



NEWS FROM THE GUTENBERG RESEARCH COLLEGE



Dear colleagues,

I'm happy to report on the recent developments of the Gutenberg Research College at Johannes Gutenberg University. The third term of office ended for the executive committee and alongside other members, Mathias Neubert, former director of

the GRC, retired from his office. At this point I would like to thank him once more for his dedicated and successful work during the last six years. I also want to express my gratitude to the executive committee members who have left the GRC after several years of active engagement.

In this newsletter I will present you the remaining and the new members of the committee. You will find experienced researchers from different faculties and from other research institutes in Mainz. If you have any questions about or suggestions for the GRC, don't hesitate to contact the committee member of your choice.

It is our aspiration to use the established funding instrument of the GRC fellowships most effectively and to support every single fellow and their research projects in the best possible way. Therefore, our fellowships contain different measures like the relief from academic teaching or the development of joint working groups with external fellows and cooperation partners from Mainz. In 2017, we announced the so-called "Zielgerade" ("home stretch") fellowships for the first time. We have initiated this fellowship model to support GRC fellows who will finish a big scientific, scholarly or artistic project in the next semesters.

If you consider suggesting an excellent researcher or artist for a GRC fellowship, we recommend you to contact us early, so we can develop a suitable model together. GRC fellowships can be granted to excellent researchers of JGU, as well as to researchers from other institutions who are going to work permanently or temporarily at JGU.

Our executive committee also supports the JGU authorities and the JGU researchers who participate in the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments. The research groups who planned to write a proposal for a cluster of excellence presented their first ideas at a GRC workshop

in 2016. In intensive discussions recommendations for further steps were elaborated. In April 2017, the draft proposals have been submitted and we are currently waiting for the decision which groups will we invited to submit full proposals in February 2018. We will be happy to support the research groups and the JGU Authorities in the ongoing process.

This example illustrates another main task of the GRC executive committee: to provide strategic advice to the JGU Authorities and research institutions at JGU. I encourage all the responsible persons of the faculties and the art schools to think strategically and look towards the future: How will our field of work develop in the next five to ten years? What do we imagine as our future focus and priorities, how can we attract outstanding researchers and artists?

If you have suggestions or questions regarding our functions and funding opportunities, I am happy to talk to you. I am looking forward to receiving your e-mail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Hieke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas Hieke

GRC executive committee starts fourth term of office with new director

In October 2016 the fourth term of office of the GRC executive committee has started. The president appointed eleven new members for the executive committee after their approval by the Senate. Beside excellent scientists from nearly all faculties of JGU, there are several members from cooperating research institutes in Mainz: the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB), the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, the Helmholtz Institute Mainz (HIM) and the Roman-Germanic Central Museum (Leibniz Archaeological Research Institute). Representatives of the non-professorial academic staff and students guarantee the inclusion of all academic levels in the executive committee.

The new executive committee elected Thomas Hieke, professor for Old Testament Studies at the Catholic Theological Faculty, as new GRC director. He follows the physicist Matthias Neubert who directed the college successfully for six years. Susann Schweiger, professor for Human Genetics at the University Medical Center Mainz, was elected as deputy director, as the previous deputy, the linguist Damaris Nübling, also left the committee. The legal scholar Eva Ellen Wagner follows the biologist Christian Berger as representative of the GRC network.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: MEMBERS



Prof. Dr. Walter Bisang
Faculty 05: Department
of English and Linguistics



Jens Blobner
Student member,
Faculty 04



Prof. Dr. Dilek Dizdar
Faculty 06: Intercultural
German Studies



Prof. Dr. Thomas Hieke
GRC Director, Faculty 01:
Catholic-Theology,
Department of Old
Testament Studies



Prof. Dr. Stefan Hirschauer
Faculty 02: Institute
of Sociology



Dr. Alexandra W. Busch
Roman-Germanic Central
Museum



Prof. Dr. Gerald Haug
Max Planck Institute
for Chemistry



Prof. Stefan Irnich
Faculty 03: Logistics
Management



Prof. Dr. Frank Maas
Helmholtz Institute Mainz;
Faculty 08: Institute of
Nuclear Physics



Prof. Dr. Michael Matheus
Faculty 07: Department
of History



Prof. Dr. Doris Prechel
Faculty 07: Depart-
ment of Ancient
Studies



Prof. Dr. Susann Schweiger
Deputy GRC Director,
Faculty 04: Institute
of Human Genetics



Prof. Dr. Jairo Sinova
Faculty 08: Institute
of Physics



Prof. Dr. Helle Ulrich
Institute of Molecular
Biology; Faculty 10: Biology



Dr. Eva Ellen Wagner
Representative of the GRC
network, Faculty 03: Public
Law, International and Euro-
pean Law, Media Law



Judith Maria Poersch
Student member,
Faculty 05: Department
of Romance Studies



Prof. Dr. Wolfram Ruf
Faculty 04: Center
for Thrombosis and
Hemostasis (CTH)



Dr. Thomas Tütken
Faculty 09: Institute
of Geosciences



**Prof. Dr. Siegfried
Waldvogel**
Faculty 09: Institute
of Organic Chemistry



Prof. Dr. Eva Wolf
Faculty 10: Biology;
Institute of Molecular
Biology

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: DEPUTY MEMBERS



Prof. Dr. Donald Dingwell

*Department for Earth and Environmental Sciences,
Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich*

Donald Bruce Dingwell is among the leading volcanologists worldwide. He became internationally renowned for the experimental investigation of the physical properties of volcanic systems, in particular his research on silicate melts and glasses. In the past years he focused on the kinetic processes of volcanic systems and eruptions. Dingwell will – as a GRC fellow in cooperation with the Institute of Geosciences – investigate the release of halogens during and after volcanic eruptions.

His outstanding work earned him several honors, for example the honorary doctorate of the University of Alberta and the University College London as well as the Federal Cross of Merit. Furthermore, he was secretary general of the European Research Council and is currently president of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI).



Prof. Dr. Victor Flambaum

*School of Physics,
University of New South Wales*

The well-known physicist Victor Flambaum is professor at the School of Physics at the University of New South Wales in Australia. His research encompasses different areas of theoretical physics – from particle and nuclear physics to cosmology. He is known for his successful collaboration with experimental groups and initiatives which led to many groundbreaking results. During the last few years he has already established contacts with different research groups at JGU. Over the course of the next three years he will work regularly at Helmholtz Institute Mainz (HIM) and the Institute of Physics of JGU. Together with his colleagues, he will analyze temporal and spatial variations of fundamental constants as well as continue the search for dark matter.



Prof. Peter Kiefer

Mainz School of Music, JGU

Peter Kiefer is professor at the Mainz School of Music, where he leads the unique master's course Sound Art Composition since 2009. His artistic presentations in renowned houses, at festivals, and in public spaces have won him national and international recognition as a sound artist. He consistently searched for new fields of activity and application beyond the subject area of sound art and thereby was a major contributor to its further development. Kiefer's groundbreaking exhibition about sound art and the resultant anthology *Klangräume der Kunst* presented a historical abstract and a systematization of his subject which became a widely adopted milestone.



Prof. Dr. Eric Watkins

*Philosophy Department,
University of California,
San Diego*

The philosopher Eric Watkins is among the most renowned Kant experts worldwide. He has published a pioneering monograph on *Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality* and his research also includes the reception of Kant in the academic discussions of his time as well as in succeeding periods. His expertise and also his excellent international network will advance Kant research in Mainz and the whole Rhine-Main area. Watkins will be visiting Mainz on a regular basis and be part of major conferences as well as workshops on the philosophy of modern times with a focus on Kant.

GUTENBERG RESEARCH AWARD 2016



In May 2016 the biomedical expert **VISHVA DIXIT**, Vice President for Early Discovery Research and Director of the postdoctoral program at the Californian company Genentech, received the Gutenberg Research Award 2016. With this award the GRC has honored Dixit's groundbreaking research on apoptosis, a form of programmed cell death, where the cell destructs itself. His work enabled the development of new therapies against cancer or neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer. Moreover, Dixit identified the components of inflammasome, a complex of proteins that enables the immune system to fight infections. Most recently he achieved pioneering discoveries on ubiquitination and deubiquitination of proteins during the emergence of cancer.

The Modu Quartet delighted the guests with compositions of Haydn and Schubert

During the annual celebration the chemist **KLAUS MÜLLEN** was welcomed as new GRC fellow. The former director of the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research is among the most renowned scientists in experimental chemistry and polymer research worldwide.




... with the Gutenberg Academy

In July 2016 members of the GRC and the Gutenberg Academy for Young Researchers discussed "Interdisciplinarity: Chances and Challenges". First junior professor **SEBASTIAN LERCH** and GRC fellow **OLGA ZLATKIN-TROITSCHANSKAIA** introduced the topic from different angles. Then **DORIS PRECHEL**, member of the GRC Executive Committee, and **JOHANNES DAXENBERGER** of TU Darmstadt presented an interdisciplinary research project involving their respective fields classical studies and computer sciences.

GRC "GEWÖLBEGESPRÄCH"

GRC fellow **JOCHEN ROEPER**, speaker of the Rhine-Main Neuroscience Network (rmn²), introduced his field of research with the entertaining lecture "Dancing with Dopamine – Why study neuromodulation?" In another presentation, the new GRC fellow **VICTOR FLAMBAUM** from the University of New South Wales talked about "Dark matter, space-time variation of the physical constants and origin of life" and illustrated new ways for theoretical and experimental physics.

The Executive Committee met for an internal Gewölbegespräch in February 2017 and reflected upon recent developments and further possibilities to support excellent researchers and innovative research projects. The members of the Executive Committee also discussed intensely the GRC's task to advise the JGU authorities and the faculties with regard to general strategic decisions concerning research funding.



In March 2016 GRC fellow **MATTHIAS SCHOTT** received the teaching award of Rhineland-Palatinate.

WALTER BISANG, member of the GRC Executive Committee, was elected as a full member of the Academia Europaea. He is assigned to the humanistic class of the academy, which focuses on the promotion of education and science worldwide.


In September 2016, GRC Fellow **KLAUS MÜLLEN** received the Hermann-Staudinger-Preis by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (GDCh) for his research on the synthesis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and 2D-macromolecules for electronic components.

In November 2016 **DILEK DIZDAR**, member of the GRC Executive Committee and one of the founders of the translation platform “Translate for Justice”, was awarded the Hermann Kesten Prize by the German PEN Center which honored the work of the translation platform. Moreover, she was involved in the “Academics for Peace” initiative, which has received the “Aachener Friedenspreis”. As a mentor she also supported the successful application of JGU for an endangered academic who will receive a scholarship by the Philipp Schwartz Initiative.



In 2016, GRC fellow **SILVIA HANSEN-SCHIRRA** has established the Translation and Cognition Center (TRA&CO) in Germersheim. The TRA&CO is one of the first neurolinguistics laboratories and combines EEG with eye tracking and keylogging to gain new insights about translational didactics and translation competence.

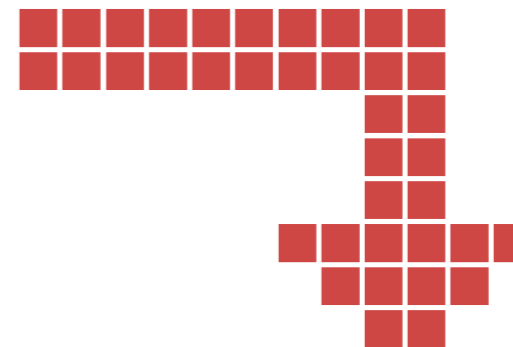
The Shanghai Institute of Liver Diseases at Fudan University has appointed former GRC fellow **DETLEF SCHUPPAN** as an external consultant. In the next years he will also be a member of an interdisciplinary research team in the Leibniz research project Wheat-scan. In this project, as well as in a DFG supported cooperation project with the university Hohenheim, he will investigate the causes and basics of wheat intolerance.



Several GRC fellows of the University Medical Center Mainz were involved in successful applications for collaborative research centers. **KRISHNARAJ RAJALINGAM** and **JONATHAN KIPNIS** are part of the CRC TR-128 *Initiating/effector versus regulatory mechanisms in Multiple Sclerosis*, which was extended for four years. **JOCHEN ROEPER** conducts research in the new CRC 1193 *Neurobiology of Resilience to stress-related mental dysfunction: from understanding mechanisms to promoting prevention*, and **AMPARO ACKER-PALMER** is speaker of the extended CRC 1080 *Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Neural Homeostasis*.

GRC fellow **CORNELIA SCHWEPPE** is part of the German-Dutch cooperation project The Transnationalization of Long-Term Care Regimes. The project will be funded by the DFG and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for the next three years and will compare long-term care in Germany and the Netherlands.

GRC fellow **JOHANNES HENN** received the prestigious ERC Consolidator Grant. He will use it in the next five years to promote new methods of calculation in theoretical physics.



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