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NEWS FROM THE GUTENBERG RESEARCH COLLEGE

## Dear colleagues,

Once again, we are pleased to report on many interesting GRC activities. Our fellows and the members of our Executive Committee conducted a lot of exciting research projects and received several awards for their research. Some fellows initiated scientific and artistic cooperation projects that will be effective far beyond the duration of their fellowships. Others used innovative publication formats in order to make the latest state of research publicly available and to involve young scholars in the current debate. Selected highlights of these activities will be presented in detail on the following pages.

Furthermore, the GRC again bestowed the Gutenberg Research Award for outstanding scientific achievements and appointed some new fellows. To strengthen the interdisciplinary exchange between researchers from all academic fields, we also started a new semester program for the GRC Network. In addition to scientific events with our cooperation partners, this includes the participation in some of the university's and region's cultural programs. These activities seek to facilitate the settling in of newly-arrived fellows at JGU and in Mainz. You will find some more information on the GRC events in the second part of this newsletter.

If you have any questions about our funding instruments or our events, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues on the Executive Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Matthias Neubert  
(Director of the GRC)



## NEW FELLOWS



**Prof. Krishnaraj Rajalingam, Institute for Immunology, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**

The molecular biologist Krishnaraj Rajalingam investigates the mechanisms of reduced cellular activities in order to better

understand cancer and immunity diseases and thus advance the development of new therapies for autoimmune disorders, neurological diseases, and cancer. Prior to his appointment to the DFG-funded Heisenberg Professorship at the Research Center for Immunotherapy at JGU, he was head of an Emmy Noether Group at Goethe University Frankfurt and PLUS3-fellow of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation.



**Prof. Jochen Roeper, Institute for Neurophysiology, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main**

Jochen Roeper is an internationally acknowledged neurophysiologist in the field of mesolimbic systems.

His research at renowned institutes in Oxford, Marburg, and Frankfurt contributed to our understanding of neurological and neuro-psychiatric diseases decisively. Together with his colleagues at the Focus Program Translational Neurosciences (FTN), Roeper will conduct research on important brain functions and mechanisms of human diseases.



**Prof. Cornelia Schwappe, Institute of Education, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**

Cornelia Schwappe is professor for Social Pedagogy and coordinator of the DFG Research Training Group "Transnational Social Support" at JGU. In numerous cooperative projects with colleagues from Europe, the United States, and Asia she investigates cross-border forms of social support. In addition, she is the editor of the journal "Transnational Social Review," which, within a few years only, has become one of the internationally leading journals in socio-pedagogical research. As GRC fellow, she will extend her cooperation activities and merge her previous focus areas to focus on "Transnational Ageing".

**PETRA SCHUMACHER**, member of the GRC Executive Committee and representative of the GRC Network, accepted a professorship at the Institute for German Language and Literature at the University of Cologne. The president of JGU appointed **CHRISTIAN BERGER**, currently head of a junior research group at the Institute of Genetics, as new member of the GRC Executive Committee. **SVEN HORKE** was elected as new network representative.

The Technology Academy Finland awarded the GRC fellow **STUART PARKIN** the 2014 Millennium Technology Prize for his development of storage media with extremely high capacity. The prize is endowed with one million euros and recognizes technological innovations that contribute decisively to the sustainable improvement of the quality of people's lives.

GRC fellow **ISAAC KALIMI**, expert on the Hebrew Bible and the history of ancient Israel, has been fellow of the renowned Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala from September 2014 to June 2015.

In March 2015, the city of Mannheim and the publishing company "Bibliographisches Institut" awarded

the Konrad Duden Prize to the GRC Deputy Director **DAMARIS NÜBLING**. The linguist received the prestigious award for her research on topics such as cases of doubt in the German language and interdependencies between language and society.

In summer 2014, GRC Director **MATTHIAS NEUBERT** was granted full membership of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Division of the Academy of Sciences and Literature Mainz.

GRC fellow **URSULA VERHOEVEN-VAN ELSBERGEN** started a long-term project on ancient Egyptian cursive scripts in the academy program 2015. Under her leadership, the project aims at a systematical and digital recording of hieratic and cursive hieroglyphs.

In January 2015, GRC fellow **THOMAS METZINGER**, head of the MIND Group, published the open-access collection "Open Mind" with freely available articles that document state-of-the-art research on the mind and the brain, consciousness, and the self. The GRC-funded pioneer project aims at furthering the autonomous publication of scientific texts.

"Baroque Vocal – College for Ancient Music", the continuing education program which was founded by GRC fellow **CLAUDIA EDER**, extends its cooperation with the state foundation "Villa Musica Rhineland-Palatinate". Both institutions support excellent young artists. Together, they will develop interesting programs on baroque and early classical music.

The Center for Thrombosis and Hemostasis (CTH) at the University Medical Center Mainz signed a cooperation agreement with the University Hospital Maastricht. Their scientific exchange includes the GRC fellowship for **HUGO TEN CATE** and aims at the extension of theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of frequently occurring coagulation disorders.

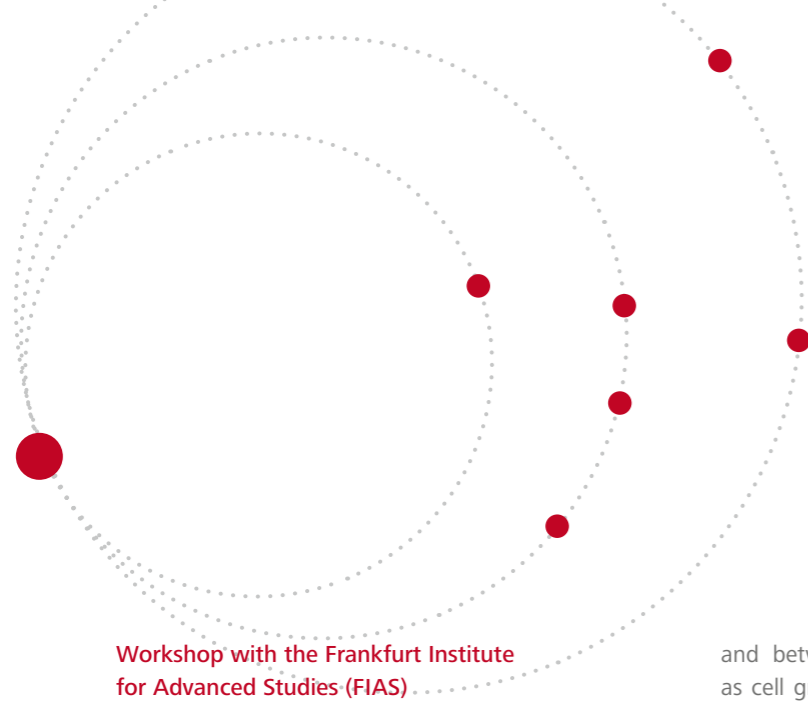
Together with their colleagues at JGU, the Institute for Molecular Biology (IMB) and the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research (MPI), the GRC Executive Committee members **SVEN HORKE** and **CHRISTIAN BERGER** founded the platform JUGGLE (Junior Group Leaders in Life Sciences at JGU) in order to foster the scientific exchange and networking of young researchers in the Life Sciences.

## Round Table

... with the Gutenberg Academy for Young Researchers

At the annual cooperation event with the Gutenberg Academy for Young Researchers (GA), external experts and members of GRC and GA discussed the relation between third-party funding and academic freedom. The panel discussion was chaired by the science journalist Anja Braun from the public broadcasting corporation SWR. Tobias Bopp (Institute for Immunology, JGU), Inga Schäfer (Ministry of Education, Science, Continuing Education and Culture of Rhineland-Palatinate), Dagmar Simon (WZB Social Science Research Center Berlin), and Mathias Winde (Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft) discussed if the increasing share of third-party funding in higher education led to a dependency on third-party funds and if this development influenced the daily research activities of scientists. Further topics included the consequences for the selection of research topics, the claim for transparency of third-party-funded research in public universities, and the (dis-)advantages of using third-party-funding acquisition as evaluation criterion for research potential and the performance-oriented granting of funds.

## EVENTS



### Workshop with the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies (FIAS)

In November 2014, Mainz hosted a workshop of the GRC and the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies. Members of both institutions presented examples of innovative interdisciplinary research and discussed opportunities for cooperation. In his lecture "Information Coding", the computer scientist Volker Lindenstruth, chairman of the FIAS board of directors, introduced a novel sight at Johann Sebastian Bach's music. The philosopher Thomas Metzinger, GRC fellow and adjunct fellow at FIAS, showed how findings of neuro-scientific research in the past few years have spurred philosophical debates on classical concepts such as self and consciousness. More joint events are planned for the upcoming semesters.

### GRC "Gewölbegespräch"

In January 2015, the new GRC fellow Krishnaraj Rajalingam shared central aspects of his research with the members of the GRC Network. In his talk "Life and Death in Cellular Homeostasis: A Fine Balance," he explained how molecular signals within

and between cells initiate diverse processes such as cell growth and cell multiplication, and how cell adhesion and differentiation are steered. His working group, the Molecular Signaling Unit at the Research Center for Immunotherapy at the University Medical Center Mainz, among other things investigates the so-called RAF-kinases and their impact on cell death and the emergence of tumors.

### Semester Program of the GRC Network

In the summer term 2014, the GRC started a program for the strengthening of personal and academic exchange and interdisciplinary cooperation within the GRC Network. In addition to attending regular events such as the Annual Celebration, the "Gewölbegespräche", and joint events with cooperation partners inside and outside JGU, the GRC members also met for tea time, attended lunch concerts at the Mainz School of Music and a concert at the Castle Waldthausen, and took part in a city tour by the JGU-based association "Geographie für Alle." These events seek to stimulate the exchange among members of the GRC and their allegiance to JGU as well as to the city of Mainz.

## GRC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

### Welcoming of the new fellows & conferring of the Gutenberg Research Award 2014

In May 2014, the GRC for the third time granted the Gutenberg Research Award. This year, the sociologist Michèle Lamont and the economist Ernst Fehr were honored. Both count as distinguished research personalities who have shaped the debates in their disciplines exceptionally. Fehr, professor for microeconomics and experimental economic research at the University of Zurich, ranks among the internationally most prestigious economists. In his works, he investigates the influence of non-economic factors such as fairness and solidarity on human economic behavior. He has shown that the principle of egoistic utility maximization in the economy is too short-sighted. Michèle Lamont, professor for sociology as well as European and African American Studies at Harvard University, conducts research on the impact of social hierarchies, moral views, and self-identification of social groups based on a cultural-comparative approach. She has presented seminal research that opens up novel cultural-sociological ways of thinking.



The anniversary celebration also set the stage for officially welcoming the new GRC fellows. The Vice President for Research Wolfgang Hofmeister introduced the translation scholar Silvia Hansen-Schirra, the Bible scholar Isaac Kalimi, the philosopher Thomas Metzinger and the physicist Jairo Sinova.

The celebration was complemented by a performance featuring exceptional light and sound art. Peter Kiefer, Kaspar König, and Tanja Labs in their specially composed production presented excerpts of the ongoing project "ARM art\_research\_music" and showcased artistic approaches to light and sound spaces.



## IMPRESSUM

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