





## Dear Colleagues,

You have in front of you the first edition of our newsletter, by means of which we would like to inform you regularly about upcoming activities of the Gutenberg Research College (GRC). As a relatively young institution, the GRC invites you to get into contact with our fellows and the members of the Executive Committee to experience firsthand the benefits offered by an interdisciplinary network that aims to promote communication within Johannes Gutenberg University.

The GRC, which was founded in 2007, pursues two main goals: first, the provision of advisory services to the university authorities regarding strategic research issues; and second, the funding of individual excellence by awarding GRC fellowships to external

scholars as well as leading researchers at our university. These fellowships are awarded after a rigorous review process.

I invite you to learn more about the GRC and its work on the following pages. Should you have any further questions regarding our work, please do not hesitate to contact me and my colleagues on the Executive Committee.

Yours faithfully  
Matthias Neubert

### Funding of Individual Excellence

By awarding fellowships (research professorships), the GRC is able to honor excellent individual researchers, relieve them of their teaching duties and administration for a period of up to five years, and thus provide them with more time for their own research. Since its foundation in 2007, approximately 25 fellows have benefited from support by the GRC. An interesting complement to the individual fellowships are the collective fellowships of the research units "Historical Cultural Sciences" (2009–2011) and "Media Convergence" (2010–2012). Here, six external fellows per research unit serve to support specific profile areas of JGU, pursue their own research projects in Mainz, and are involved in lecture series, conferences, and doctoral seminars.



Picture (photographer: Stefan F. Sämmer):  
(f.l.t.r.) Prof. Matthias Neubert, Prof. Peter O. Mülbart,  
Prof. Walter Bisang, Prof. Stuart Parkin, Prof. Claudia  
Eder, Prof. Detlef Schuppan, Prof. Ulrich Förstermann,  
Prof. Georg Krausch, Prof. em. Elmar Mittler.



**Professor Dr. Walter Bisang,  
Department of English and  
Linguistics, JGU**

Walter Bisang has been professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at JGU since 1992 and is speaker of the Research Center for Social and Cultural Studies in Mainz (SOCUM). Bisang's major research interests focus on the comparison of different linguistic theories, grammaticalization, and language contact. He is engaged in the study of languages from all over the world, particularly from East and Southeast Asia, West Africa, and the Caucasus.



**Professor Dr. Kookheon Char,  
Seoul National University**

Kookheon Char teaches and conducts research at the College of Engineering at Seoul National University (SNU) in South Korea. He has been a fellow of the American Physical Society since 2010. He is in close contact with JGU as one of the leading scientists at the International Graduate College "Self-organized Materials for Optoelectronics" of JGU and SNU. In 2006, he received the Gutenberg Research Award from the Graduate School MAINZ.



**Professor Dr. Jürgen Gauß,  
Institute of Physical Chemistry,  
JGU**

Jürgen Gauß is not only among the most renowned scientists at JGU but also regarded as one of the leading quantum chemists worldwide. In addition to numerous other distinctions, he was awarded the Leibniz Prize in 2005. His work combines methodical developments with their implementation in high-performance computer programs and relevant applications in chemistry.



**Professor Dr. William J.  
Marciano, Brookhaven  
National Laboratory**

William Marciano is a theoretical elementary particle physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory and adjunct professor at Yale University. He is recipient of the Sakurai Prize (together with A. Sirlin), awarded by the American Physical Society for his groundbreaking work on the calculation of electroweak radiative corrections. Marciano is also winner of the Humboldt Research Prize and fellow of the American Physical Society.



**Professor Dr. Peter O. Mülberr,  
Department of Law, JGU**

Peter O. Mülberr is professor for civil law, commercial law, and banking law at JGU as well as director of the Center for German and International Law of Financial Services. He is also a member of the "Panel of Financial Services Experts" at the European Parliament, and is considered one of the most renowned specialists for German and international law.



**Professor Dr. Stuart Parkin,  
IBM Almaden Research Center,  
Stanford University**

Stuart Parkin, a British experimental physicist, has been a senior scientist at the research center at IBM Almaden since 1982. He is professor at Stanford University and director of the joint IBM Stanford Center for Spintronics (SPINAPS). He has made important contributions towards gaining an understanding of the GMR effect and received, among other prestigious awards, the American Physical Society International New Materials Prize in 1994 and the Humboldt Research Prize in 2004.



**Professor Dr. Detlef  
Schuppan, I. Department of  
Medicine, University Medical  
Center of JGU**

Detlef Schuppan has been professor for molecular and translational medicine (fibrosis and coeliac research) at Mainz University Medical Center since December 2010. From 2004 to 2010, he was lecturer, professor, and senior physician for gastroenterology and hepatology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at Harvard Medical School. Schuppan is an international expert in the fields of fibrosis and coeliac research.



**Professor Dr. Nikolaus  
Wegmann, Princeton University**

Nikolaus Wegmann has been professor at the Department of German at Princeton University since 2006. His work is characterized by an innovative conjunction between literary and media studies and the history of knowledge and science. He enjoys an excellent reputation reaching far beyond the field of German Studies, and he is regarded as one of the most distinguished international literary scholars of his generation.

*Its advisory services to the university management have turned out to be one of the GRC's most valuable functions. In cases regarding important strategic issues related to the research profile of JGU, the authorities consult the GRC Executive Committee to profit from the diversity of its academic expertise transcending particular interests.*

**Strategic Processes Supported by the GRC:  
the Case of Bioinformatics**

Important strategic processes require a broad incorporation of all areas involved. Thus, the GRC initiated discussions on the establishment of a center for bioinformatics at JGU, bringing together external experts and interested parties from the university. The first stage of this process involved the organization of a workshop to gather and present the different requirements and various conceivable models for a center for bioinformatics. Based on the outcome of the workshop, a concept for such a center is currently being developed further by a working group within the GRC in cooperation with researchers from the participating disciplines. In the end, this endeavor could result in a recommendation to the university leadership for the establishment of such a center.

**Excellence Initiative, Second Phase**

During the preliminary stage of the current second phase of the federal Excellence Initiative, the GRC assisted the university leadership in the selection process of groups who were asked to file preliminary proposals. The drafts underwent an external pre-assessment organized by the GRC, which also supported the various groups preparing proposals in a variety of different ways. Of the seven draft proposals from Mainz, three were successful – the Graduate School MAINZ, which is already receiving funding, is automatically permitted to submit a follow-up proposal. JGU's draft proposal outlining the concept of the university's future institutional strategy and research orientation was successful as well – here the GRC is also involved in the planning process for the submission of the full proposal.



**A Summary of the Excellence Initiative**

By means of the Excellence Initiative, the federal and state governments intend to strengthen Germany's long-term position as a location for scholarship, technology, and science, improve its competitiveness on the international stage, and draw more attention to top-level research in all academic fields. The competition comprises three lines of funding:

- 1. Graduate schools for the promotion of young academics**
- 2. Clusters of excellence to promote top-level research**
- 3. Institutional strategies for the project-related development of top-level university research**

Phase 1	2006/2007 – 2012	€ 1.9 billion
Phase 2	2012 – 2017	€ 2.7 billion

**Submitted proposals:**

---

Cluster of Excellence Earth and the Anthropocene (ERA)  
GEOCYCLES

---

Cluster of Excellence Precision Physics, Fundamental Interactions, and Structure of Matter (PRISMA)  
PARTICLE AND HADRON PHYSICS

---

Cluster of Excellence Molecularly Controlled Non-Equilibrium (MCNE)  
MATERIALS SCIENCES

---

In cooperation with TU Kaiserslautern: Cluster of Excellence Kaiserslautern Center for Advanced Spin Engineering (CASE)  
MATERIALS SCIENCES

---

Follow-up application:  
Graduate School Materials Science in Mainz (MAINZ)  
MATERIALS SCIENCES

---

Institutional Strategy: Moving Minds – Crossing Boundaries

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Prof. Dr. Meinrat Andreae**  
Max-Planck-Institute  
for Chemistry



**Prof. Dr. Dieter Dörr**  
Faculty 03 – Department  
of Law



**Prof. Dr. Jürgen Falter**  
Faculty 02 – Institute of  
Political Science, Appointee  
for the GRC Network



**Prof. Dr. Claudia Felser**  
Faculty 09 – Institute of  
Inorganic Chemistry and  
Analytical Chemistry



**Jessica Hamed**  
Faculty 03 Student –  
Department of Law



**Prof. Dr. Christian Behl**  
Faculty 04 – Institute  
of Pathobiochemistry



**Prof. Dr. Irene Dingel**  
Institute for European  
History; Faculty 01 –  
Protestant Theology



**Prof. Dr. Alfred Hornung**  
Faculty 05 – Department  
of English and Linguistics



**Franz Michael Janson**  
Doctoral Candidate of  
Faculty 07 – Institute of  
Musicology



**Prof. Dr. Angelika Kühnle**  
Faculty 09 – Institute  
of Physical Chemistry



**Prof. Dr. Jan Kusber**  
Faculty 07 – Department  
of History, Associate  
Director of the GRC



**Prof. Dr. Katharina  
Landfester**  
Max-Planck-Institute  
for Polymer Research



**Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller-  
Stach**  
Faculty 08 – Institute  
of Mathematics



**Dr. Petra Schumacher**  
Faculty 05 – Emmy Noether  
Young Researchers Group  
“Information Structure and  
Neuro-Cognitive Basics”



**Prof. Dr. Frauke Zipp**  
Faculty 04 – Department  
of Neurology



**Prof. Dr. Jürgen Markl**  
Faculty 10 – Institute  
of Zoology



**Prof. Dr. Matthias Neubert**  
Faculty 08 – Institute of  
Physics, Director of the  
GRC



**Prof. Dr. Damaris Nübling**  
Faculty 05 – Department  
of German



**Prof. Dr. Hans Wolfgang  
Spiess**  
Max-Planck-Institute  
for Polymer Research



**Dr. Martin Weigel**  
Faculty 08 – Emmy Noether  
Young Researchers Group  
“Complex Systems with  
Frustration”

## DEPUTY MEMBERS

FELLOWS



**Prof. Dr. Mita Banerjee**  
Faculty 05 – Department  
of English and Linguistics



**Prof. Dr. Kurt Binder**  
Faculty 08 – Institute  
of Physics



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



**Prof. Dr. Achim Landwehr**  
Department of History,  
Heinrich-Heine-University  
Düsseldorf



**Prof. Dr. Herbert Molderings**  
Department of Art History,  
Ruhr-University Bochum



**Alvin Curran**  
Composer, formerly Mills  
College, Oakland, USA



**Prof. Dr. Florian Dombois**  
Institute for Transdiscipli-  
narity (Y), Berne University  
of the Arts, Switzerland



**Prof. Dr. Kookheon Char**  
College of Engineering,  
Seoul National University,  
Korea



**Prof. Claudia Eder**  
Mainz School of Music  
– Vocals



**Prof. Dr. Jürgen Gauß**  
Faculty 09 – Institute  
of Physical Chemistry



**Prof. Dr. William J. Marciano**  
Brookhaven National  
Laboratory, USA



**Prof. Dr. Peter O. Mülberr**  
Faculty 03 –  
Department of Law



**Dr. habil. Lutz Musner**  
International Research  
Center for Cultural  
Studies, Wien, Austria



**Prof. em. Dr.  
Günter Oesterle**  
Department of German,  
Justus-Liebig-University  
Gießen



**Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h. c.  
Elmar Mittler**  
Goettingen State and  
University Library



**Dr. Axel-Cyrille  
Ngonga Ngomo**  
Department of  
Computer Science,  
University of Leipzig



**Prof. Dr. Stuart Parkin**  
IBM Almaden Research  
Center, Department of  
Applied Physics, Stanford  
University, USA



**Prof. Dr. Dr.  
Detlef Schuppan**  
Faculty 04 – 1st Department  
of Medicine



**Prof. Dr. Carsten  
Sönnichsen**  
Faculty 09 – Institute  
of Physical Chemistry



**Prof. Dr. Ursula  
Verhoeven-van Elsbergen**  
Faculty 07 – Institute of  
Egyptology and Ancient  
Middle Eastern Studies



**Prof. Dr. Klaus Wälde**  
Faculty 03 – Gutenberg  
Department of Manage-  
ment and Economics



**Prof. Dr.  
Nikolaus Wegmann**  
Department of German,  
Princeton University, USA



**Dr. Erika Meyer-Dietrich**  
Department of Archaeo-  
logy and Ancient History,  
Uppsala University, Sweden



**Prof. Dr.  
Stephan Ruß-Mohl**  
Institute for Media and  
Journalism, University  
of Lugano, Switzerland



**Dr. Marie-Laure Ryan**  
English Department,  
University of Colorado,  
Boulder, USA

HISTORICAL CULTURAL SCIENCES

MEDIA CONVERGENCE

## **IMPRINT**

**Publisher:** Gutenberg Research College at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
**Responsible for the content:** Professor Dr. Matthias Neubert, Director of the GRC  
**Conception:** Helga Juli, GRC  
**Design:** Inka Meyer, [www.designee.de](http://www.designee.de)  
**Photography:** private, except Stefan F. Sämmer (p.3)  
**Translation:** Toptranslation GmbH; Matthias Köhler, Faculty 05 at JGU  
**Final editing:** Dominik Bohl, GRC