

GÖTTINGEN INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter

International news and activities

Looking for Ideas and Participants for the International Week 2014

Göttingen International is planning an "International Week" from the 2nd to the 4th of December 2014. The aim of the international week is to present the topic "studying abroad" and especially the diverse possibilities at the University of Göttingen to students. The main informational event will pertain to general questions concerning studying abroad (organisation, financing, etc.); representatives from partner universities, who will present the many exchange opportunities should be invited. There will also be the opportunity to present international projects, international student organisations, language courses as well as personal experiences from students who have already studied abroad.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! If you have any ideas for the event or you would like to take part in the international week in some other form, we would be delighted to hear from you.



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New Doctoral Programme with China Scholarship Council

The new programme for joint doctoral training of the University of Göttingen and the China Scholarship Council (CSC) encompasses the priority areas of Agricultural Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Economic Sciences, Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology, Geosciences and Geography, Humanities, Law, Mathematics and Informatics, Medicine, Physics, Social Sciences and Theology; other areas may also be considered. Every year in March, the University of Göttingen will propose a compiled list of CSC suitable candidates, from which the CSC selects students who will receive scholarships. The Chinese doctoral students receive a CSC scholarship for a period of up to 48 months.

Co-supervision of the doctoral students between scientists of the University of Göttingen and the respective Chinese universities is encouraged.

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Erasmus+: The New EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport for 2014-2020

On the 1st January 2014, Erasmus+, the new EU programme for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport has started. The main objective of this programme is the development of a Europe 2020 strategy, in which key skills as well as quality in the field of education should be improved. Europe 2020 will be enhanced through the integration of all international Higher Education programmes (such as Alfa, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus etc.).

In accordance with Key Action 1, "Learning Mobility", around 73 million Euros are available to German higher education institutions between 2014 and 2015. The mobility of individuals (such as students, lecturers, personnel, trainees etc.) will be funded under this Key Action. Furthermore, this programme aspires to develop joint Master degree courses (degree mobility).

In the context of Key Action 1, it will be possible to obtain funding for further degree programmes (Bachelor, Master, and PhD). Exchanges with the 34 countries involved in the programme (of which 28 are EU countries, plus the FYR of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey) will also be funded by means of this programme, and in the future, taking into account the programme guidelines, so will exchanges with non-EU partner countries.

In accordance with Key Action 2, "Strategic Partnerships", around 4.1 million Euros are available to German higher education institutions between 2014 and 2015. Partnerships between organisations will be funded within this framework, as well as initiatives for cooperation, to which belong strategies of modernization and internationalization, curricula developments and activities such as summer schools, long-term lectureships, and blended mobility.

Internal applications (a two-page proposal outline) for strategic partnerships within the frames of Key Action 2, can be submitted to Dr. Uwe Muuss up to 14th of February 2014 via email. Decisions regarding the applications will be made in an internal selection process, and the final selection made by the 21st of February 2014. Should you have any further queries regarding Key Action 2 "Strategic Partnerships", please do not hesitate to contact the following:

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Symposium on the Transformation of Global Agri-food Systems in Göttingen

Global agri-food systems are undergoing a rapid transformation towards higher-value products, stricter food standards, and closer international and vertical integration. For the last three years, the research training group "GlobalFood" at the University of Göttingen has been carrying out research along these lines. As the first cohort of PhD students will soon be finishing their dissertations, the group is organising an international GlobalFood Symposium held on the 25th-26th of April 2014 at the Paulinerkirche in Göttingen. The aim of the symposium is to discuss new research findings and policy challenges related to the transformation of global agri-food systems with a focus on developing countries.

The two-day event will feature plenary sessions with invited speakers, contributed paper sessions, and posters. Confirmed speakers include Julio Berdegue (Chile), Joachim von Braun (Germany), Julie Caswell (USA), Jill Hobbs (Canada), Johan Swinnen (Belgium), and Maximo Torero (USA). As this is a public event, the organisers are looking forward to welcoming many interested guests from Göttingen and beyond.

More information about the event and registration will be soon available at www.uni-goettingen.de/globalfood.

International Meeting on the Innovative Research Field "Educational Neuroscience"

The Department of Educational Psychology of the University of Göttingen is proud to announce the 3rd international meeting of the special interest group "Neuroscience and Education" of the "European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction" (EARLI), which will be hosted from the 12th to the 14th of June 2014 in Göttingen. Educational Neuroscience is a rapidly growing research field at the intersection of neuroscience and education. The main aim of this field is to improve our understanding of how the human brain and mind enables

(school-related) learning by applying different methods of the cognitive neurosciences (e.g., neuroimaging). At this meeting, recent empirical research will be presented in the form of keynote lectures and poster presentations, and discussed in light of their theoretical and practical relevance to education.

Further information on the meeting and the special interest group are available on the following website: www.sig22neuroeducation.com.

Workshop "Informal and Everyday Markets: Modern Histories of Indian Business and Entrepreneurship since the Nineteenth Century"

From the 18th to the 20th of June 2014 the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) of the University of Göttingen will be hosting the international workshop "Informal and Everyday Markets: Modern Histories of Indian Business and Entrepreneurship since the Nineteenth Century". All researchers who are concerned with the theme, especially doctoral students from various scientific disciplines, are invited to participate in the workshop.

Applicants should submit a short abstract with 300 to 500 words as well as a C.V. by the 15th of February 2014 to Susanne Bunte: sbunte@uni-goettingen.de. Should you have any questions, please contact Christina Lubinski (lubinski@ghi-dc.org) or Dr. Sebastian Schwecke (sebastian.schwecke@cemis.uni-goettingen.de).

International Conference “Religion in Urban Spaces”

Urban spaces have always functioned as cradles and laboratories for religious movements and spiritualities. The conference “Religion in Urban Spaces” will take place from the 9th to the 11th of April 2014 in Göttingen and will aim to explore the intense and complex interplay between the (post)modern city and religion, bringing the city to the foreground in religious research. Both renowned and young scholars from all over the world will present their latest research and bring into discussion the ways the experience of the urban – the cityscape with its pluralist culture – inscribes itself in religious practices, and vice versa: how religions appropriate and transform (the meanings of) the urban. The conference is organised by the Institute for Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology at the University of Göttingen in cooperation with the Institute of European Ethnology at the University of Amsterdam and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



More information at: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/426457.html

GöttingenSPIRIT Summer School “Cityscapes and New Religiosities in Asia”

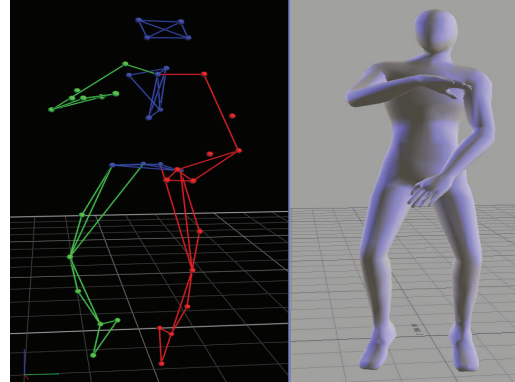
The area studies research networks “Dynamics of Religion in Southeast Asia” (DORISEA) and the “CeMIS-CeMEAS Transregional Research Network” (CETREN), which are both funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, have joined forces to hold the international summer school “Cityscapes and New Religiosities in Asia”. The summer school, which will take place from the 10th to the 17th of August 2014 in Göttingen, is part of the University’s “Göttingen SPIRIT” initiative. 20 participants will dedicate their time and intellectual energies to the three sub-themes: “Transformation of Religious Sites”, “Religion and Media” and “Religious Communities”. Among the outstanding scholars who will lecture during the programme are David A. Palmer (University of Hong Kong), Andrew Johnson (Yale-NUS) and Dan Smyer Yü (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Multireligious and Multiethnic Societies). The keynote lecture will be held by the Vice-President of the National University of Singapore, Professor Lily Kong. More information about the summer school and the application process can be found here: www.dorisea.de/de/node/1502.



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Cross-cultural Perception of Dance

Evolutionary psychologists at the University of Göttingen investigate the signalling quality of human dance movements and their role in mate selection. It is well known that humans judge the attractiveness of others' faces and bodies within milliseconds. Dr. Bernhard Fink and his team, in cooperation with colleagues from Northumbria University in England, aim to understand whether such perception also pertains to dance. The researchers were able to show that women prefer men who display variability in their dance movements. Moreover, men convey physical strength and risk-taking propensity through dance. Women's dances were found to be judged particularly attractive by men when collected on days of high fertility. To understand the biological roots and socio-cultural effects on dance, the Göttingen researchers now seek to expand their insights to other countries. A current project compares men's attractiveness perception of Brazilian and German women's dances. In cooperation with the Escola Superior de Educação Física de Jundiaí near Sao Paulo, the researchers conduct experiments, which - for example - investigate the effect of country-specific personality characteristics on dance perception. This will include the visit of a Brazilian Samba school - of course only for research purposes.



A virtual character, which has been animated with the dance movements of real individuals, will be presented to the subjects for evaluation

You are welcome to participate in an online study by visiting www.evolutionary-psychology.de.

EU project on Mobile Cloud Computing Started

The three-year project MobileCloud (Linking Sino-European Research Institutions in the Mobile Cloud Computing Era) started in January 2014 with an overall EU funding of 480,900 Euro and it is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Xiaoming Fu from the Institute of Computer Science, University of Göttingen. This is the second EU project coordinated by Prof. Fu besides GreenICN (Architecture and Applications of Green Information Centric Networking), which receives an overall funding of 1.5 Million Euro from the EU.

Mobile Cloud Computing is emerging as a new computing paradigm where mobile devices exploit the available cloud computing platforms for performing specific tasks and/or accessing data on demand rather than on the individual devices themselves.

The objective of MobileCloud is to investigate innovative methodologies and approaches to optimise mobile cloud computing resources and satisfy service requirements, including energy efficiency and high resource utilization. Additionally, the project is expected to foster continued close cooperation between research communities in Europe and China.

More information available at: www.fp7-mobilecloud.eu.



Humboldt Foundation Award Winner Visits University of Göttingen

Prof. Dr. Ismail Cakmak from Sabanci University in Istanbul has been awarded the Georg Forster Research Award of the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, valued at 60,000 Euro. At the beginning of this year, he started conducting his research at the Department for Crop Sciences, in the Section of Plant Nutrition and Crop Physiology and at the Institute of Applied Plant Nutrition (IAPN). The agricultural scientist from Turkey is highly recognised internationally for his expertise in the field of plant nutrition and plant physiology, in which he connects basic research with practical application. "During his stay in Göttingen, Prof. Cakmak will focus on the relevance of potassium and magnesium on partitioning of photoassimilates within plants, and effects on plant shoot and root growth", explained Director Prof. Dr. Klaus Dittert, the joint researcher.

More information at: www.iapn.de.



Prof. Dr. Ismail Cakmak. (Photo: Cakmak)

Jasper Cirkel's Experimental Work Receives the Title "Highly Commended"

Jasper Cirkel, physics student at the University of Göttingen, has received the Irish Undergraduate Award 2013. His work received the title "highly commended" in the category of Mathematics and Physical Sciences. With this award, the jury recognised the excellence of Mr. Cirkel's research on the topic of "velocity distribution in granular gas", which is the topic of his bachelor's thesis at the University of Göttingen. With this award, Mr. Cirkel belongs to the top 10% in his category.

The Undergraduate Awards are presented by the Trinity College in Dublin. In 2013, more than 3,700 undergraduate students from all over the world took part in the competition. Jasper Cirkel was the only German student to receive an award. Jasper Cirkel studies Physics and Mathematics at the University of Göttingen and is currently away on a semester abroad at the University of Lyon.

More information at: www.undergraduateawards.com.

DAAD honours student from Nicaragua

Salvador Marcello Perez Alvarez from Nicaragua is currently studying at the University of Göttingen and has been awarded this year's prize for outstanding foreign students by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This DAAD prize is awarded to international students who not only excel academically, but who also show a notable commitment to social, intercultural and intercollegiate affairs.

Salvador Marcello Perez Alvarez is in his third semester of the Master's degree programme in Development Economics offered by the Faculty of Economic Sciences.

For more information, please refer to <http://tinyurl.com/o8k27vg>.

New Series of Events “Gender and Diversity in Science”

In what way does gender influence job and career paths in the natural and life sciences? Is teaching in the natural and life sciences gender neutral? And which parts do disabilities, social or geographical background, and other categories of difference play, apart from questions of gender: How is the diversity and heterogeneity of students, instructors, and researchers depicted in the natural and life sciences?

These and similar questions are the topic of the series of events “Gender and Diversity in Science” that will be launched this winter semester by the university’s equality office and in cooperation with various departments within the natural and life sciences. All those interested are cordially invited! More information: www.uni-goettingen.de/gender-diversity-science.

Seminar for Lecturers “Working in International Classrooms”

The seminar identifies and analyses diverse teaching and learning cultures and academic expectations in their complex international classroom settings. Chances, challenges and best practice models of diversity teaching in German Higher Education are investigated. The interactive format of the seminar (lectures, interactive exercises, case studies, debates, role play) allows the participants to share and reflect on their experiences. They are given the opportunity to develop policies and techniques of teaching

delivery, learning activities, intercultural classroom relations, assessment, and support strategies for their own international classrooms. This seminar will take place on the 24th and the 25th of February 2014 10.00-17:45/9:00-13.00. Enrolment (until the 10th of February 2014) and further information: www.uni-goettingen.de/gender-diversity-science. The seminar is part of the series of events “Gender & Diversity in Science” and is addressed towards lecturers (especially of programmes instructed in English).

Staff Training Week in Göttingen

From the 5th to the 9th of May 2014, the University of Göttingen will be holding a staff training week, hosting European employees as well as partners from the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 project, in order to promote professional exchange among European colleagues. The training week will offer opportunities for professional exchange in the areas of international

office, IT, marketing and social media, studying and teaching, as well as further areas relating to administration. All those who are interested in taking part or who have ideas for further possibilities for professional exchange, especially related to administration, please contact Karen Denecke (karen.denecke@zvw.uni-goettingen.de) by the 28th of February.

International Mother Language Day

The International Mother Language Day is an observance held annually on the 21st of February worldwide, to promote awareness and effective mobilisation of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. The Bengali Community of Göttingen, in collaboration with the International Office of the University of Göttingen,

will organize for the second time the International Mother Language Day at Aula am Waldweg 26 on the 21st of February 2014, starting at 5:00 pm. The programme will consist of several presentations followed by an international cultural event.

More than 10 Years Alumni Work with Iran

The Section for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry of the Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL) continues its long-term alumni activities between the University of Göttingen and the University of Tehran. For many years, the Germany Iran Alumni Network GIAN, founded in 2003, has been one of the few scientific pathways between Germany and Iran. GAENSAR (German Alumni Ecosystem Network in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions), founded as part of GIAN, will host two DAAD funded workshops at the University of Tehran in 2014 and 2015. Alumni from Iran and neighbouring countries will meet this spring to discuss anthropogenic changes in Iranian landscapes.

More information at <http://tinyurl.com/ney5kgt>



Annual Alumni Meeting in China

The 2013 annual alumni meeting in China of the University of Göttingen took place in Nanjing in November 2013 and included the alumni conference of the German-Chinese Institute of Law "Innovation – Growth – Social Balancing" and the annual meeting of the Chinese Alumni Association of the University of Göttingen. About 80 participants attended these events. The University of Göttingen was, amongst others, represented by Prof. Dr. Hiltraud Casper-Hehne, Vice President for International Affairs.

Vice President Casper-Hehne and Vice President Yang of Nanjing University signed an addendum to their universities' cooperation agreement. The alumni elected Prof. Dr. Fang Xiaomin, Nanjing University, new chairwoman of the Chinese Alumni Association of the University of Göttingen. More information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/o6pv6f>.



The Göttingen Minipig

The Göttingen minipig is the smallest pig breed under a controlled breeding scheme worldwide.

In order to reveal the background of the extraordinarily small body size, a collaboration between the Animal Breeding and Genetics group of Prof. Henner Simianer from the University of Göttingen and the group of Prof. Leif Andersson and Carl-Johan Rubin from the Biomedical Centre of Uppsala University (Sweden) was established. The goal of the ongoing research is to sequence and analyse the genomes of ten Göttingen minipigs and some other miniature and normal sized pig breeds to determine the genes affecting growth in pigs. For this, Christian Reimer, University Göttingen, conducted the comparison of the Göttingen minipig with pig breeds from all over the world during two research stays in Uppsala, funded by the European Science Foundation and the DAAD U4 Network.

First results show, that some regions of the minipig genome are systematically different from all normal sized pigs and that the major genetic influence during the breed establishment was contributed by Asian animals.



Contact:

Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics

Web: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/92842.html

Sino-German-Symposium on Frontiers in Fundamental Researches for the Improvement of Farm Animal Production

Supported by the Sino-German Centre for Research Promotion of the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China a symposium on fundamental research for the improvement of farm animal production was held in November 2013. Organised by Prof. Dr. Dr. Bertram Brenig (Institute of Veterinary Medicine, University of Göttingen) and Prof. Dr. Lusheng Huang (Key Laboratory for Animal Biotechnology, Jiangxi Agricultural University Nanchang, PR China) the German and Chinese research elite in animal breeding and genetics came together in Nanchang (Jiangxi Province, PR China) to present and discuss current and future research developments.

More than 100 participants had the unique opportunity to catch up on and discuss the latest developments in the diverse scientific fields of livestock breeding, animal and molecular genetics, reproductive biotechnology and physiology, bioinformatics and statistics as well as animal nutrition. Due to the success of the symposium and the positive resonance with participants from industry and politics, Brenig and Huang are planning to organise a further Sino-German-Symposium in 2014, which then will take place in Göttingen.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/ocbbgu4>

China Education Expo 2013

The China Office represented the University of Göttingen at the China Education Expo in November 2013. With booths at the CEE venues in Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai and on "German Study Days" at Nankai University in Tianjin and Tongji University in Shanghai as well as a presentation at the event "Study in Germany" at Wuhan University, the China Office intensively promoted the University of Göttingen. During all mentioned activities, numerous visitors showed great interest in Bachelor, Master or Doctoral studies at the University of Göttingen.

In the autumn of 2014, the University of Göttingen will take part in the next CEE. Those interested in participating in the fair in person are welcome to contact the China Office.

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Going to Uppsala with the U4 Network



Sarah Sinram, was one of the doctoral students in 2013 chosen by the U4 network to have funded their stay abroad at one of the U4 partner universities. For Ms. Sinram, who is currently doing comparative researching of the welfare state, the University of Uppsala offered a wonderful opportunity to work under the supervision of internationally renowned Professor Joakim Palme, as well as to take full advantage of the university's close proximity to the Parliament House Stockholm. During her four month stay, Ms. Sinram profited from the many seminars and guest lecturers at the network of political science institutes in Sweden. Furthermore, she also received support on her dissertation from experienced and internationally active researchers as well as young researchers from different relevant areas in her field.

Through the support of the U4 scholarship, Ms. Sinram was able to manage the higher living costs in Sweden. "In contrast to other support programmes, one receives enough money to live from the DAAD-sponsorship 'Strategic Partnerships', which is really helpful", said Sarah Sinram, who not only praised the support from her guest faculty, but also the award ceremonies and institutional excursions in which she was able to take part in Uppsala. Looking back, Ms. Sinram believes the U4-Network stay abroad was an extremely successful one, which not only opened new horizons on an academic level, but a personal level and provided her with much inspiration.

For more information about the U4 Network, please check: www.u4network.eu.

Imprint

Publisher:

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