

New Appointments



Pascal Dohmen
Cardiac Surgery

Prof. Dr. Pascal Dohmen has been appointed full Professor of Cardiac Surgery at the University's School of Medicine and Health Sciences. This was made possible through the establishment of an endowed professorship by the Klinikum Oldenburg, where Prof. Dohmen has also become the new director of the University Clinic for Heart Surgery. Born in the Netherlands, Prof. Dohmen studied human medicine at the University of Leuven (Belgium) and completed his M.D. After residency training at the Charité Berlin he completed a doctor medicinae at the HU Berlin in 2003. Following his Habilitation in 2006 he returned to the Charité, where he was first a consultant and later vice-director at the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery. In 2010 Prof. Dohmen was appointed to Professor of cardiac heart surgery at Leipzig University. In 2014 he returned to the Berliner Charité as a consultant, lecturer and head of research and teaching at the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery. Prof. Dohmen's research focuses on the artificial production of biological tissue and the development of bio-compatible heart valves. His special areas of interest are heart failure, endocarditis and heart valve surgery.



Sascha Laubinger
Evolutionary Genetics

Prof. Dr. Sascha Laubinger has been appointed Professor for the „Evolutionary Genetics of Plants“ at the Institute for Biology and Environmental Sciences. Laubinger took his degree in biology at the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and also earned his doctorate there focusing on how plants use light as a source of information to adapt their growth. He then took a position as a post-doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology, where he studied how and when plant genes are switched on and off. Professor Laubinger founded his own research group in 2010 with funding from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology in Dortmund and the Center for Plant Molecular Biology at the University of Tübingen. There he studied gene regulation mechanisms in plants subjected to different stress situations. In Oldenburg Laubinger will focus on how plant genes are regulated under different stress situations and what influence plant communities have on the stress-related gene regulation.



Sebastian Lehnhoff
Energy Informatics

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Lehnhoff has accepted the post of Professor of Energy Informatics, which he had held as a junior professor since 2010. Lehnhoff, who works at the University's Department of Computing Science, leads the "Energy" research at the University-affiliated OFFIS Computer Science Institute and has been executive head of this research area since 2012. He earned his degree in core informatics at the Technical University of Dortmund, where he then took a position as a research assistant and obtained his PhD in 2010. Lehnhoff is the coordinator of the German Informatics' Society's Special Interest Group "Energy Informatics" and a research fellow with the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering at the University of Queensland (Australia). His research deals with intelligent energy systems, so-called "smart grids", and is aimed at developing an environmentally friendly, economic and secure power supply network for the future. The main focus of Lehnhoff's research is real-time capable methods for safety-critical applications in electronic energy systems. He is also conducting research on network-oriented decentralized business management, as well as the co-simulation of complex energy systems.

New Appointments



Arne W. Nolte
Ecological Genomics

Prof. Dr. Arne W. Nolte has been appointed Professor of Ecological Genomics at the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences. With this appointment Nolte returns to his home city, where he began studying biology in 1997. Prior to his return to Oldenburg he conducted research and taught at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Plön, Schleswig-Holstein. Nolte, an expert in freshwater fish, earned his degree in biology at the Institute for Genetics of the University of Cologne in 2001, where he also completed his doctorate in 2005. His thesis dealt with the question of why the European bullhead fish has been able to multiply so rapidly in the Lower Rhine area in recent years. A year later, with funding from the German Research Foundation, he took a position as a postdoctoral researcher at the Université Laval in Québec (Canada). In 2008 he moved to the Max Planck Institute in Plön, where he has led a research group since 2011. Nolte's main area of research is the evolution of fish species, with a special focus on the conditions under which hybridisation – the cross-breeding of different species – promotes evolution.



Sebastian Schnettler
Social Research

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Schnettler has been appointed Professor of Social Research Methods at the Institute of Social Sciences. Before his appointment in Oldenburg and since 2011, he was a research scientist and lecturer at the University of Konstanz's Institute of Sociology. After earning a degree in sociology, economics and statistics at Free University of Berlin Schnettler worked for a strategy consulting firm in Washington DC. In 2004 he enrolled as a PhD student at Yale University (USA), where he also became a fellow at the Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course. He completed his PhD in sociology in 2010. He then took a post as a research scientist with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock. His main research interests are analytical sociology, evolutionary and social demography, social inequality and family sociology.



Ulrike Raap
Dermatology

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Raap has been appointed Professor of Dermatology. Prior to her appointment in Oldenburg she was a deputy and adjunct professor at the Department for Dermatology and Allergology at Hannover Medical School (MHH). She is also the new director of the University Department of Dermatology and Allergy at the Klinikum Oldenburg. Raap studied human medicine at the University of Lübeck and MHH, where she obtained her M.D. in 1999. In 2001, following a post-doc phase at the University of Marburg, she returned to the MHH, where she was appointed as a junior professor and deputy. She habilitated in 2013. In Hannover Raap established the research in autoimmune bullous skin diseases. She also focuses on immunological mechanisms of inflammatory skin diseases. Raap's research is currently funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) with a project in the clinical research group "Autoimmunity". She has received several awards for her work, including the TUI Foundation's Rudolf Schoen Prize.

New Appointments



Heinz Wilkes
Organic Geochemistry

Prof. Dr. Heinz Wilkes has been appointed Professor of Organic Geochemistry at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment. Wilkes earned his degree in chemistry at the University of Hamburg, where he also completed his PhD in 1993. He then became a research fellow with the Institute for Petroleum and Organic Geochemistry at the Forschungszentrum Jülich. In 2001 he switched to the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam. Wilkes earned his Habilitation in 2004 at the Technical University of Berlin. Before taking the post as professor at Oldenburg University he was an adjunct professor at the Technical University of Berlin. Wilkes is a board member of the European Association of Organic Geochemists. His main research topics include molecular mechanisms of biogeochemical key reactions and metabolic pathways in environmentally relevant microorganisms. He also studies the fate and transformation of hydrocarbons and petroleum in the environment and uses organic indicators to reconstruct climate conditions of the past.



Joachim Willems
Religious Education

Prof. Dr. Dr. Joachim Willems has been appointed Professor of Religious Education at the Institute for Evangelical Theology and Religious Education. Willems, who had already held the chair as deputy professor for two semesters in 2014/15, previously taught and conducted research at the Technical University of Dortmund. He studied theology and musicology in Neundettelsau, Bonn and Hamburg. Having obtained his degree in theology he went on to earn his PhD in 2003 at the University of Hamburg with a thesis on Lutheran communities in Russia. In 2008 Willems also completed an educational science dissertation dealing with the introduction of religious education lessons into the school curricula in Russia at the University of Hildesheim. In addition to religion in Russia, Willems's research also focuses on developing diversity-sensitive religious education: he studies how Christian, Muslim and non-religious youths deal with religious plurality. This picks up on the theme of his Habilitation thesis, "Interreligious Competence", for which the Humboldt University of Berlin awarded him his Habilitation in 2010.



Michael Winklhofer
Sensory Biology

Prof. Dr. Michael Winklhofer has been appointed Professor of the Sensory Biology of Animals at the Institute for Biology and Environmental Sciences. Winklhofer studied geophysics at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich and completed his PhD there in 1999 with a thesis on the physical foundations of magnetoreception in animals. After several years as a post-doctoral researcher in Tennessee and California (USA) and as a Teaching Fellow in Southampton (England), he obtained his Habilitation at the University of Munich in 2007 and was awarded a Heisenberg fellowship by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in 2008. During this period he also taught and conducted research in California and Zurich (Switzerland). In 2013 Winklhofer was appointed as an adjunct professor at the University of Munich. Before coming to Oldenburg he was a visiting professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen. His main areas of research are biogenic magnetic nanoparticles and their potential function in animal orientation using the Earth's magnetic field.