

# Globetrotting Scientists



## Oliver Kramer, Berkeley (USA)

Oliver Kramer, a computer scientist and junior professor for computational intelligence, visited the International Computer Science Institute (ICSI) in Berkeley in March, where he set up a collaborative research project on the subject of "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning." The research focuses on "deep learning", a new method of information processing using artificial neuronal networks that has led to breakthroughs in image recognition and speech processing. In his research group at Oldenburg University Kramer employs algorithms to process data from various domains that can be used among other things to make predictions about wind and solar energy.

## Katharina Al-Shamery, Harvard (USA)

Katharina Al-Shamery, professor of physical chemistry, former Acting President of the University, and Vice President for Research, accepted an invitation to Harvard University in July 2016. Professor Al-Shamery used the one-month visit to exchange insights with scientists at the Harvard-based "Energy Frontier Research Center for Sustainable Chemical Production" as well as with junior researchers at the Rowland Institute. She also took part in a workshop titled "How to Prevent Terrorism by Steering Youth Away from Violent Extremism." Professor Al-Shamery is planning a cross-faculty series of events on this topic in Oldenburg.



## Hans-Michael Trautwein, Saint-Étienne (France)

Hans Michael Trautwein, professor of international economic relations, spent a month as a visiting professor at the Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne last March, where he researched crisis measures adopted by central banks in contemporary European currency unions and in the years leading up to World War I in a project on monetary theory controversies. The project compares the current controversies over European Central Bank policies with the debates surrounding the Latin Monetary Union, the Scandinavian Monetary Union and the German Monetary Union of 1871/76. It is to be continued in a series of conferences and publications.



## Esther Ruigendijk, Tel Aviv (Israel)

Esther Ruigendijk, professor of Dutch linguistics and Vice President for Junior Researchers and International Affairs, spent two months conducting research in Tel Aviv in the spring. Together with her Israeli colleague Professor Naama Friedmann, Professor Ruigendijk compiled an application for a research grant for a comparative study titled "Psycholinguistic and neural study of acquired and developmental language impairments in Hebrew, German, Palestinian Arabic, and Dutch." The main focus is on grammatical aspects such as sentence construction, word order and case marking.



## Gun-Britt Kohler, Minsk (Belarus)

Gun-Britt Kohler, professor of Slavic literature and director of the Institute for Slavic Studies, spent a research semester in Minsk. During her visit she examined archive materials and normative documents with a view to publishing an annotated volume on the literature market of the first third of the 20th century in a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Together with colleagues in Minsk, Professor Kohler also prepared a nationwide survey on perceptions of current cultural policy and contemporary Belarusian literature in Belarus. Her agenda also includes the compilation of a "Literary History of Belarus."



## Lydia Potts, Harare and Kampala (Zimbabwe/Uganda)

Lydia Potts, political scientist and coordinator of the "European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (EMMIR)" programme, travelled to Africa twice in the spring to act as scientific director for the exhibition "Kabbo ka Muwala" (The Girl's Basket) in Zimbabwe and Uganda. The exhibition's theme was migration and mobility in contemporary art in Eastern and Southern Africa. The project was funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation. The National Gallery of Zimbabwe, the Makerere Art Gallery and the Städtische Galerie Bremen were partners in the project.



## Simon Doclo, Perth (Australia)

Simon Doclo, professor of applied physics with a special emphasis on signal processing and lead researcher in the "Hearing4all" Cluster of Excellence, travelled to Perth in September. At Curtin University he met with recognised experts in the development of signal processing algorithms for assistive hearing devices, also known as "hearables". Together with his Australian colleagues, Professor Doclo aims to develop new technologies for inhibiting acoustic feedback in innovative hearing aids and to see them quickly integrated into industrial products. The project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).