

The UGO awards prizes and supports business founders

The Universitätsgesellschaft Oldenburg e.V. (UGO) has awarded its prize for excellent research 2017, endowed with 5,000 euros, to social scientist Professor Dr. Jannika Mattes. The 36-year-old is Junior Professor for the Sociology of European Societies and is studying the factors that drive innovation. This involves analysing how international companies bring together knowledge from different disciplines and locations to create new products. Mattes is also researching regional restructuring processes. She is examining the ways in which large entities with entrenched structures and high numbers of people involved change, for example, when an entire

region converts its energy production to wind energy.

Physicist Dr. Sebastian Wilken was awarded the UGO prize for an outstanding doctoral thesis. The 32-year-old earned his PhD in the working group led by Prof. Dr. Jürgen Parisi with a dissertation on organic photovoltaics. He studied elementary processes in solar cells that use conductive hydrocarbons, making them cheaper and more energy-efficient to manufacture. Their precise mode of operation is not yet completely understood. Wilken studied them using an innovative combination of microscopic and macroscopic measuring techniques. Both prizes were

awarded at the “Auftakt 17/18 event at which the University and the UGO inaugurated the new academic year on October 19th.

In 2017 the UGO also established a new event format for young and prospective start-up founders: the “Kellergespräche” (Basement Talks) aim to facilitate exchange within this group as well as with established figures from the corporate world. The talks will take place in the basement of advertising agency “von Mende Marketing”. The initiative was launched by UGO President Prof. Dr. Werner Brinker and his deputy, the head of the agency Swea von Mende.

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