

# Zukunftskolleg-Newsletter

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## Concerning *Zukunftskolleg*

It is our pleasure to announce our new name: *Zukunftskolleg*! As part of the excellence initiative the former Centre for Junior Research Fellows (ZWN) was transformed into the Zukunftskolleg by the senate's decision of January 30, 2008.

The Board of Executive, the directors and several selection committees work hard for the recruitment of new fellows and a smooth implementation of the Zukunftskolleg's funding instruments. Obviously, the Zukunftskolleg assumes the commitment towards members of the former ZWN.

We are looking forward to your ideas and suggestions how to publicize the Zukunftskolleg's unique interdisciplinary community and how to improve our services.

## Advisory Board

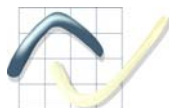
The Scientific Advisory Board Meeting 2008 was held on January 7, 2008. The members of the Advisory Board discussed necessary measures for a successful transition from ZWN to the Zukunftskolleg with the members of the Executive Committee.

Most important topics on the agenda concerned the responsibilities of the future Managing Director and the role of an extended Advisory Board, as well as ideal selection procedures for new Fellows and Senior Fellows. The Advisory Board also encouraged the Zukunftskolleg to extensively use the Alumni network and expertise for enhancing the Zukunftskolleg's visibility.

The Zukunftskolleg is extremely grateful to Prof. Harald zur Hausen, Prof. Jürgen Mittelstraß and Dr. Joachim Nettelbeck for their many important contributions and practical advice.

## Report on the first call for applications for new fellows

The first call for applications for fellowships at the Zukunftskolleg was advertised on December 20, 2007 in the Economist, Nature and ZEIT. Application deadline was January 31, 2008. After a pre-selection procedure of the interdisciplinary committee including expert reviews, 13 applicants were invited to the "Workshop on Future Research Directions" (31.03-01.04.2008).



The applicants prepared a presentation on their suggested project for the workshop. Additional 20 minutes per applicant were reserved for discussion and questions from the commission, other applicants and guests. Thus, the applicants were confronted with an interdisciplinary audience and with questions from different scientific backgrounds. As a consequence the applicants got a first impression of what is most typical for discussion at the Zukunftskolleg's Jour fixe. In addition to the workshop the committee interviewed each candidate individually. After two most interesting and intensive days with topics ranging from Nicaraguan fishes to Ukrainian Writing the committee selected seven new Fellows. (For detailed statistics see the table below).

### **Statistics on the first call for applications**

	<b>applicants</b>	<b>fellows</b>
<b>Total number of applications</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>7</b>
thereof female applicants	26	4
thereof male applicants	47	3
Applic. from Konstanz	16	3
Applic. for Faculty of Sciences	19	6
Applic. for Faculty of Humanities	44	1
Applic. for Faculty of Law, Economics and Politics	7	0
Applications not attributable	3	0

## Second call for applications

The second call for applications for postdoctoral positions (fellowships) is already open. The application deadline is May 31, 2008. For more information please visit our website: <http://www.uni-konstanz.de/zukunftskolleg/>

## Zukunftskolleg Award: Prof. Arthur Kramer

On February 6, 2008 the Zukunftskolleg granted the first Zukunftskolleg Award (Senior Fellowship) to Prof. Arthur Kramer, Department of Psychology, University of Illinois, USA for both his excel-

lent work on aging research and his commitment to the promotion of young scholars.

Prof. Kramer will visit the University of Konstanz for one month per year between 2008 and 2010, starting in June this year. He will work closely together with members of the Zukunftskolleg and thereby support their projects through discussion and by mentoring.

Prof. Kramer's research focuses on brain cognition and neuroplasticity across the adult life span. To this end he is in process of conducting a series of randomized clinical trials exploring the effects of aerobic fitness training and cognitive training on brain function and selective aspects of cognition of older adults.

With more than 250 articles and book chapters enjoys Prof. Kramer an excellent reputation as a leading scholar in the field of aging research. His area of interest has direct connections to the research profile of the Zukunftskolleg, especially to the project of Dr Iris-Tatjana Kolassa (Department of Psychology): "Neuroplasticity in aging and age-related cognitive decline". Dr Kolassa nominated Prof. Kramer for the Zukunftskolleg Award.

## Funding Instruments

### **Co-funding**

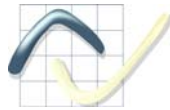
From January to May 2008 the Zukunftskolleg has continued its practice of co-funding ongoing research projects to facilitate independent research for its fellows. The Executive Committee has granted the following applications for personnel or material resources.

The Zukunftskolleg finances a student assistant for Dr. Wolfgang Freitag's project "The Topology of Knowledge".

Prof. Dr. Johanna Kibler received financing for PC equipment necessary for ambulatory follow-up EEG-measurement in the context of her project "Elektrophysiologische Indizes der Informationsverarbeitung bei Patienten im Wachkoma".

Dr. Sonja von Aulock, currently working on "Inflammatory reactions in the lung", successfully applied for financing of a discriminatory gene analysis at an external laboratory.

As the advertised position for IT support at the Zukunftskolleg has not yet been filled, Dr.



Franz Huber received financial support for setting up of a website on his own for his project "Formal Epistemology".

PD Dr. Matthias Schöning is part of the project "Europe and the historical Imaginary" which will be finalized by the end of May 2008. Dr. Schöning is about to start off for new research plans. To enable an application for third-party funding the Zukunftskolleg grants a transitional position for four months.

Dr. Dominik Wöll – one of the seven new fellows – received support for the conference fee for the 7th ECONOS 2008 and the 1st European Conference on CARS microscopy 2008. The insights from the conference are expected to help the project "Dynamics of polymer networks, their formation and degradation on the molecular level" starting in September 2008.

### **Mentorship**

The Zukunftskolleg advertised mentorship grants of EUR 4,500 on March 13, 2008. Deadline for applications was April 18, 2008. We sincerely congratulate the successful applicants:

- Dr. Michael Bauer (Depart. of Politics and Management), Mentors: Prof. Gary Marks and Prof. Liesbet Hooghe, University of North Carolina.
- Dr. Natalia Borissova (Depart. of Literature Science), Mentor: Prof. Catriona Kelly, Oxford University.
- Dr. Rudolf Bratschitsch (Depart. of Physics), Mentor: Prof. Anton Zeilinger, University of Wien.
- Prof. Dr. Peter Öhlschläger (Depart. of Biology), Mentor: Prof. E. Rybicki, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

The next call for applications for the mentorship program will be advertised in September 2008.

## **Events**

### **Upcoming events: LebensFormen**

The Zukunftskolleg continues the lecture series "LebensFormen" initiated in 2006. In association with the Bürger Universität Konstanz the first four lectures dealt with aspects of "Life" from a liter-

ary, biological and mass media perspective. The present summer term lectures concentrate on "Life" and its "boundaries" from a legal, ethical and theological perspective.

Prof. Dr. Eva Schumann, Georg August University of Göttingen, started the second part of the series on May 14 referring to most interesting aspects of euthanasia and living wills ("Fürsorge und Autonomie am Lebensende: Ethische und rechtliche Aspekte eines Sterbens in Würde").

On May 29, 2008 we welcome Prof. Dr. Dieter Birnbacher, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, presenting philosophical questions on the definitions and criteria of death ("Was unterscheidet das Leben vom Tod? Der Streit um die Lebensgrenzen").

Prof. Dr. Harald zur Hausen, German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, will hold a lecture on the evolution of faith and superstition on June 4, 2008 ("Die Entwicklung von Wissenschaft, Glauben und Aberglauben").

All fellows and guests are most welcome!

### **Summer School 2008: Announcement**

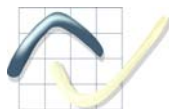
The Zukunftskolleg Summer School 2008 "Observing and Understanding Earth: Making the most of Environmental Measures", organized by Dr. Marc von Hobe (Forschungszentrum Jülich), takes place at Konstanz from July 13 to 20. It will bring together scientists from various fields of Environmental Sciences including Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences, Biogeosciences, Climate and Paleoclimate. It will cover tools and platforms of Earth observation, data quality and ways from observation to science. Close cooperation between scientists working in various sub-disciplines is becoming more and more important to gain a comprehensive understanding of our environment and the human impact upon it. The registration deadline has been extended to June 2, 2008.

### **Past events**

The Zukunftskolleg recognizes and appreciates its fellows' commitment to university-wide activities and presentations.

PD Dr. Matthias Schöning held his inaugural lecture entitled "Zeit der Ruinen. Modernität und Einheit der Romantik" on January 14, 2008.

Two Zukunftskolleg fellows participated in the Studium Generale lectures series within the



University of Konstanz: PD Dr. Steffen Bogen presented the topic „Die Welt im Spiel: Wahrnehmung, Vorstellung und Handlung in alten Brettspielen“ on January 21, 2008 and PD Dr. Kirsten Mahlke gave a lecture on „Die frühneuzeitliche Rezeption von Reiseberichten aus der Neuen Welt“ January 28, 2008.

## News in brief

### *New Fellows*

- Dr. Malte Drescher (Department of Chemistry). Project: “Novel Nanostructure Probes in Electron Spin Resonance” financed by Emmy-Noether Program of the DFG.
- Dr. Helen Gunter (Department of Biology). Project: “The developmental basis of phenotypic plasticity in cichlid jaw phenotypes”; previously University of Queensland; Konstanz since December 2007
- Dr. Julia Jones (Department of Biology). Project: “Search for color gene regulatory differences in the Nicaraguan cichlid fish radiation (*Amphilophus* spp.)”; previously University of Sydney; Konstanz since March 2008.
- Dr. Shujun Li (Department of Information Science). Project: “Secure Multimedia Computing”; FernUniversität Hagen; starting in Konstanz July 1, 2008.
- Dr. Marilena Manea (Department of Chemistry). Project: “Development of bioconjugates as potential therapeutic agents for ageing-associated diseases”; University of Konstanz.
- Dr. Doris Penka (Department of Linguistics). Project: “Quantifiers in natural language”; University of Tübingen; starting in Konstanz August 1, 2008.
- Dr. Nathan Weisz (Department of Psychology). Project: “Large-Scale Oscillatory Brain Activity: From Normal to Phantom Perceptions”; INSERM Lyon; starting in Konstanz August 1, 2008.
- Dr. Dominik Wöll (Department of Chemistry). Project: “Dynamics of polymer networks, their formation and degradation on the molecular level”; University of Leuven; starting in Konstanz September 1, 2008.

### *Grants, allowances and appointments*

PD Dr. Thomas Bräuninger takes charge of the chair of Political Science at the University of Mannheim for a second semester.

Dr. Franz Huber replaces Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Spohn’s position at the Department of Philosophy during this summer term.

Prof. Dr. Albert Kümmel-Schnur covers Prof. Thomas Macho’s position at the Humboldt-University, Berlin for one year (summer term 2008, winter term 2008/09).

### *Alumni*

PD Dr. Corinna Hermann leaves the University of Konstanz and the Zukunftskolleg to continue her immunology research at Baxter, Wien.

Prof. Dr. Markus Oberthaler, University of Heidelberg, received the Baden-Württemberg state price for basic research 2008 (Landesforschungspreis für Grundlagenforschung). A new method of measuring extreme coldness allowed Prof. Oberthaler to measuring temperatures slightly above the absolute zero point. The price endows EUR 100,000. Markus Oberthaler was member of the ZWN between 2001 and 2003.

### *New staff at the Central Office*

Ms. Martina Ahlborn will start working as a bilingual secretary at the Zukunftskolleg’s Central Office July 1, 2008.

### *„Juniors“*

We are glad to announce the birth of two new “juniors” at the Zukunftskolleg: Maria da Luz, born December 23, 2007 and Samuel Elija, born December 4, 2007. We sincerely congratulate Michael Bauer and Daniel Legler as well as their families.

### Imprint

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