'kon: *Is the main task of the Graduate School then to prevent its doctoral researchers from wandering down a blind alley in their area of specialisation?*

It's a balancing act: science and research always requires a sound specialisation, but being overly-specialised means



Prof. Dr. Leo Kaas, proposal co-ordinator for the Graduate School of Decision Sciences, has been a professor of economics, specifically economic theory, at the University of Konstanz since 2004. In his research, Leo Kaas works on search- and matching-processes in the job market as well as the macroeconomic impact of financial market frictions. He is the co-ordinator of a new DFG priority programme on »Financial Market Imperfections and Macroeconomic Performance« and a member of the board of the doctoral programme on »Quantitative Economics and Finance«.

you face the risk of losing sight of what's beyond your own field. There is no way around specialisation, particularly when doing a PhD. In this phase of academic training in particular, it is very important to specialise in a very focussed way. Nevertheless, it is also very important not to lose sight of the bigger picture, and therein lies the purpose of the Graduate School.

uni'kon: *Each of the participating disciplines in the Decision Sciences has its own methodology and its own perspective. Are you not therefore bridging a very wide gap?* Yes, we are well aware of this problem and we want to counteract it by laying common foundations early in the Master's programmes, offering courses that must also be attended by fast-track applicants. We will bring the doctoral researchers at the basic training stage of the Master's programmes up to the same level. In addition, we plan to introduce two more Master's degree programmes that have been specially conceived as interdisciplinary programmes. The existing Master's degree programmes are also to be expanded with their own Graduate School Track. Furthermore, we will increasingly introduce interdisciplinary elements to our Bachelor's programmes.

uni'kon: *Is such a Master's degree programme which continues at the Graduate School aimed for the most part at students who are already at Konstanz University?*

No, it is mainly aimed at external students. It is very important that we attract outstanding students from outside the university – for the Graduate School and also the Master's programmes that lead into the Graduate School.

uni'kon: *Is a Master's degree from the University of Konstanz an entrance requirement, then*

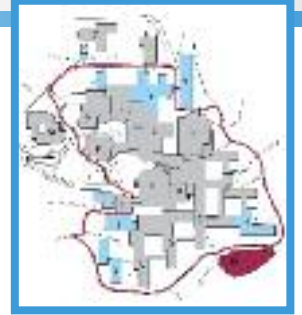
No, you can of course apply directly to the Graduate School without a Master's degree from Konstanz. However, we must naturally attach importance to it being a high-quality Master's programme, whose content fits well with the core priorities of the Graduate School.

uni'kon: *What will Graduate School alumni have acquired during their time there?*

They will have acquired a broad education and training in social sciences, they will know how other disciplines think and they will have a sound methodological foundation. This will make alumni interesting in terms of both scientific careers at leading international institutions and careers outside wholly scientific areas, such as in industry or at public institutions.

» Interview by Jürgen Graf.





Gender Equality: a unified Plan

Gender-sensitive arrangements and promoting familyfriendliness and women have been combined into one package at the University of Konstanz.

The name itself says it all: Department for Gender Equality and Family Affairs. At the University of Konstanz, the two departments are meshed together, also demonstrated by the fact that the two departments of Gender Equality and Family Affairs can be found in the same office. Such spatial closeness itself encourages close communication.

In departmental head Marion Woelki's office, all the threads run together: the specific actions that are required in a humanities or science

faculty – though they can be entirely different – are coordinated from the same site, alongside a representative from the department of Gender Equality.

The so-called Human Resources (HR) measures on the one hand, and structural measures on the other, were also conceived together. An HR measure can be, for example, regarding the appeal proceedings for the fair representation of female candidates. Structural measures include, for example, agreements that meetings are not held at times when children need to be picked up from childcare, even if they are only around the corner on campus in the University's new kindergarten (»Kinderhaus«). Decision processes by the rectorate and other decision-making bodies will, in future, be subjected to an »equal opportunities compatibility check«. This process of structural support is documented in the Code of Practice on Gender Equality. The University of Konstanz is the first German university to adopt such a code in which a generally binding framework towards more equal gender opportunities and family-friendliness has been prescribed. Gender-sensitive arrangements and support for families and women have been combined to create one single package of measures

»Gender equality is a pillar of the institutional strategy of the University of Konstanz, a pillar that emphasizes its own prominent role.«

at the University of Konstanz. Quality Management and Controlling will continually develop this »unified plan of gender equality«, taking all matters into account. It forms a pillar of the University of Konstanz's strategy for the future that highlights its outstanding role. Furthermore, the Institutions funded by the Excellence Initiative, like all large research networks, all have their own gender strategies. Gender equality measures are woven directly in with these throughout all areas of the

university. Above all, however, these responsibilities are entrenched in the university at management level, which is why the German Research Foundation (DFG) recently raised the University of Konstanz to the highest level for its research-oriented gender equality standards.

» msp.





A Direct Connection with Home

The Code of Practice on Gender Equality has brought the University of Konstanz forward in balancing work and family life

»There is a certain idea about what defines the University of Konstanz. It balances compatibility of family and career as well as gender equality. That includes the continued support for women«, says Marion Woelki, Head of the Department for Equal Opportunities and Family Affairs. The Code of Practice on Gender Equality portrays the results and manifestation of this outstanding position on equal opportunities at the University of Konstanz. Each of the ten sections of the code begin with »The University commits itself...«, representing interests from research funding, study conditions, personal development, family support to quality management of the areas of academia, academic support and student affairs, all areas in which equal opportunities have an impact on formative structure. These commitments follow the mention of measures to help achieve these self-defined goals. These are measures of which the German Research Foundation (DFG) working group, »Research-oriented Gender Equality« are very convinced. The Code of Practice has played a large role in ensuring that the University of Konstanz has achieved the implementation of these research-based standards on gender equality to stage 4, the highest level on this assessment scale. »An already successfully-established concept was driven further and supplemented by additional innovative approaches«. The DFG drew up these rules in order to advance the gender equality policy at German universities in terms of gender equality and family-friendliness. In the DFG's assessment, the code was specifically mentioned and commented upon: »The university has a very convincing master strategy that is coherently integrated into the university's strategic orientation and is complemented by additional innovative approaches«.

The working group responsible for the DFG initiative begins its positive statement with the embedding of gender equality into the University of Konstanz at management level. The responsibility for gender equality lies with Professor Katharina Holzinger, who as Vice Rector is responsible

for – besides international affairs – Equal Opportunities. »The Code of Practice on Gender Equality was widely discussed at the university, and is equally widely accepted throughout all areas«, is how the Professor describes the status of the ten points. Jens Apitz, the Director of University Administration, is responsible for family-friendliness. »It is very important for the DFG that the responsibilities are entrenched in the university, and not just anywhere, but ideally at management level,« emphasises Dr. Doris Hayn, Officer for Gender Mainstreaming, highlighting once again the intentions of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Through ongoing cooperation with the involved parties – the Equal Opportunities Officer, who is a voting member of the senate; the senate committee, the management board, the faculties and departments – there is a direct link to individual academics as well as students. The ongoing review of the gender equality objectives and their implementation, by means of gender equality monitoring, is explicitly welcomed.

The code is not only about the »transformation of organisational structures,« but also about rethinking matters of academic culture. »Keeping a lot of women in science and research long-term« says Marion Woelki, »can only be sustainably achieved if the institution simultaneously and structurally breaks down the many hurdles and barriers so that a promising career path is attractive for women right from the beginning«. Section 5, »Working and Research Conditions«, is dedicated to this point that, among other things, calls for a »balanced relationship« between career life and private life.

Similarly, Section 9, »Family Support«, calls for a family-friendly academic culture. Lastly, university-specific resources are used and promoted: with the development and implementation of gender equality questions, gender research provides a necessary and valuable support.

» msp.



A House with Perspective

A new »Kinderhaus« offers places for 100 children

From each of the eight group rooms one can look out directly into the open air. The view is of meadows, trees and a slice of Konstanz. All these south-facing rooms also have direct access, through a glass door, to the various play areas and facilities of the outdoor grounds.

Glass is the dominant material of the University of Konstanz's new kindergarten (»Kinderhaus«), which opened on 8 October and to date offers childcare services for 100 children. With the exception of the offices, staff rooms and the large kitchen, everything is open and transparent, including the various atriums that are enclosed like islands from the interior.

Susanne Jantz, the planning coordinator responsible for the kindergarten (»Kinderhaus«) at the Department of Gender Equality and Family Support, describes the underlying principle of the glass walls as »bringing nature inside«. Nature also has a firm place in the educational concept of the house: there is a room for experimenting, a water and sand play area; and cooperation with the Bodensee-Naturmuseum (Lake Constance Natural Museum).

There are also future plans with the departments of natural sciences. Music classes also take place in the four function rooms. Theatre is planned as well as music, the latter including a project that experiments with rhythm and sound. In addition to the approximate 1,350 square metres of floor space inside the kindergarten, there is a further 4,400 square metres of space for playing outside. Yet it is inside that the 130 square metre »market square« forms the centre of the new building, where children, parents and carers meet. The »nurturing and learning partnership with the parents« is stated with passion. The service, one of the first to be offered by a German university, is exemplary: the 100 children, aged from six months to six years, are spread between eight care groups. In addition to being open from 7.00 to 17.00, there are flexible opening times in the evenings, as well as on Saturday and in emergencies. The »Kinderhaus« is financed by contributions from parents, the town of Konstanz and the University of Konstanz as well as the Ministry for Science, Research and of the Arts Baden-Württemberg. » msp.

Studying with Children – A Diploma in Organisation

Nina Albrecht graduated from her studies as a mother with four children

Studying is not a walk in the park, particularly when you have to push a pram at the same time. To many students it is a daunting idea, having to look after a child as well as face study and examinations. How is it manageable – money- and time-wise? Nina Albrecht knows the challenges of a student parent more than almost anybody else: when she received her Biology Diploma in the summer of 2011, she could look back on having studied alongside raising four children. Even more astonishing is her conclusion: »I studied more successfully with children than without – I had to learn to organise my time sensibly and get my priorities right. When you have children and limited child-free time for learning, you develop a whole new self-discipline and sense of responsibility.«

Studying with children means one thing above all else: study time must be condensed into the small, child-free part of the day – a schedule has to have every free minute squeezed out of it. »I gave myself two hours between getting up and really being on site«, says Nina Albrecht. »What is hard with four children is that everybody has to be at different places at different times. You need to be good at organising, need good childcare facilities, and then plenty of self-discipline, that's the be all and end all. What's most important of all, however, is not allowing yourself to be intimidated.«

The words »good childcare« come up time and again when you ask Nina Albrecht about the requirements for studying with children. She found a childcare service compatible with her study needs at Knirps & Co., who gave her the opportunity to have her children on campus: »Without the »Knirpses«, my studies would never have worked so well,« says Albrecht. Her oldest son, Felix, is now nine years old, and since his birth she has watched the services for children and families at the University of Konstanz grow: »A lot has changed since then: initially,

Knirps & Co. comprised ten places in a room inside the university, now there are 100 children in their own kindergarten. There is now an emergency care service for children who are ill or for if you have to work late, which is fantastic: I could have done with such a service during my foundation course, I could have really used it.«

The most important change however, says Albrecht, is a mental shift: a gradual movement towards seeing studying with a child – working towards a PhD, taking on research – as a normality, and to naturally offering student parents customised study conditions. This change of mindset is far from complete, despite the obvious progress that has been made. There is a particular need for action in adapting workloads for individual students with children, to increase the compatibility of seminar and childcare service times and to increase official recognition of the additional achievements made by student parents. Studying with children may still be no walk in the park, but the paths for the prams are becoming increasingly less stony.

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At Home in the World

The University of Konstanz as a member of the international academic community

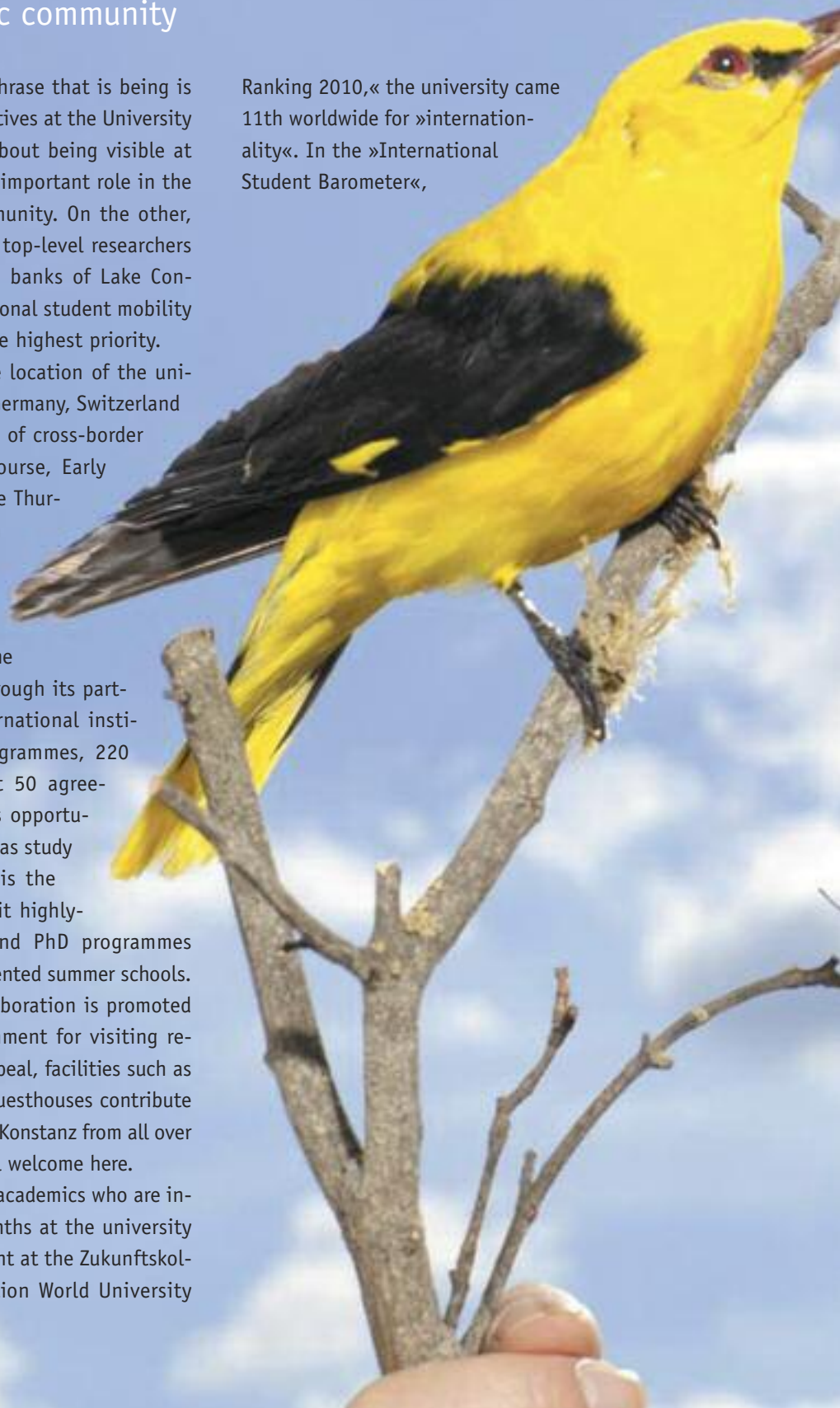
»Internationalisation« is a catchphrase that is being looked at from many perspectives at the University of Konstanz. On one hand, it is about being visible at international level and playing an important role in the global science and research community. On the other, the university would like to bring top-level researchers from all around the world to the banks of Lake Constance. Thirdly, increased international student mobility from and to the university is of the highest priority.

For this reason, not only is the location of the university in the tri-border region of Germany, Switzerland and Austria used for diverse forms of cross-border collaboration – such as a new course, Early Childhood, in cooperation with the Thurgau University of Teacher Education (PHTG); the four Double Degree programmes; and five prevalently English language study programmes. At the same time, the university offers its students – through its partnerships with more than 30 international institutes, 30 different exchange programmes, 220 ERASMUS agreements and almost 50 agreements at faculty level – numerous opportunities for semesters abroad as well as study and research stays. On top of this the university can, for example, recruit highly-qualified students to Master's and PhD programmes through international, research-oriented summer schools.

The international research collaboration is promoted further with an attractive environment for visiting researchers: besides the academic appeal, facilities such as the Welcome Centre and the new guesthouses contribute to bringing top-level researchers to Konstanz from all over the world, and to making them feel welcome here.

This also includes international academics who are invited to stay for up to twelve months at the university to support the up and coming talent at the Zukunftskolleg. In the »Times Higher Education World University

Ranking 2010,« the university came 11th worldwide for »internationality«. In the »International Student Barometer«,

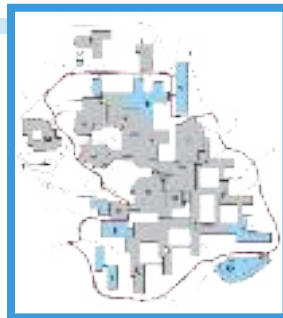




Konstanz topped the list of all participating German universities for overall satisfaction of international students and, by international comparison, 25th out of 123 institutions. Good results, but not enough for Konstanz to rest on its laurels: the development of new partnerships and further collaborative programmes is already in progress.

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The King's Loss of Power

Four outstanding workshops were part of an international collaboration project by literary academic Professor Juliane Vogel

»In transatlantic collaborations, you quickly realise that you are dealing with very different academic cultures«, says Professor Juliane Vogel, describing the challenge of international collaborative projects, before quickly adding, »But it's a good thing – it's even what makes it so appealing.« The literary studies' scholar has proven rather impressively within recent years that she is the right person to answer these questions. In her research project, »Cultural Poetology of Performance«, she and Professor Christopher Wild and David Levin, PhD, of the University of Chicago spent the last two years working together on the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration« at the University of Konstanz on an interdisciplinary and international research project. Part of the project involved four international workshops in Konstanz, to which Juliane Vogel had invited academics from countries all over the world including, amongst others, Israel, the United States and Switzerland.

Vogel soon found the thematic focus for the project, as well as her first collaborative partner: whilst already working as Professor of Modern German Literature and General Literary Studies at the University of Konstanz in 2007, contact was made with the then-visiting researcher Christopher Wild. The joint interest they had for the structural aspects of drama led to the study of the basic terms of European dramatic composition. Performance as an element of drama had, up to this project, been addressed either in literature or theatre studies research and presented the ideal research topic for an international project. The researchers addressed the problem that dramatic works not only tells stories, but that they also consist of performance. »Time and time again, the

»All in all, the workshops were among the best that I have ever experienced as a researcher.«

Prof. Dr. Juliane Vogel

theatrical logic of a performance runs contrary to the logic of the dramatic action,« states Juliane Vogel.

Dramatic texts are interesting therefore, because they show how performances can fail and which social, political and cognitive problems are associated with these. A person's full perception is confronted by opposing forces that cast doubt upon its validity. This applies in particular to the royal performances of tragedy, where it can be seen how the King's entrance fails due to the complexity of the action or the disruption of a social order. Vogel explains that, for example, in Aeschylus's »Agamemnon«, the whole story is built around the King's appearance, to demonstrate simultaneously how the ceremonial preparations are transformed into a fatal crisis.

»From the reception of the victorious general through to rolling out of the red carpet, it is possible to follow Agamemnon's appearance, step by step, as the glory fades and the crisis in the political framework gradually emerges and then leads to the King's death. Aeschylus uses elements of a triumphal appearance in order to invert it in the end«, describes Juliane Vogel, before adding: »The King in this drama is the most powerful when he is not visible. In the moment that he emerges onto the stage he loses his power.«

The project has profited particularly from the collaborative work of scholars of drama, literature and linguistics from different countries who have contributed with very different perspectives. Whilst the Americans were more interested in the relationship between text and performance, the research focus of the German colleagues was primarily on the historical genesis of the forms of performance. In turn, Professor Freddie Rokem from Tel Aviv



Prof. Dr. Juliane Vogel has been Professor of Modern German Literature and General Literary Studies at the University of Konstanz since the summer semester of 2007. The Austrian dramatist leads the research project on »Cultural Poetologies of Performance« at the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«.

enriched the debate with analyses that took both positions into account. »All in all, the workshops were among the best that I have ever experienced as a researcher,« says Vogel, describing the collaboration as so exciting and interesting that they will all keep in contact. The project will be completed this winter with a large closing con-

ference; the academic from Konstanz is already working on her publications on the results of the joint research work. There is no question that for all involved, collaborations will continue.

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Just the Help you need

Dr. Helen Gunter's research on the jaws of cichlids, pregnant women and half beak fish benefits from the experience of a Senior Fellow

Helen Gunter came from Brisbane, Australia, to Konstanz in January 2008 to work on an evolutionary biology project about African cichlids in the laboratory of Prof. Axel Meyer, PhD. She had chosen Konstanz, because she was fascinated by the work of Axel Meyer at the Chair of Zoology and Evolution Biology and because the research facilities of the University of Konstanz seemed to be ideal. However, then things got even better: In June 2008, Gunter was accepted as a Fellow in the Zukunftskolleg.

Currently, the Australian is working on three different research projects, which integrate her both within the university itself and between the departments as well as at national and international levels in a network of researchers from diverse subject areas. Besides cichlids, she also studies pregnant women and halfbeak fishes. Although her projects address diverse topics, and, above all, different research systems, a fundamental question that

already preoccupied the Australian during her doctorate, unites them: How do changes to the environments of animals impact gene expression?

In the case of cichlids, she examines jaw development under the influence of different diets. For her chosen study species, fish that exclusively feed on hard food, such as hard-shelled snails over a longer period of time, demonstrate morphological changes. Their jaws

become larger and stronger and the teeth are larger. What is interesting about this is that these features do not seem to be handed down, but rather are developed »as needed«. Gunter examines the epigenetic impact that the environment has on animals. She was the first biologist in Konstanz to deal with DNA methylation, the chemical change to the basic building blocks of DNA, which has led to collaborations both within and outside the university.

When the neuropsychologist Prof. Dr. Thomas Elbert together with Axel Meyer from Konstanz developed a project that aims to examine the effects of stress on pregnant women and their babies, Helen Gunter soon became an important part of the team. By performing epigenetic analyses on the women's blood samples in collaboration with Karl Radtke, who is now a doctoral researcher, it was possible to prove that the genetic disposition of children changes when mothers experience domestic violence during pregnancy and are exposed to extreme stress. In this project that was recently published in *Translational Psychiatry* (Radtke et al. 2011) and received wide attention in the international press (e.g. it was reported on in *Der Spiegel*, *BBC*, *The Economist*, etc.) and others, her collaboration with the Senior Fellow Prof. Robert Philibert, PhD, from the University of Iowa opened up new paths.

Through the Zukunftskolleg, a total of 27 international researchers have spent one to twelve-month stays at the University of Konstanz as Senior Fellows and have mentored the young researchers at the Zukunftskolleg. Originally, the Senior Fellows were to come to the Zukunftskolleg to spend a whole year there, since it is often not possible for them to be away from their laboratories and projects for such a long period of time, the concept was changed. Senior fellows now have the flexibility to divide their residence over several stays.

Robert Philibert has been to Konstanz once so far and will be invited by Helen Gunter for another stay next year. The specialist in neuropsychiatry focuses on the relationship between psychiatry and molecular biology. In so



doing, he examines genetic and epigenetic markers, which can be associated with depression, for example. »Robert really helped me in drawing up new analytical techniques« emphasised Helen Gunter when explaining the successful collaboration with her Senior Fellow. As a result of this collaboration, an international network of experts has meanwhile developed: Together with Axel Meyer, Thomas Elbert and the psychologist, Prof. Dr. Iris Tajana Kolassa, who was a Fellow at the Zukunftskolleg from 2006 to 2010 and now holds the Chair of Clinical and Biological Psychology at the University of Ulm, the insights and new analytical methods are regularly discussed and exchanged. Interdisciplinary, networked across several generations, internationally and Germany-wide: The concept of the Zukunftskolleg works.

› hd.



Dr. Helen Gunter has been a Fellow of the Zukunftskolleg since June 2008 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 2009. The biologist studies, for example, the evolution of cichlid fish in Africa as an example for extremely rapid speciation. The Australian completed her doctorate at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in 2007.

At Home in Konstanz

With the motto »Feeling at Home in Konstanz«, the Welcome Centre, headed by Dr. Johannes Dingler, supports international academics and their families. »We are the first point of contact for all – and we mean all – non-academic problems that our researchers might have, in order to help them have the very best working and living conditions«, stresses Dingler, referring to the full service' philosophy of the Welcome Centre where, since August 2008, some 812 guests have been looked after. As soon as the Welcome Centre is informed about the research stay of an academic, the efficient and extensive care and support system is set in motion: weeks before the guests actually arrive, travel arrangements, accommodation and registration are planned and prepared. During their stay, academics are accompanied for registering with the authorities and, if needed, visits to doctors and other services are arranged, plus the subsequent move for family members is organised. The Welcome Centre also supports the social integration of foreign researchers. This includes, for example, the regular international round table, which not only international guests but also, increasingly, long-standing »Konstanz regulars« take part in with pleasure, in order to welcome the new university members.

In the Near Future

The Library at the University of Konstanz is well equipped with both traditional and forward-thinking services.

For a few weeks now, the university's homepage has a new search for KonSearch, the university's new literature search engine. Those who want to search through what the library has to offer no longer need to click specifically on the library's own page. The significance attributed to the library could not be any more obvious.

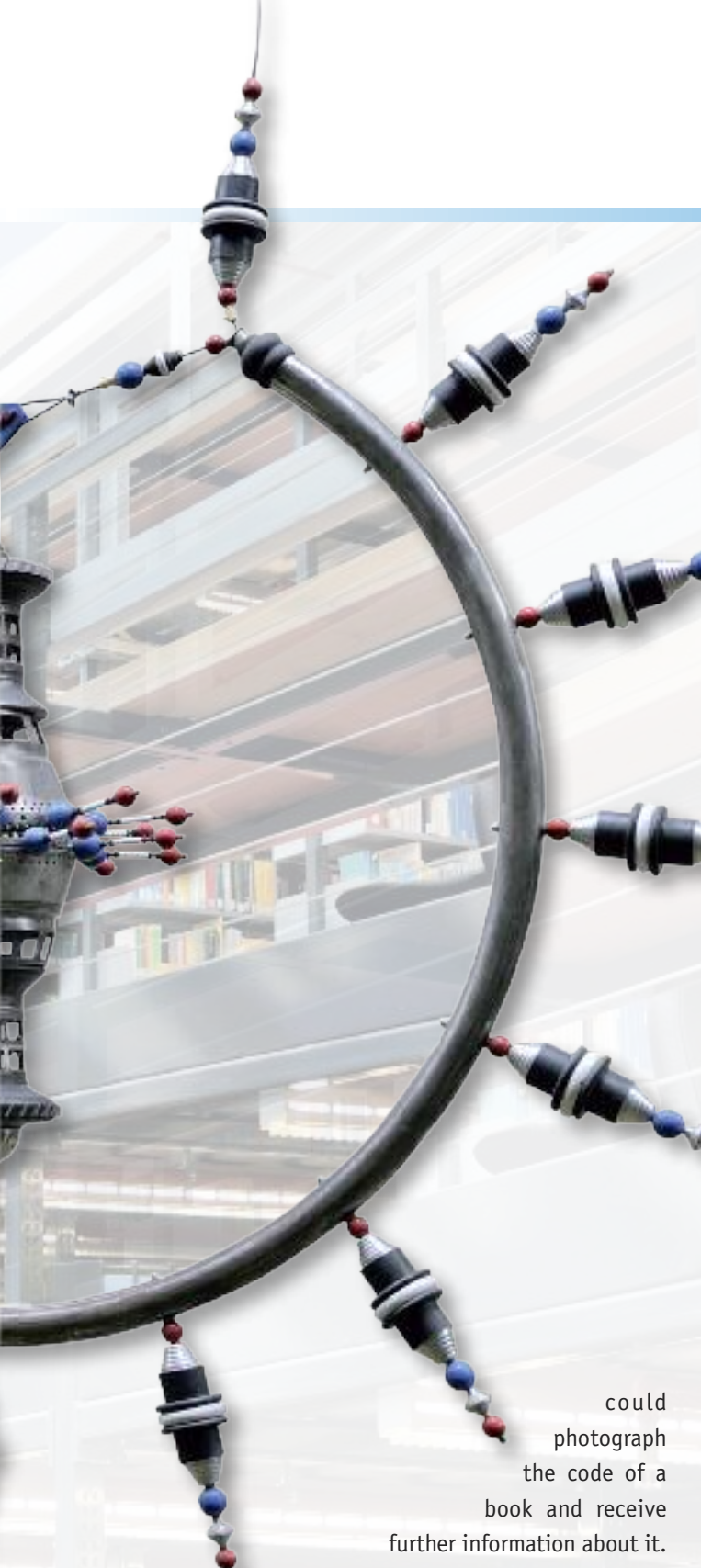
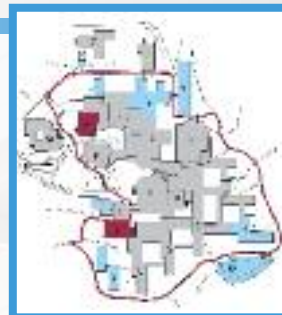
Rector Professor Ulrich Rüdiger calls it the »heart« of the University of Konstanz. In the first phase of the Excellence Initiative, the library scored points with its traditional literature provision, with advice and assistance as well as the expansion of the digital services. For this, it was not only ranked first in the Library Index BIX four times in a row, but also Library of the Year in 2010, merited by the Federation of German Libraries (Deutscher Bibliotheksverband), and by the ZEIT Foundation Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. Library Director Petra Hätscher and her team have also strengthened the library with KonSearch and several visions for the second phase.

KonSearch works like Google or Amazon: whether it's for printed books, e-Books, essays or other media, what previously required searches in a variety of databases can now be found with a single search engine. The search area has grown to over an incredible 100 million titles from the print stock, plus many titles that had previously already been available through the digital services. It is now possible to access essays directly; also available are freely reachable open access repositories equipped with academic publications from all over the world, as well as e-books and working papers. Most of these lead directly to full texts, including the entire stock of works licensed by international publishing houses. For those who find this insufficient, there is additionally access to a data pool of some 800 million titles offered by the American company »Serials Solutions«, with whom the library, as the first German establishment to do so, works on KonSearch.

Packing as much as possible into the index is the one thing, and the other is in making the search engine as simple and intuitive as possible to use.

That is why Google was added as a role model and »trusted instrument«, says Oliver Kohl-Frey, Deputy Director of the Library. This search engine technology offers another advantage: the search interface has already been adapted to smartphone technology with which, using »Mobile Services«, the future has been brought a step closer. It may lead, for example, to Science Apps or an inner library navigation system. A student user could, for example, use a smart phone to find out where vacant workplaces are and how to find their way there. Or they





the help of biometrics. One of the main tasks for the future lies in ensuring that the digital library and the library as a real space are meshed together. »Blended Library« is a collaborative project with Konstanz-based computer scientist Professor Harald Reiterer's working group Human-Computer-Interaction, in which multi-touch tables are being used in a variety of environments. The computers are the same size as a table-football pitch and work like smart phones. They are currently being tested in a project financed by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts in Stuttgart.

Solutions like these will play a substantial part at the library's future Learning Centre on which, following its refurbishment, the new multi-functionality of such rooms will be focussed: as a social space, a place for communication, even an area for relaxation and not least of course, a place of learning. Even in the most modern of libraries, it is not always all about high-tech questions, as the library service team found out after the library's part-closure due to the discovery of asbestos in book areas G and S, whose refurbishment is about to take place. »For our students, what was most important that they had a chair and a table at which they could work« said Oliver Kohl-Frey. » msp.

could photograph the code of a book and receive further information about it. This is a project for KIM, the service network for Communication – Information – Media in which the existing customer services such as the library, computer centre and university administration have been brought together in one unit (see also page 52).

This is all for the future, but the traditional services of Konstanz's library, which form the robust backbone of the facility, will not be neglected. Despite all the simplifications, information technology skills will continue to be taught in special courses, for example academics can learn how to measure their own publication's performance with



A United Front

At the Executive Support Unit for Communications and Marketing, resources have been pooled in order to engage in dialogue with the general public

»KuM« is the acronym for a new department, the Executive Support Unit for Communications and Marketing, which was established at the University of Konstanz in February 2010, during the course of the Excellence Initiative. This firstly involved merging various departments and sections: the university's Press Office, Alumni staff, internet editorial staff, conference management and the Konstanz Science Forum were merged under a joint director. Additionally, these existing areas were combined with task fields for national as well as international marketing and fundraising. The aim of this merge and restructure was, and still is, to develop and expand an overall strategy at the university in the areas of communications, marketing, fundraising and foundation work.

In so doing, the focus was not just on raising the national and international visibility and transparency of the university's teaching and research, but also in delivering a coherent and uniform image of the university. It was also important for communication within the region, to create a central contact point for schools, the town, and other institutions with whom the university frequently comes into contact in a whole range of different areas. Furthermore, it can also be seen that the joint work and consistent agreement and coordination between the individual areas have created efficient and timesaving synergies: the success of the restructure can already be clearly recognised.

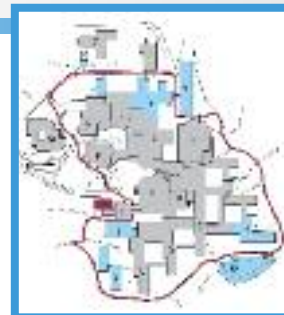
Through new fundraising strategies, it was possible to seek considerable support from various fields. This includes, amongst other things, support for the photovoltaic research in Konstanz which amounts to million, and the raising of three million euros for the »Hector-Personalfonds der Universität Konstanz«.

Such commitments are possible not least as a result of the University's excellent image and identity, as promoted by the Executive Support Unit Communications and Marketing: »In the competition for additional means and research funding, success is no longer solely dependent on creativity and academic performance, but also increasingly



dependent on the perception of this output along with the trust and confidence placed in the institutions«, explains Julia Wandt, Head of the Executive Support Unit, regarding the foundations for successful fundraising at universities.

However, the goal is not just about purely financial fundraising: in the area of student marketing, the aim is to increase the number of applicants and, as far as possible, to recruit as many highly-qualified students as possible to start degree programmes at the University of Konstanz, as far as possible binding them to their university for life. To achieve this, it is again absolutely essential to deliver a positive image of the university to the general public.



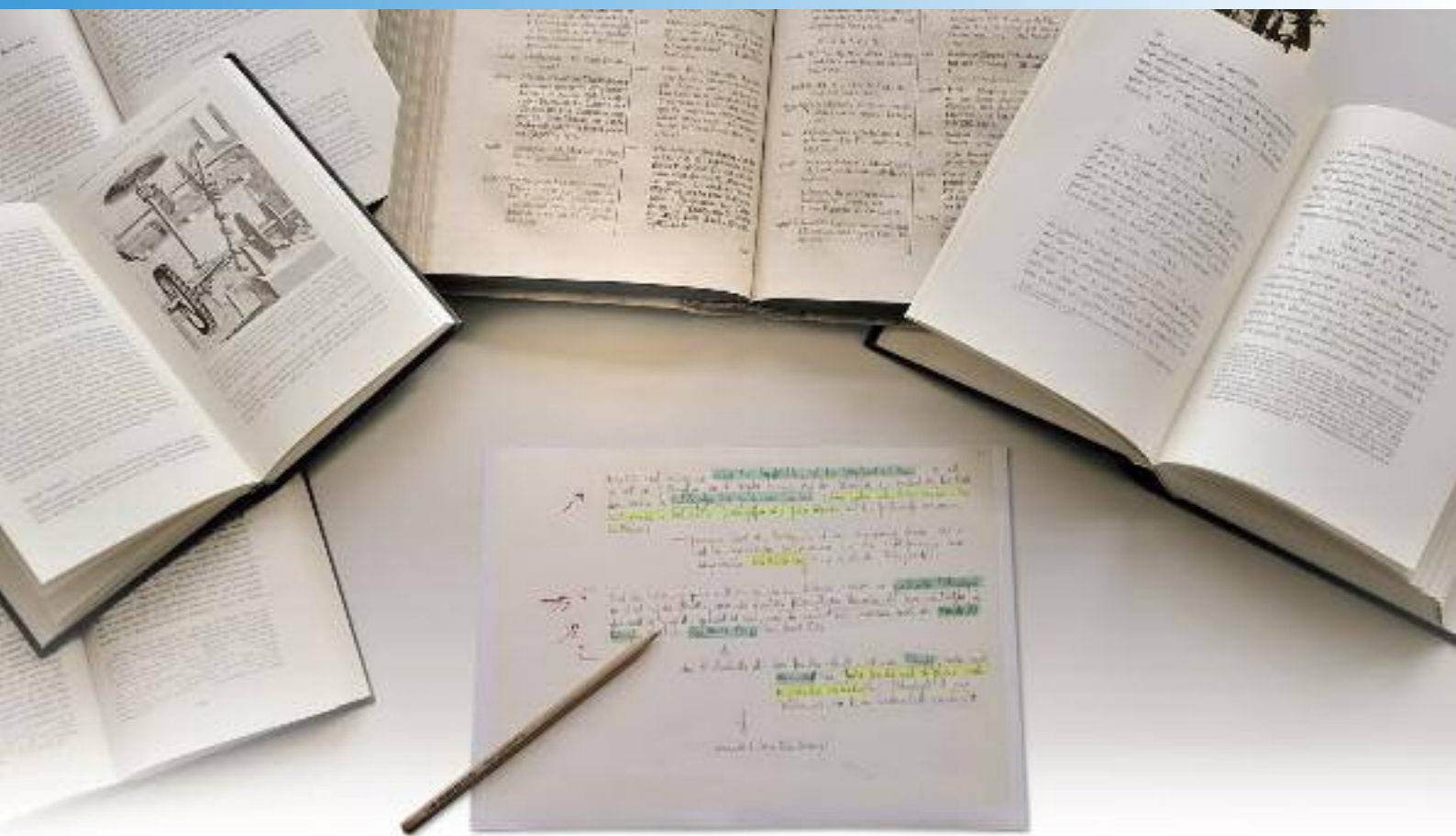
emergency communications, as for example in the case of the library closures caused by asbestos contaminations in November 2010, when internal communication with students and researchers as well as library users was of the highest priority. The open and direct communication strategy made it possible to create trust and confidence, as well as facilitating participation. The underlying principle of the reformed university with its open doors and short walks is continued consistently and successfully in the direct communication paths of the Executive Support Unit.

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Much has been done in the alumni area, too: a central office has been created to look after the university's alumni at the Society for Former Students »Verein der Ehemaligen der Universität« (VEUK) and the coordination of the Konstanz University Society. The Alumni Officer and Managing Director of both facilities attend to the needs and requirements of not only the former students at the university, but also the current students. Right from the first semester, for example, the foundations are laid for binding the students to the University of Konstanz. In communication with the media and the general public, the newly adopted, focussed and coherent image has achieved a high level.

The new strategy of the Communications and Marketing department has also proved itself in the area of



Places of Encounter

The Konstanz Science Forum hosts an »ideas exchange« at Salem Castle

An interface between the University and the general public since 2006, the Konstanz Science Forum is the University of Konstanz's platform for the exchange of ideas between science and research, politics, economy and society. From the start, the goal has been to discuss, beyond purely academic queries, the latest questions of science, research and higher education in a broad, trans-regional and international context. Whether supporting young talent, the European research area, or alternative forms of teacher training studies, since its foundation the Konstanz Science Forum has – through several conferences, workshops and presentations – initiated debates around important themes about the future of science and research.

This not only fosters dialogue with the »outside world«, but also within the University itself, the Science Forum is a much sought-after debating partner, with its events about the development of higher education and the University's image and identity. By successfully raising external funding and engaging in intensive collaboration

with cooperation partners, it has been possible to continually expand and extend the events programme. Headed by Professors Jürgen Mittelstraß, Gerhart v. Graevenitz and Ulrich Gotter, an esteemed Board of Directors sets the agenda.

Since the end of 2010, an additional core work area has emerged in the forum: in a cooperation agreement between the State of Baden-Württemberg and the university, a series of events has been arranged in agreement with Salem Castle. Two events per year will be organised at the former Cistercian Monastery acquired by the State of Baden-Württemberg. The opening event will take place this autumn: on 27 and 28 October the Konstanz Science Forum will hold a workshop entitled »Integration by Signature? On the Usability of Integration Measures in Migration Law« at the Monastery and Salem Castle. The highly topical subject, both socially and politically speaking, will be discussed by experts from science and research, politics and public administration.

Interdisciplinarity will be a key focus: the conference programme combines a legal, sociological, political science and cultural studies approach to perspectives of integration and promises exciting and informative discussions. As with their other events, the Konstanz Science Forum in Salem, too, will focus on a cross-border perspective. Speakers from Switzerland and Austria will enrich the debate with views and experiences on integration agreements. The disciplinary expertise comes from the cooperation partners at the University of Konstanz. The autumn workshop is therefore planned in close cooperation with Professor Daniel Thym from the Research Centre for Immigration and Asylum Law (FZAA). Part of the event will be open to the public, a book presentation by German-Iranian author Navid Kermani, who will read from his new novel »Dein Name«.

Besides the workshop, the Konstanz Science Forum is working on further major events at international and regional levels. For example, a regular series is being developed on the subject of teacher training: »In the last two teacher-training courses in Wilhelmsdorf and Stein am Rhein, there was such a committed response from the teachers that we want to expand this format into a regular series of events«, explains Dr. Susan Rößner, Managing Director of the Konstanz Science Forum. In addition to this, an international conference will take place this December in cooperation with the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Volkswagen Foundation. »The Future of the Humanities in a Multi-polar World« will be held at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, and amongst others, Martha Nussbaum has been invited as a guest speaker from the University of Chicago.] msp.



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Services for Science and Research

Chancellor Jens Apitz is as head of administration in charge of the forward-looking services at the University of Konstanz. Here, he introduces three outstanding examples.

The central administration at the University of Konstanz has always been able to describe itself as »lean«. Right from the beginning, it has reaped great recognition for its image and identity as an efficient service provider for research and teaching. With the expansion of the services it offers, an extension of the Administration Building V had become necessary. Recent years have seen services added that extend far beyond the normal duties of a university administration and enable academics to concentrate even more intensively on the actual work: research and teaching.

In particular, an extra service was created for the group of up and coming researchers in order to pave the career path for each and every one of these highly-promising young people. With institutions and facilities such as Academic Staff Development, Research Support and the Service Network KIM, the University of Konstanz has taken an enormous step forward in the competition for the very best minds.

The **Academic Staff Development (ASD) Unit** was established in the course of the first phase of the Excellence Initiative in order to support the young scientists in their career planning and in gaining the scientifically relevant skills and competence. From the decision to gain a doctorate through to the first full professorship, the ASD is the central contact point whenever there is a need for advice and consultation regarding the personal career path. This can be checking academic curriculum vitae and application documents, or know-how on how to lead your own working group, decision-making aids for the next qualification stage or role-playing to prepare for professorial appointment processes. Besides the cross-disciplinary training courses, competence is also delivered through in-house coaching, a special feature in which our Academic Staff Development Unit (ASD) has qualified itself as an example of best practice. The ASD has also specialised in particular career questions for women and international academics. The ASD Team is highly qualified for its tasks and responsibilities: besides its advisory and

consultative competence, all the ASD advisors bring many years of academic experience with them.

»The Art of Writing Applications«, is the title of a course offered by our **Research Support Team**, which shows the work of this service facility that has also been newly created in the course of the Excellence Initiative: both young researchers from the postdoctoral phase as well as established researchers are advised and consulted on all aspects relating to the topic of research proposals and external fundraising, and are supported from the initial project idea through to the submission of the final proposal. As well as providing workshops for young academics, the Research Support Unit also organises events where important funding organisations introduce their programmes. The service area on Research Agreements and Technology Transfer is also part of the Research Support portfolio. The new range of offerings provided by Research Support rounds off the established services delivered by the University's Research Administration: from application through to reports on expenditure of funds, and, possibly, through to the commercial exploitation of findings, academics now enjoy ideal support for their projects in terms of administration and finance.

KIM, short for Communication – Information – Media, is a service network that interlinks the existing services offered by the university library, computer centre and administration. The Research Platform »SciKon« is the latest product in this network. It makes information on research projects, publications and courses at the University of Konstanz available worldwide. Through this search engine, the academic performance of Konstanz research will be optimised for all target groups. The networking also facilitates a permanent adaptive process in the development of electronic services, also to international standards. KIM has made it possible to focus the computational power and has introduced an intelligent Identity Management System. In the near future, each user will only need a single log-in for all services provided by the University. » Jens Apitz



Building V





From left: Professor Ulrike Sprenger, Dr. Miriam Lay Brander, Rector Professor Ulrich Rüdiger, Dr. Waltraud Liebl-Kopitzki.

Prize of the Town of Konstanz awarded to Dr. Miriam Lay Brander

The »Prize for the Promotion of Up and Coming Academics at the University of Konstanz« went in 2011 to Dr. Miriam Lay Brander. The Literary Studies scholar received the distinction for her dissertation on »Raum-Zeiten. Talking and Showing Seville in the Early Modern Age«. The thesis was produced in connection with the PhD Programme »Cultures of Time«, based at the Cluster of Excellence »Cultural Foundations of Social Integration«.

Dr. Waltraud Liebl-Kopitzki presented the prize worth 4,000 Euros, which is normally split between two dissertations from the departments of Literary Studies and Linguistics, and is awarded this year to the sole prizewinner. Lay Brander's dissertation presents a decisive contribution

to the study of the Early Modern Age, said the Director of the Office for Schools, Education and Academia. Professor Ulrike Sprenger, the supervisor, concluded in her assessment of the doctoral thesis that Miriam Lay Brander had an »outstanding and fascinating style« and a »great achievement« had been made. Besides the »highly methodological reflectivity,« the Professor of Romance Studies from Konstanz notated an »outstanding academic result«.

Miriam Lay Brander, who now works as an academic researcher for Ulrike Sprenger, occupies herself in her outstanding work with the changing concepts of time and space in the 16th and 17th century. Supported by historiographical and fictional texts produced in the surroundings of Seville on the threshold of the modern age, she can demonstrate different spatial conceptions of a new and extended understanding of time and how, conversely, different concepts of time have been newly dimensioned. In this way, she traces the history of knowledge claim about the imbalance of the so-called spatial turning point of the study of history of civilisation in recent years, with its theoretical habit of joining time and space. The thesis has in the meantime been published as a book by the publishing house, transcript.

» msp.



From left: Dr. Uwe Kühne, Head of the Board of Trustees, Rector Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rüdiger, Dr. Roxana Halbleib, Dr. Alexander Sella und Prof. Heinrich Daembkes, Head of Systems Software Engineering.

EADS Research Prize for two dissertations

This year's »Claude Dornier EADS Research Prize« went to Dr. Roxana Halbleib from the Department of Economics and

Dr. Alexander Sell from the Department of Physics. Head of Development Professor Heinrich Daembkes presented the research prize worth a total of 6,000 Euros.

Roxana Halbleib received the prize for her dissertation »Four Essays on Measuring Markets Risks« in which she dealt with the analysis, modelling and prediction of financial risks in various economic scenarios. In particular, her thesis analyses the dangers in the measurement of financial risks in detail. Furthermore, she develops new approaches that measure the contexts between financial variables and minimise the influence of model risks on the precision of risk models. In his doctoral thesis, Alexander Sell deals with the topic of »Non-linear Spectroscopy with a Highly Intensive Terahertz Light Source«. In so doing, he studied the interaction between ultra-short flashes of light with electrons and elementary magnets in matter. To achieve



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this, he developed the world's most intensive and broadest band source of phase-stable terahertz impulses in the spectral range between infrared and microwaves. His thesis

opened up a wide range of opportunities up to direct magnetic control of elementary magnets for future ultra-fast data storage. **msp.**



From left: Werner Allgöwer, Chairman of the Board of the Sparkasse Bodensee, Tilmann Hesselbarth, LBS Chairman of the Board, Junior Professor Tim Friehe and Rector Professor Ulrich Rüdiger.

LBS Environment Prize for Prof. Dr. Tim Friehe

Junior Professor Tim Friehe was awarded with the Environment Prize of the Foundation for Environment and Living at the University of Konstanz for 2011. The economist received the Prize worth 10,000 Euros for his research programme on »Environmental Liability Law and Technical Change«. This work aims to analyse the impact of environmental liability law on the production and investment behaviour of environmental polluting companies. In cooperation with the Economic Theorist Profes-

sor Alfred Endres from the Distance Learning University of Hagen, the academic from Konstanz is researching at the interface between economic and legal questions. His research interest focuses mainly on the extent to which the environmental liability law can create incentives in order to encourage the socially desired production and use of new, environmentally-friendly technologies. In recognition of this economic analysis of the law, Tim Friehe received the Environment Prize of the LBS Savings Bank (Landesbausparkasse) of Baden-Württemberg from Tilmann Hesselbarth, Chairman of the Board of the Foundation, as well as Professor Ulrich Rüdiger, Rector of the University of Konstanz.

Tim Friehe has been a Junior Professor for Economic Policy at the University of Konstanz since the Winter Semester of 2008/2009. In 2008, he was given a mentorship by the Zukunftscolleg of the University of Konstanz; he was mentored by the renowned Economic Theorist and Environmental Economist, Professor Alfred Endres. Together with Endres, the trained economist developed the research programme on »Environmental Liability Law and Technical Change«, for which he has now been distinguished in Konstanz. **gra.**

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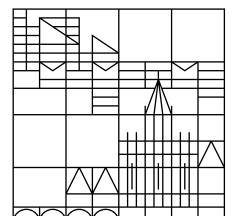
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