

New Appointments



Lena Ansmann
Health Services Research

Prof. Dr. Lena Ansmann has been appointed Professor of Organisational Health Services Research. Previously, she was Junior Professor of Methods of Implementation and Evaluation in Special Education and Health Services Research at the University of Cologne. She was also deputy head of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the Institute of Medical Sociology, Health Services Research, and Rehabilitation Science there. Ansmann studied Public Health at the universities of Bremen, Malmö and Bielefeld. She then went on to conduct research and teach at the University of Cologne, where she also obtained her PhD in 2014. In the field of organisational health services research Ansmann investigated connections between specific characteristics of health care organisations – such as hospitals and private practices – and the quality of health care for patients. Other research areas include evaluation and implementation in health care organisations as well as patient orientation in healthcare, in particular in oncology.



Katharina Block
Social Theory

Dr. Katharina Block has been appointed Junior Professor of Social Theory at the Institute of Social Sciences. Previously, she worked as a research associate for the Chair of Sociological Theory at the University of Hannover. Block studied Sociology at the University of Bremen and Social Theory at the University of Jena, where she subsequently participated in the interdisciplinary Graduate School “Laboratorium Enlightenment” under the direction of Prof. Dr. Hartmut Rosa. In 2015 she completed her PhD in Philosophy at the University of Koblenz-Laundau with a thesis on the significance of the concept of world for ecological sociology. She also held a position as a research fellow at the Human Dynamics Centre of the University of Würzburg. Besides social theory, Block’s research also focuses on philosophical anthropology, cultural sociology, the sociology of knowledge and the philosophy of science. She is a member of the DFG research network “Sociology of Sustainability”.



Maja Brückmann
Elementary Social Studies
and Science Education

Prof. Dr. Maja Brückmann has been appointed Professor of Elementary Social Studies and Science Education at the Department of Educational Sciences. Prior to this position she conducted research and lectured as a professor of natural science didactics at the Zurich University of Teacher Education (PH Zurich). Brückmann studied for her teaching qualification in Mathematics and Physics at primary and secondary-school level at the University of Oldenburg. From 2004 to 2008 she conducted research at the Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education at the University of Kiel (IPN), where she also completed her postgraduate traineeship for the subjects Mathematics and Physics. In parallel she earned her PhD at the University of Potsdam with a thesis on the structuring of content in physics classes. During her postdoc period at the IPN from 2010 to 2013, she was co-applicant for the German Research Fund (DFG) project “Vikom – Investigating the development of content and complexity in science classrooms”. Brückmann’s key areas of research are video-based classroom research and education for sustainable development.



Albrecht Elsässer
Cardiology

Prof. Dr. Albrecht Elsässer has been appointed Professor of Cardiology at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Elsässer has been director of the University Clinic for Cardiology at the Klinikum Oldenburg since 2008. He studied Medicine at the universities of Heidelberg and Mainz before working at the University Medical Center Freiburg and the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research in Bad Nauheim. He is on the board of directors of the German Society of Cardiology (DGK), where he is the spokesperson for the research programme “Interventional Cardiology” and manages the DGK Academy’s continuing education programme. He also works as an evaluator for the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Elsässer’s clinical focal points include the treatment of heart attacks and heart failure. In addition, he treats vascular and valvular heart disease. His research also centres on vascular and cardiac muscle diseases with the aim of developing new therapeutic approaches.



Thomas Etzemüller
Cultural History
of the Modern Age

Prof. Dr. Thomas Etzemüller has been appointed for a five-year period as Professor of Cultural History of the Modern Age with Special Focus on Northern Europe at the Institute of History at the University. Etzemüller studied Modern History, Empirical Cultural Science, History of Art and Film Science at the universities of Tübingen and Stockholm. In 2000 he received his doctorate from the University of Tübingen, where he subsequently conducted research with the Collaborative Research Centre “Experiences of War. War and Society in the Modern Era.” From 2003 to 2009 he was Junior Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Oldenburg, where he earned his Habilitation in Modern and Recent History in 2010. He held a DFG Heisenberg Fellowship from 2009 to 2015 and was interim Professor of Recent and Contemporary History at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in 2014/2015. Etzemüller’s main areas of research are the cultural history of the modern age and the theory and history of historiography. He also conducts research on the history and sociology of science.



Juliana Goschler
German as a Foreign Language /
German as a Second Language

Prof. Dr. Juliana Goschler has been appointed Professor of German as a Foreign Language / German as a Second Language. Prior to this the linguist had taught and conducted research as a junior professor at the University of Oldenburg. Goschler studied German Linguistics and Modern and Contemporary History at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. From 2003 to 2006 she was a junior research fellow in the “Technology and Society” Research Training Group at the Technische Universität Darmstadt. She received her PhD from the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin with a thesis on “Brain Metaphors: The Conceptualisation of the Brain in Popular Science” and then held postdoctoral research positions at the University of Bremen and University of Hamburg. Goschler is the coordinator of the research group “Language-Sensitive Subject Teaching” at the University’s Didactic Centre (DIZ). Her main research interests include multilingualism, language acquisition research, academic and educational language and linguistic heterogeneity at educational institutions, as well as cognitive linguistics and construction grammar.

New Appointments



Frank Griesinger
Oncology

Prof. Dr. Frank Griesinger has been appointed Professor of Internal Medicine – Oncology at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, which he has supervised since 2013. Griesinger is the director of the University Clinic for Internal Medicine – Oncology at the Pius-Hospital Oldenburg and coordinator of the Pius-Hospital's Cancer Center. In 2006 Griesinger came to the Pius-Hospital as the leading physician of the Department of Internal Oncology. Previously he was consultant at the Department of Haematology and Oncology at the University Medical Center Göttingen. There he headed the Haematology laboratory as well as the interdisciplinary lung cancer outpatient clinic. Griesinger studied Medicine at the University of Frankfurt, where he also obtained his licence to practise medicine. He is a specialist for internal medicine, haematology and internal oncology. His clinical focus areas include therapy for lung cancer, breast cancer and lymphomas. His main areas of research include molecular diagnostics and translational research non-small cell lung cancer.



Andrea Hildebrandt
Psychological Methods
and Statistics

Prof. Dr. Andrea Hildebrandt has been appointed Professor of Psychological Methods and Statistics at Faculty IV School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Oldenburg. Previously she had been Junior Professor of Psychological Assessment and Personality Psychology at the University of Greifswald since 2013. Hildebrandt studied Psychology at the West University of Timișoara (Romania) and the Humboldt University of Berlin. Here she completed her doctorate in 2010 with a thesis on individual and age-related differences in face recognition. Following that Hildebrandt conducted research and lectured at the universities of Duisburg-Essen, Berlin and Greifswald. The psychologist studies individual and age-related differences in social cognition, with a focus on face recognition. She also develops statistical methods that are widely used in behavioural and neuroscience, as well as biometrics. Andrea Hildebrandt has received several awards, most recently a British Academy Visiting Fellowship Award.



Anna-Maria Hintz
Pedagogy and Didactics in the
Context of Learning Difficulties

Prof. Dr. Anna-Maria Hintz has been appointed Professor of Pedagogy and Didactics in the Context of Learning Difficulties and Particular Focus on Inclusive Educational Processes. Previously, she was Professor of “Educational Science with a Focus on Special Needs Education” at the University of Siegen. She studied special education in Oldenburg, obtaining a teaching degree and a diploma in pedagogy. After her postgraduate traineeship she conducted research and taught at the University of Cologne, where she received her doctorate in 2012. Scholarships from the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as well as related research stays took her, among others, to Texas A&M University (USA). Her research focuses on the possibilities of preventing difficulties in learning and social-emotional development as well as of supporting those with difficulties. She investigates, e.g., which opportunities and challenges educational approaches offer to support positive behaviour through multi-tiered prevention models, and how these can be implemented and optimised by educators in different educational settings.



Almut Höfert
History of the Middle Ages

Prof. Dr. Almut Höfert has been appointed Professor of History of the Middle Ages. Before coming to Oldenburg she had held the Swiss National Science Foundation Professorship for Transcultural History of the Arab and Latin Middle Ages at the History Department of the University of Zürich (Switzerland) since 2011. Höfert studied History and Islamic studies in Bonn, Freiburg and Cairo. After completing her Master degree she worked on projects on local history in South-Western Germany and was a research assistant at the University of Würzburg. In 2001 she earned her doctorate from the European University Institute in Florence with a thesis on European travel reports on the Ottoman empire in the 15th and 16th centuries. At the History Department in Basel she earned her Habilitation with a thesis on a comparison between emperors and caliphates in the Early and High Middle Ages in 2014. Her primary research topics are history of religion and empire, gender history, urban history, methods of transcultural and global history, travel reports and Christian-Muslim relations.



Laura Lukassen
Numerical Fluid Dynamics

Dr. Laura Lukassen has been appointed Junior Professor of Numerical Fluid Dynamics with Special Emphasis on Wind Physics at the University of Oldenburg's Institute of Physics. Previously, she was a member of the “Theory of Turbulent Flows” research group at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organisation in Göttingen. Lukassen studied Computational Engineering at the Technische Universität Darmstadt and completed her PhD there in 2015. In her dissertation, the engineer dealt with the stochastic description of flows. In particular, she studied how small particles in a flow influence each other. During this period Lukassen spent a research semester at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. As a post-doctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen she began studying turbulent wind flows at wind farms. Her research focuses on deducing physical models for wind flows in wind farms and the numerical simulation of these processes.



Malte Rolf
Modern History of Europe

Prof. Dr. Malte Rolf has been appointed Professor of Modern History of Europe with a Special Emphasis on Eastern Europe at the University of Oldenburg's Institute of History. Prior to his appointment in Oldenburg he was Professor of Central and Eastern European History at the University of Bamberg. From 1992 to 2000 Rolf studied history, German Studies and Russian in Tübingen and Berlin. After completing his degree, he took a post as a research assistant at the Humboldt University of Berlin's Chair for the History of Eastern Europe. He received his doctorate from the University of Tübingen in 2004. From 2007 to 2012 he held a junior professorship of Eastern European history at the University Hannover. He earned his Habilitation at the Humboldt University of Berlin in 2012 and has made several study trips to Russia. His main areas of research include the multi-ethnic empires of Eastern Europe in the nineteenth century, the nation states of Central and Eastern Europe in the interwar period and during the Second World War, and the Soviet Union during the Cold War era and the revolutions from 1988 to 1991.

New Appointments



Christa Runtenberg
Philosophy Didactics

Prof. Dr. Christa Runtenberg has been appointed Professor of Philosophy Didactics at the Institute of Philosophy. She previously held the position as interim professor. Before coming to Oldenburg, Runtenberg was a research associate at the University of Münster's Department of Philosophy for twelve years. After qualifying as a teacher in Philosophy and German Studies at the University of Münster she taught and conducted research as a research assistant and there and then obtained her doctorate in 1998. After her PhD she transferred to the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Rostock, where she held a research associate position for five years. In 2005 Runtenberg returned to the Institute of Philosophy in Münster. Her research focuses on practical philosophy, applied ethics, anthropology and the philosophy of education. Other focus areas are didactics of philosophy and philosophy-related subjects in lower secondary education as well as philosophising with primary school children.



Marc René Schädler
Speech Processing
and Perception Models

Dr. Marc René Schädler has been appointed Junior Professor of Speech Processing and Perception Models at the University of Oldenburg's Department of Medical Physics and Acoustics. He was previously a post-doctoral researcher with the University's Cluster of Excellence "Hearing4All". Schädler studied physics at the University of Oldenburg and became a research fellow with the DFG Collaborative Research Centre "Active Hearing". Study and research visits took him to Zaragoza and Barcelona (Spain). In 2015 Schädler completed his doctorate Kollmeier on automatic speech recognition in the working group led by physicist and physician Prof. Dr. Dr. Birger Kollmeier. In the same year he became a post-doctoral researcher with the Cluster of Excellence "Hearing4All". Schädler's research activities focus on the hearing and perception of spoken language. Moreover, the physicist develops algorithms aimed at improving machine-based hearing - for application for example in automatic speech recognition.



Sascha Schäfer
Nanophysics

Prof. Dr. Sascha Schäfer has taken up a Volkswagen Foundation Lichtenberg Professorship at the University. Schäfer studied Chemistry at the Technische Universität Darmstadt and earned his PhD in Physical Chemistry in 2008 with a thesis on the properties of isolated nanoparticles in molecular beams. He then performed research at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (California) in the group of the late Prof. Dr. Ahmed H. Zewail, who was the recipient of the Nobel Prize Chemistry in 1999. From 2012 to 2017, Schäfer worked as a senior scientist at the University of Göttingen, where he played a key role in the development of an innovative technique, ultrafast transmission electron microscopy (UTEM), which enables the imaging of rapid processes in the nano world. Since September 2017 he has led the group "Ultrafast Nanoscale Dynamics" in Oldenburg. His main research topics are in the field of experimental solid-state physics and involve fundamental energy transport and conversion processes, which play a major role, for example, in computer chips or solar cells.



Annett Thiele
Pedagogy

Prof. Dr. Annett Thiele has been appointed Professor of Pedagogy and Didactics for Cases of Impaired Physical and Motor Development and Chronic and Progressive Diseases. Previously, she was Professor of Pedagogy with Special Emphasis on Physical and Motor development at the University of Leipzig. After training to be a paediatric nurse Thiele studied Special Needs Education at the University of Bremen and then held post-graduate research positions at the universities of Oldenburg, Dortmund and Halle. In 2007 she earned her PhD with a thesis on written language acquisition for pupils with severely impaired motor and communication skills. Before taking up the professorship in Leipzig, she was a visiting professor for a year at the Humboldt University zu Berlin. Her research activities focus on the integration of pupils with physical disabilities or chronic or life-threatening diseases through the inclusion process. The main focus here is on children and youths with paralysis caused by neurological factors or with oncological diseases.



Tilo Wesche
Practical Philosophy

Prof. Dr. Tilo Wesche has been appointed Professor of Practical Philosophy. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at the University of Erfurt. Wesche studied Philosophy, Political Sciences and Modern German Literature at the Freie Universität Berlin. In 2003 he completed his PhD at the University of Tübingen with a thesis on the Danish philosopher Sören Kierkegaard. He earned his Habilitation in 2008 at the University of Basel, where he held a post as a senior scientific assistant, with a thesis on rationality. He then held interim professor posts at the universities of Freiburg, Basel, Jena, Frankfurt on the Main and Gießen. His systematic and historical research activities focus on democracy and justice topics, philosophical anthropology and good life theory as well as indifference and rationality research. In his socio-philosophical research on modern ownership societies, Wesche studies questions pertaining to collective ownership, non-profit ownership and sustainable ownership.



Rudy Leon De Wilde
Gynaecology

Prof. Dr. Dr. Rudy Leon De Wilde has been appointed Professor of Gynaecology at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, which he has supervised since 2013. The medical director of the Pius-Hospital Oldenburg has run the clinic for Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Gynaecological Oncology/University Clinic for Gynaecology since 1992. Previously, he was the consultant at the Frauenklinik in Wupperthal. He is a specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics as well as microsurgery, special operative obstetrics and gynaecological oncology. He is a certified specialist in gynaecological endocrinology and reproductive and sexual medicine. De Wilde has received numerous awards from national and international societies and has contributed decisively to German and European certification criteria in the field of minimally invasive surgery. He has published more than 200 articles in scientific journals and is regarded as a pioneer in the field of minimally invasive surgery.