



### Iliana Baums

#### Marine Conservation

Evolutionary ecologist and coral expert Prof. Dr Iliana Baums has been appointed to a joint professorship in "Marine Conservation" at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven.

Within the framework of the joint professorship Baums will conduct research at the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB) at the University of Oldenburg on how to increase the adaptive potential of marine ecosystems to changing environmental conditions. Before coming to Oldenburg, she was Professor of Marine Molecular Ecology and Evolution at Pennsylvania State University (USA).

Baums studied biology in Tübingen, Bremen and Miami (USA), where she completed her doctorate in 2004. She held post-doctoral positions at the University of Miami and the University of Hawaii (USA). In 2006, she moved to Pennsylvania State University, where she first conducted research and taught as an assistant professor and then became a full professor in 2019. Her main research focus is genetics and coral reef restoration. She combines findings and perspectives from genomics, ecology, evolutionary research and oceanography to gain a better understanding of the processes that shape marine life, with the goal of maintaining the diversity and productivity of marine ecosystems



### A. Murat Eren

#### Ecosystem Data Science

Prof. Dr A. Murat Eren has been appointed to a joint professorship in "Ecosystem Data Science" at the Institute for the Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven. Eren does research at the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity of the University of Oldenburg (HIFMB). Previously, he was assistant professor at the University of Chicago, USA.

Eren studied computer engineering at Canakkale Onsekiz Mart

University, Turkey. After his graduation, he worked as a software developer at the Turkish National Research Institute of Electronics and Cryptology. After he had finished his PhD at the University of New Orleans he joined the Marine Biological Laboratory (Woods Hole, USA) as a Postdoctoral Scientist. Eren and his colleagues developed anvi'o, an open-source software platform used by researchers around the globe for data-enabled microbiology. In 2015, Eren started working at the University of Chicago, where he studied the ecology and evolution of microbes with novel computational strategies.



### Urte Helduser

#### Modern German Literature with a Special Emphasis on Literary Theory

Dr Urte Helduser has been appointed Professor of "Modern German Literature with a Special Emphasis on Literary Theory" at the Institute of German Studies. She was previously a senior lecturer at the Department of German Language and Literature I at the University of Cologne.

After studying German, history and philosophy in Marburg and Vienna, Helduser worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Kassel, where she also completed her PhD in 2003. She then worked as a post-doctoral researcher and senior lecturer at the Institute of Modern German Literature at Philipps-Universität Marburg, where she earned her habilitation in 2014, after which she held acting professor positions at the Leibniz University Hannover and in Marburg.

Helduser's research focuses on the relationship between literature and knowledge since the early modern period, with special emphasis on the exchange between medicine and literature as well as Disability Studies. She also conducts research in the areas of poetry, aesthetics, drama, theatre and feuilleton culture.



### Benedikt Hensel

#### Hebrew Bible

PD Dr Benedikt Hensel has been appointed Professor of "Hebrew Bible" at the Institute of Protestant Theology and Religious Edu-

cation. He previously held various academic positions and interim professorships at the Universities of Mainz, Zurich (Switzerland) and Göttingen.

Hensel studied Protestant theology, Jewish studies and classical archaeology at the Universities of Heidelberg, Amsterdam and Utrecht (the Netherlands). He completed his doctorate and habilitation at the University of Mainz. From 2017 to 2021 he conducted research in Zurich on the origins of the Torah from an archaeological perspective, in a project with the Tel Aviv University (Israel).

Hensel's main research interests are the cultural and religious history of Israel and early Judaism, biblical archaeology and the literary history of the Hebrew bible. In Oldenburg, his research will focus - amongst others - on processes of identity formation in ancient Judaism. He is also conducting research on ancient Jordan and its influence on cultural and political developments in the Ancient Near East.



### Marc-Phillip Hitz

#### Medical Genetics

Prof. Dr Marc-Phillip Hitz has been appointed Professor of "Medical Genetics" at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Hitz, a paediatrician and clinical geneticist by training, is also director of the University Institute of Medical Genetics at Oldenburg Hospital. Before coming to Oldenburg, he held a professorship for cardiogenetics of structural heart disease at Kiel University.

Marc-Phillip Hitz studied in Hamburg and Göttingen, where he earned his medical degree in 2004. He then moved to Hannover Medical School to take a position as a junior doctor in paediatrics. From 2008 to 2014 he was a research fellow in Montreal, Canada, and then in Cambridge, Great Britain, where he also received his PhD. In 2014 he moved to the Clinic for Congenital Heart Defects and Paediatric Cardiology at the University Medical Centre Schleswig-Holstein. In 2019 Hitz was awarded an endowed professorship at the German Centre for Cardiovascular Research in Kiel. His research focuses on the application of innovative technologies for improving the diagnosis and treatment of structural heart defects.



### Michaela Kaiser

#### Art Education and Art Mediation

Dr Michaela Kaiser has been appointed Professor of "Art Education and Art Mediation" at the Institute of Art and Visual Culture. Before coming to Oldenburg, she held a teaching and research post at the University of Potsdam. Kaiser studied art education and art therapy in Nijmegen and Leeuwarden (the Netherlands) and applied social sciences in Bielefeld (Germany). She then worked as a research assistant at the universities of Paderborn and Münster and received her doctorate in 2019. She has held teaching positions at several universities and art colleges since 2017, including Osnabrück University and the University of Münster. In 2018 she took over as principal investigator of the research initiative Leistung macht Schule, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, at the University of Paderborn, and then moved to Potsdam in 2021. A key focus of Kaiser's research and teaching is ways to integrate inclusion in art education contexts. She also conducts research on talent and performance from an art education perspective, as well as on the professionalisation of art teachers in university-based teacher training.



### Sinikka Lennartz

#### Biogeochemical Ocean Modelling

Dr Sinikka Lennartz has been appointed Junior Professor of "Biogeochemical Ocean Modelling" at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM). Before taking this post, she conducted research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston (USA) on a fellowship from the Walter Benjamin Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Lennartz studied geoecology at the TU Braunschweig and the University of Tübingen and completed her doctorate at the University of Kiel/GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel with a thesis on marine emissions of climate-relevant sulfur gases. In 2019 she moved to the University of Oldenburg as a postdoctoral researcher. Lennartz's research focuses on dissolved organic matter (DOM) – a mixture of various organic substances in seawater. She uses mathematical models to investigate the behaviour of this matter

on a global scale, and also applies numerical models to study the influence of microbes on DOM. Lennartz has received various awards for her work, including the DFG's Bernd Rendel Prize for early career geoscientists.



**Daniel Neider**

**Safety and Explainability of Learning Systems**

Dr Daniel Neider has been appointed Professor of "Safety and Explainability of Learning Systems" at the Department of Computing Science. Before coming to Oldenburg, he was head of the Logic and Learning research group at the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems in Kaiserslautern.

Neider studied computer science and economics at RWTH Aachen University, completing his doctorate in 2014. Until 2016, he worked on a research project at the University of California, Los Angeles (USA) and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (USA). He then returned to the Department of Computer Science at RWTH Aachen University as a postdoctoral researcher. He joined the Max Planck Institute in Kaiserslautern in 2017.

Neider's research focuses on reliability of artificial intelligence in safety-critical areas such as autonomous driving. The computer scientist is working on mathematical methods for proving the correctness of artificial intelligence and thus increasing trust in machine learning. Neider is also developing methods aimed at explaining artificial intelligence decision-making and recommendations in a transparent, easily understandable way.



**Andreas Peter**

**Safety-Security-Interaction**

Cybersecurity expert Prof. Dr Andreas Peter has been appointed to the newly created Chair of "Safety-Security-Interaction" at the Department of Computing Science. This is one of eight new professorships acquired by the University of Oldenburg and the Jade University of Applied Sciences as part of the state programme Digitalization Professorships for Lower Saxony. Before coming to Oldenburg, Peter was Professor of IT security at the University of Twente (the Netherlands).

Peter studied mathematics at the Universities of Oldenburg and Cambridge (Great Britain) and received his PhD in computer science from the Technical University of Darmstadt in 2013. He then moved to the University of Twente, where he was first a research fellow and then from 2014 to 2018 a junior professor at the Department of Computer Science.

Peter's research in Oldenburg will focus on the development of security solutions for IT systems in the context of safety-critical systems and the Internet of Things. He is studying the question of how to model security concepts and cyberattacks to improve detection and defence against such attacks. The goal is to develop and deploy customized security solutions that are based on the researched models but also take account of various types of user interaction as well as the functional safety of the systems to be protected.



**Andreas Rauh**

**Computer Engineering – Distributed Control in Interconnected Systems**

Dr Andreas Rauh has been appointed to the professorship of "Computer Engineering – Distributed Control in Interconnected Systems" at the Department of Computing Science. Before coming to Oldenburg, he spent a year as a visiting researcher at the École nationale supérieure de techniques avancées Bretagne (ENSTA Bretagne) in Brest, France.

Rauh studied electrical engineering and information technology at the Technical University of Munich and received his PhD from Ulm University in 2008. He then took up a post at the Chair of Mechatronics at the University of Rostock, where he completed his habilitation in 2017. From 2008 to 2015 he was a member of a working group which developed standards for interval arithmetic, a mathematical method for automatic error analysis, at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Rauh's research focuses on complex computer systems in which numerous independent software and hardware components interact. These systems are used in various contexts, for example to control the electrochemical properties and thermal state of solid oxide fuel cells.



**Mandy Roheger**

**Outpatient Assessment in Psychology**

Dr Mandy Roheger has been appointed Junior Professor of "Outpatient Assessment in Psychology" at the Department of Psychology. Roheger researches cognitive functions and states in humans in everyday situations. She is particularly interested in how the ageing process affects people's ability to learn, remember, think and perceive. Roheger develops measures aimed at helping people to maintain or improve their cognitive abilities, especially those affected by dementia and Parkinson's disease. The junior professorship is funded by the Joint Federal Government-Länder Funding Programme for young academics.

Roheger (29) studied psychology with a focus on neurology in Düsseldorf and Cologne, where she also completed her doctorate in 2019. She then moved to the Greifswald University Medicine, where she conducted research at the Department of Neurology in the working group Healthy Ageing and Prevention of Dementia. Since 2021 she has also been an associated researcher at the Karolinska Institute Stockholm (Sweden).



**Heiko Schmaljohann**

**Migration Ecology**

Dr Heiko Schmaljohann has been appointed Professor of "Migration Ecology" at the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences (IBU). An ornithologist, Schmaljohann has been a research associate at the University since 2017 and is also a visiting researcher at the Institute of Avian Research Vogelwarte Helgoland.

Schmaljohann studied biology in Kiel, York (UK) and Göttingen. After completing his doctorate at the University of Basel (Switzerland) and post-doctoral stays at the Swiss Ornithological Institute and the Institute of Avian Research in Wilhelmshaven, he earned his habilitation at the University of Oldenburg in 2013. He was then accepted into the German Research Foundation's renowned Heisenberg Programme. As part of his fellowship, which he carried out at the Institute of Avian Research and then at the University of Oldenburg, he spent two years researching migratory birds in Alaska as a Research Associate at the University of Alaska (USA).

Schmaljohann's work focuses on orientation and navigation skills in migratory birds and their innate migration programme.



**Katharina Schuhmann**

**German as a Foreign Language**

Dr Katharina Schuhmann has been appointed Junior Professor of "German as a Foreign Language" at the Institute of German Studies, funded by the Federal Government-Länder Programme. She was previously Assistant Professor of German and Linguistics at The Pennsylvania State University (USA).

Schuhmann studied English and Religious Education at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg before obtaining two Master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Linguistics at Stony Brook University (NY, USA). Towards the end of her doctoral work, she served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Bucknell University (PA, USA). Schuhmann subsequently conducted postdoctoral research at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (Italy) and taught at the University of Bonn. Schuhmann's research includes foreign and second language acquisition, theoretical linguistics, and psycholinguistics. She investigates across disciplines, including perceptual and lexical adaptation phenomena and processing of grammatical properties. Schuhmann's junior professorship is funded by the Joint Federal Government-Länder Tenure-Track Programme.



**Nils Strodthoff**

**eHealth: Interpretable and Explainable Learning Algorithms**

Dr Nils Strodthoff has been appointed to the Chair of "eHealth: Interpretable and Explainable Learning Algorithms" at the Department of Health Services Research. He previously led the Applied Machine Learning research group at the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute in Berlin.

Strodthoff studied physics at the University of Göttingen and at Imperial College London. He completed his doctorate at TU Darmstadt in 2012, after which he conducted research at Heidelberg University and at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. His research focuses on machine learning and its applications in medicine. Strodthoff is particularly interested in self-supervised



learning, which uses raw data without supplementary labelling by humans. He also conducts research in the field of explainable artificial intelligence to gain a better understanding of artificial intelligence models in which the decision-making processes through which they arrive at their results are not yet known.



**Kristin Tessmar-Raible**  
**Marine Chronobiology**

Prof. Dr Kristin Tessmar-Raible has been appointed to a joint professorship in "Marine Chronobiology" at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Bremerhaven. Before coming to Oldenburg, she held a professorship in chronobiology at the University of Vienna.

Tessmar-Raible studied biology at Heidelberg University and earned her PhD at the University of Marburg. She then worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, before moving to the University of Vienna in 2008 to take up a research group leadership position. In 2013 she received a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC). She was appointed to a professorship at the University of Vienna in 2015. She was awarded a Consolidator Grant by the ERC in 2015, which will fund a project in which she aims to decipher the molecular basis of lunar rhythms until 2025. Tessmar-Raible's research focuses on a small marine annelid that is particularly well suited to molecular-level research in the laboratory.



**Helmuth Thomas**  
**Marine Alkalinity**

Prof. Dr Helmuth Thomas has been appointed to a joint professorship for "Marine Alkalinity" of the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Helmholtz Centre Hereon in Geesthacht. He is also director of the Helmholtz Centre Hereon's Institute of Carbon Cycles.

Thomas studied chemistry in Düsseldorf and Kiel. While completing his PhD at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde he measured atmospheric carbon dioxide uptake

in the Baltic Sea for the first time. After a period of post-doctoral research at the University of Hamburg, he moved to the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research on the island of Texel, where he conducted research from 1998 to 2004. He then took a post as an associate professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax (Canada), and was made a full professor there in 2012. In 2019, Thomas returned to Germany and established the Alkalinity working group at the Helmholtz Centre Hereon (formerly the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht). His research focuses on chemical processes such as marine carbon cycles, particularly in marginal seas such as the North Sea, the Baltic Sea or the Arctic Ocean.



**Sebastian Vehlken**  
**Knowledge Processes and Digital Media**

Media theorist and -historian Prof. Dr Sebastian Vehlken has been appointed to the joint professorship of "Knowledge Processes and Digital Media" at the Institute of History and the German Maritime Museum (DSM) / Leibniz Institute of Maritime History in Bremerhaven. He previously taught and researched the history and culture of digital media at the Leuphana University Lüneburg.

Vehlken graduated in media studies and economics from the University of Bochum. He spent two years conducting research at the University of Weimar before taking a post as a research associate at the University of Vienna from 2007 to 2010. He completed his PhD thesis at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in 2010, and then moved to Lüneburg, where he was first a research associate and then associate director of the German Research Foundation's Institute for Advanced Studies on "Media Cultures of Computer Simulation" (MECS), before becoming a professor in 2017.

Vehlken's main research interests include the history of digital media and computer simulation, digitality and material cultures, oceans as spaces of knowledge, as well as media and architecture.



**Wolfram Wingerath**  
**Data Science**

Dr Wolfram Wingerath has been appointed Junior Professor of "Data Science" at Department of Computing Science. He was previously Head of Data Engineering & Research at Baqend GmbH, a research spin-off from the Universität Hamburg.

Wingerath studied computer science at the Universität Hamburg, where he also completed his doctorate in 2019. The main focus of his research is at the intersection between web technology and data management. The real-time database system InvalidB, which he developed as part of his doctorate, is now being used commercially. His work helps to improve website loading speed. Another subject of his research is the analysis and prediction of user behavior to make surfing the web a smoother experience.

The computer scientist is also an expert in hands-free coding – the use of speech recognition and eye tracking in software development. Wingerath not only uses and develops these methods himself, he also co-founded the Handsfree Coding initiative at the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI).



**Antje Wulff**  
**Big Data in Medicine**

Dr Antje Wulff has been appointed Junior Professor of "Big Data in Medicine" at the university's Department of Health Services Research. The junior professorship is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Wulff studied Business Information Systems at the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University in Stuttgart and Business Information Systems - Medicine and Health at the Technische Universität Braunschweig. She then took up a post at the Peter L. Reichertz Institute for Medical Informatics, which is jointly run by the TU Braunschweig and the Hannover Medical School.

Wulff's main research interests include computer systems that support medical staff in decision-making by providing diagnostic and predictive models for diseases based on health data. She also conducts research on medical data modelling and methods to facilitate standardized data flow between systems and institutions.



**Julia Wurr**  
**Postcolonial Studies**

Dr Julia Wurr has been appointed Assistant Professor in "Post-colonial Studies" at the Institute for English and American Studies. Before coming to Oldenburg, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Trier. Wurr studied English, French as well as International Relations and Translation Studies at the Universities of Trier (Germany), Liège (Belgium) and Oxford (UK). She completed her PhD in the International Research Training Group Diversity based at the Universities of Trier, Saarbrücken and Montreal (Canada) in 2019. Her thesis was an analysis of European and North American fiction on the "Arab Spring". Her work focuses on postcolonial studies, a transdisciplinary field of research that examines the consequences and legacies of the colonial era. Wurr's current research project "Birth and the Postcolonial" focuses on transnational commercial surrogacy and childlessness in Anglo-phone postcolonial literature. A future focus of her research will be the relationship between identity and social inequality as well as racism and classism.