



### Thorsten Balke

#### Vegetation Ecology and Conservation

Dr Thorsten Balke has been appointed Professor of "Vegetation Ecology and Conservation" at the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences. He studied geography at the Leibniz University Hannover and earned his PhD at Radboud University (Netherlands) in 2013 with a thesis on coastal ecology and geomorphology. While studying for his PhD from 2009 to 2013, Balke was a junior researcher at the Deltares research institute in Delft (Netherlands), and also spent a year as a visiting researcher at the National University of Singapore. From 2013 to 2014, after completing his PhD, Balke worked as a researcher at the Deltares institute and the NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research in Yerseke (Netherlands). He then took up a position at the University of Oldenburg, before moving to the University of Glasgow (UK), where he was a researcher and lecturer at the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences from 2016 to 2023. Balke's research focuses on coastal vegetation in temperate and tropical climate regions and its interactions with the environment. He also develops concepts and monitoring methods that are primarily used in the design of nature-based solutions to climate change and in the restoration and management of mangroves and salt marshes.



### Kristian Berg

#### Grammar of the German Language

Prof. Dr Kristian Berg has been appointed Professor of "Grammar of the German Language" at the Institute for German Studies. Berg studied German, English and Musicology at the University of Cologne and earned his PhD at the University of Oldenburg in 2012 with a thesis on the morphosyntax of nominal units in Low German. From 2008 to 2019, during and after the completion of his PhD, Berg worked as a research associate at the University of Oldenburg. From 2017 to 2018 he was also an Associate Junior Fellow at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg. In 2019 he was appointed Professor of German Linguistics at the University of Bonn, having already held the professorship on an interim basis for several months. Berg's main research topics are written language and word formation. He investigates how written German has changed over time, particularly at the level of spelling and punctuation, as well as how new words are formed and under what conditions they are accepted by a language community.



### Kathrin Boerner

#### Prevention and Rehabilitation Research

Prof. Dr Kathrin Boerner has been appointed as Professor of "Prevention and Rehabilitation Research" at the Department of Health Services Research. She was previously Professor of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston (US). Boerner studied psychology in Kiel and Trier. As part of her PhD at the Freie Universität Berlin, she conducted research at Harvard Medical School in Boston. From 2000 on, Boerner held various senior research scientist positions at eldercare facilities in the US, including Lighthouse International, a rehabilitation agency for adults with visual impairment, and Jewish Home Lifecare, a health care system for older adults offering all levels of care. Aging research was her main focus at all stages. Since 2014 she conducted research and taught at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Boerner investigates the management of age-related chronic diseases in mid- to late life, as well as unique challenges in the care of very old adults. Of particular interest in this context are social isolation and loneliness in late life, as well as ways to optimize care teams in the care of older people.



### Mark-Oliver Carl

#### Didactics of German Literature including Media Didactics

Dr Mark-Oliver Carl has been appointed Professor of "Didactics of German Literature including Media Didactics" at the Institute for German Studies. Before joining the University of Oldenburg, he was a research associate at the University of Cologne's Institute for German Language and Literature II. Carl studied German and English language and literature at the Universities of Kassel and Manchester (UK). He earned his doctorate in Kassel in 2007 with a dissertation on intertextuality in the works of GDR author Ulrich Plenzdorf. In 2009, he qualified as a secondary school (Gymnasium) teacher for schools in Berlin after completing the second state examination. He then taught literature didactics in various posts at the Universities of Potsdam, Frankfurt am Main and Cologne, as well as at the University of Education Weingarten. He completed his habilitation in Cologne in 2022 and qualified to teach German literature and its didactics at university level. In his research, Carl uses empirical methods to investigate how school pupils interpret literature, acquire cultural knowledge and learn to access the deeper meaning of literary texts. He is particularly interested in the didactics of serial and dystopian narratives.



### Jan Erhorn

#### Sport Science with a Focus on Sport Education and Sport Didactics

Prof. Dr Jan Erhorn has been appointed Professor of "Sport Science with a Focus on Sport Education and Sport Didactics" at the Institute of Sport Science. He previously held a professorship of the same name at Osnabrück University. Erhorn did a teaching degree in education science, sport and history at the Universität Hamburg, where he also earned his PhD in 2010 and then worked as a post-doctoral researcher. In 2013 he was appointed Junior Professor of Sport Education and Sports Didactics at Europa-Universität Flensburg and remained there until 2017, when he took up the professorship at Osnabrück University. His research focuses on empirical teaching research, teacher professionalisation, movement, games and sport in early childhood, and the professionalisation of early childhood educators, as well as inclusion and approaches to heterogeneity. Erhorn is a reviewer for numerous scientific journals and was Chairman of the Board of the Lower Saxony Institute for Early Childhood Education and Development (nifbe) from 2018 to 2023.



### Verena Klös

#### Embedded Hardware-/Software-Systems

Prof. Dr Verena Klös has been appointed to the Chair of "Embedded Hardware-/Software-Systems" at the Department of Computing Science. She studied computer science at the Technische Universität Berlin, completed her master's in 2012 and received her PhD in 2020. After working as a research associate at the Technische Universität Berlin, she became junior professor in computer science with a focus on tactile computing at the Technische Universität Dresden in 2023. Klös's main area of research is Self-Adaptive and Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) as well as formal methods for guaranteeing the safety of software systems. Another critical aspect of future CPS is their direct interaction with humans. To improve this, she is researching how the systems can use explanations to ensure that the people interacting with them understand what behaviour to expect in any given situation. Here she is also interested in the extent to which the systems have to adapt to their human users and vice versa.



### Andreas Martens

#### Cardiac Surgery

Prof. Dr Andreas Martens has been appointed Professor of "Cardiac Surgery" at the University of Oldenburg's Department for Human Medicine. He is also the new Director of the Department of Cardiac Surgery at Klinikum Oldenburg. Before joining the University of Oldenburg, he was head of Aortic Surgery and Senior Consultant at the Clinic for Cardiac, Thoracic, Transplant and Vascular Surgery at Hannover Medical School (MHH), where he also completed his medical degree, his doctorate and his training as a specialist in cardiac surgery and vascular surgery and then qualified as a professor in 2017. He was appointed adjunct professor in 2020. Martens specialises in surgery on the thoracic aorta, minimally invasive heart valve procedures and coronary vessel surgery. He also conducts research into improving these techniques. He is a member of the Aortic Surgery Commission and the Commission for promotion of young talents of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Thorax-, Herz- und Gefäßchirurgie (German Society for Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgery) and member of the Aortic Dissection Task Force of the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery, among other medical associations. Martens is part of the Editorial Board of the Zeitschrift für Herz-, Thorax und Gefäßchirurgie and a reviewer for numerous medical journals.



### Christoph Matheja

#### Theory of Correct Systems

Prof. Dr Christoph Matheja has been appointed to the professorship for "Theory of Correct Systems" at the Department of Computing Science. He studied computer science at RWTH Aachen University, where he earned his master's degree in 2014 and his PhD in 2020. He was a post-doctoral researcher at ETH Zurich (Switzerland) from 2020 to 2021, and then moved to the Technical University of Denmark in Lyngby, where he was an assistant professor from 2021 to 2023 and associate professor from 2023 to 2024. Matheja's main area of research is the development of formal methods and tools for software verification that give correctness guarantees in the form of mathematical and, ideally, machine-checked proofs. To this end, he develops verification tools that can rule out programming errors at an early stage. A particular focus is the analysis of probabilistic programs, which can make decisions based on random experiments. Matheja develops methods for quantifying the correctness and robustness of such programs.



**Rebecca Palm**

**Nursing Science**

Prof. Dr Rebecca Palm has been appointed Professor of "Nursing Science" at the Department of Health Services Research. She will also lead the new master's degree programme Advanced Nursing Practice, which has been launched in the current winter semester. Before joining Oldenburg, she was a professor at Witten/Herdecke University. After training as a nurse at the German Heart Centre Berlin (DHZB) she studied nursing science at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences and at Witten/Herdecke University, where she also completed her doctorate in 2016. Professor Palm's research activities focus on the care of older adults with a dementia illness and gerontopsychiatric care needs. She is particularly interested in investigating the structural conditions that care facilities should provide to meet the care needs of people with dementia. She is currently also researching the topic of delirium in geriatric care facilities. Palm is a strong proponent of the academisation of nursing education.



**Ayça Polat**

**Social Pedagogy in the Migration Society**

Prof. Dr Ayça Polat has been appointed Professor of "Social Pedagogy in the Migration Society" at the University's Institute of Educational Sciences. Polat studied intercultural education and social sciences at the University of Oldenburg, where she also completed her PhD. After a period as a Fellow at the Centre for Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies at the University of Toronto (Canada), she worked as a lecturer for special tasks at the University of Oldenburg. From 2008 to 2015, she was Integration Officer for the City of Oldenburg. She then took the post of Professor of Interculturality and Migration in Social Work at Kiel University of Applied Sciences. In 2022, she was appointed to the professorship of Social Work in the Context of Social Diversity at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. In the same year, Polat completed her habilitation with a thesis on the foundations of reflection on social and educational work in the migration society. Polat's main research interests include theories and approaches to criticising racism and increasing diversity awareness, as well as migration education and critical migration research. More recently she has focused on the phenomenon of everyday racism and the question of what role diversity and discrimination play at universities.



**Wolfram Rollett**

**School Education with a Focus on School Development**

Prof. Dr Wolfram Rollett has been appointed Professor of "School Education with a Focus on School Development" at the Institute of Educational Sciences. He was previously Professor of Empirical Education Research with a Focus on School Development at the Freiburg University of Education. Rollett studied psychology at the University of Vienna (Austria) and RWTH Aachen University, and completed his doctorate at TU Braunschweig in 2007. From 2007 to 2012 he headed a research group at TU Dortmund University which focused on the development of all-day schools (Ganztagsschule) in Germany. After earning his habilitation in 2012 he took up the professorship position in Freiburg, where he was also Dean of the Faculty of Educational Science from 2021 to 2024. In his research, Rollett uses empirical methods to investigate learning and development processes. His key focus areas are adaptive and inclusive learning environments, the learning and organisational culture at all-day schools, the effectiveness of various learning formats and the impact of class composition on the development of pupils.



**Ulrike Sallandt**

**Protestant Theology with a Focus on Systematic Theology and Ecumenism**

Dr Ulrike Sallandt has been appointed Professor of "Protestant Theology with a Focus on Systematic Theology and Ecumenism" at the Institute of Theology. Before coming to Oldenburg, she was a research fellow at the Heidelberg University of Education and a lecturer at Ruhr University Bochum. Sallandt studied Protestant Theology in Bielefeld, Tübingen and Leipzig and passed her First Theological Examination in 2002. She went to Peru on a research visit while doing her PhD at Ruhr University Bochum. Sallandt completed her PhD in 2006, then took her second Theological Examination a year later and was ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru. From 2007 to 2014 she worked in Lima as a teacher, deputy head teacher and parish priest. In 2015, she moved back to Germany and took up a post as a research associate at the University of Bonn, where she worked until she switched to the Heidelberg University of Education and completed a master's degree in philosophy in 2016. Her research focuses on theology and philosophy, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, transcultural theology, Pentecostalism in Latin America and postcolonial theory.



**Christoph Sextroh**

**Accounting and Corporate Governance**

Prof. Dr Christoph Sextroh has been appointed Professor of "Accounting and Corporate Governance" at the Department of Business Administration, Economics, and Law. He studied Business Administration at the University of Duisburg-Essen and the NHH Norwegian School of Economics in Bergen (Norway) and completed his PhD in 2014 at the University of Mannheim's Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences. During his doctoral studies from 2009 to 2014 he was a research assistant at the University of Mannheim. In 2016 he took up the post of Assistant Professor of Accounting at Tilburg University (Netherlands) and then became tenured Associate Professor in 2021. He was a visiting researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle (USA), the Bocconi University in Milan (Italy), the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (USA) and London Business School (UK). Sextroh's research focuses on questions relating to corporate transparency and capital market communication, the dissemination and processing of financial and non-financial information by the various stakeholders and the impact of financial technologies and social media.



**Timm Wilke**

**Didactics of Chemistry**

Prof. Dr Timm Wilke has been appointed to the professorship of "Didactics of Chemistry" at the Institute of Chemistry. He is a Lower Saxony profile professorship, which receives extra funding from the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture. He studied chemistry and French at the University of Göttingen, where he earned a Master of Education degree and went on to complete his PhD at the department of Didactics of Chemistry. From 2016 to 2020, Wilke was junior professor of teaching and learning research at the Technische Universität Braunschweig's Chemistry School Lab. He also worked as a part-time teacher at various schools for eight years. From 2019 to 2020 he held a visiting professorship at the University of Graz (Austria), and then from 2020 to 2023 he was Professor of the Didactics of Chemistry at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena. Research visits have taken him to the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Toulouse (France), the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne (US), and the Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education in Kiel. Wilke's research interests include adapting current research topics such as nanotechnology, green chemistry and functional materials for school lessons, developing digital teaching-learning tools for lessons, teaching and research, and the use of AI in chemistry lessons.



**Antje Wulff**

**Big Data in Medicine**

Dr Antje Wulff has been appointed Professor of "Big Data in Medicine" at the university's Department of Health Services Research. She had previously been a junior professor at the university since 2022. 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.



**Jan Patrick Zeller**

**Slavic Linguistics**

Prof. Dr Jan Patrick Zeller has been appointed to Professor of "Slavic Linguistics" at the Institute of Slavic Studies. He was previously Professor of Slavic Linguistics at the University of Greifswald. Zeller studied Slavic Philology and German Studies in Oldenburg, St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) and Krakow (Poland). From 2011 to 2012 he completed a research trip to Belarusian State University in Minsk (Belarus) on a DAAD doctoral scholarship. In 2014 he received his PhD at the University of Oldenburg, where he stayed on as a research associate at the Institute of Slavic Studies until 2017. He then took up an assistant professorship in Slavic sociolinguistics at the University of Bern, before moving to Universität Hamburg as a junior professor. In 2021 he became a full professor at the University of Greifswald. Zeller's research focuses on Poland, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia as linguistic regions. He studies the connections between language and society as well as language and cognition, with a special focus on language contact, multilingualism and linguistic variation.