

New Appointments



Thomas Boyken

Children's and Youth Literature

Dr. Thomas Boyken has been appointed Junior Professor of Children's and Youth literature at the Institute of German Studies. He was previously a junior lecturer in modern German literature at the Department of German Language and Literatures of the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Boyken studied German language and literature and sports science at the University of Oldenburg, where he passed his First State Examination in 2006 and received his PhD in 2012. From 2009 to 2014, he worked as a lecturer at the Institute of German Studies. Research stays took him to the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar and the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland.

From 2013 to 2015 Boyken worked with the English-language bibliographical journal "The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies". Since October 2018 he has been a member of the scientific advisory board of the Hölderlin Society in Tübingen. Since July 2020 he has been director of the Oldenburg Research Unit for Children's and Youth Literature (OlFoKi). His research centres on children's and youth literature from the 18th to the 21st century, gender studies, narratology and drama theory.



Caterina Cocchi

Theoretical Solid State Physics

Prof. Dr. Caterina Cocchi has been appointed Professor of Theoretical Solid State Physics at the Institute of Physics. She previously held a Junior Professorship for "Theory of excitations in low-dimensional systems" at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Cocchi studied physics at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, where she also received her PhD in 2012 with a thesis on graphene nanostructures. In 2013, she moved to the Humboldt University as post-doctoral researcher.

Cocchi's research focuses on light-matter interaction. She studies the electronic and optical properties of complex materials from first principles. These materials could be used in next-generation solar cells, for example. She heads projects in a Collaborative Research Centre and in a Priority Programme both funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). She is also involved in a competence cluster on battery materials funded by the Federal Ministry of Research (BMBF) and leads a project on digitalization financed by the VolkswagenStiftung.



Anne Frühbis-Krüger

Arithmetic/Algebraic
Geometry and Computer Algebra

Prof. Dr. Anne Frühbis-Krüger has been awarded the Professorship of Mathematics with special focus on arithmetic/algebraic geometry and computer algebra. She teaches and does research at the intersection of pure mathematics and the development of algorithms. Previously, she was an adjunct professor at the University of Hannover's Institute of Algebraic Geometry.

Frühbis-Krüger studied mathematics and physics before completing her PhD at the Technische Universität Kaiserslautern in 2000, where she also earned her Habilitation. After several months on a research stay in Paris and a Visiting Professorship at the Freie Universität Berlin, she moved to Leibniz Universität Hannover.

A central aspect in Frühbis-Krüger's research are problems of a geometric flavour, in many cases centered around singularities of spaces and maps. She addresses these based on methods of symbolic computation, integrating parallel algorithms and an experimental approach using computational algebra into her work.

New Appointments



Thilo Gross

Biodiversity Theory

Prof. Dr. Thilo Gross has been appointed to the joint Professorship for Biodiversity Theory of the university's Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI). In this capacity he conducts research at the University of Oldenburg's Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB). Prior to this position he was a professor of computer science at the University of California, Davis (USA). After holding posts in Potsdam and at Princeton University, USA, he headed a research group at the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden. From 2011 to 2018 Gross worked at the University of Bristol, England, before taking up the post at the University of California, Davis. Gross applies approaches from network and data science to ecosystem modelling. The aim of his research is to enhance understanding of the relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functions.



Blanka Hartmann

Pedagogy and Didactics for Emotional and Social Development

Dr. Blanka Hartmann has been appointed Professor of Pedagogy and Didactics for Emotional and Social Development with special focus on inclusive educational processes. The professorship is based at the Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation. Hartmann studied education with a focus on rehabilitation and education for persons with disabilities at the Technical University of Dortmund, where she received her PhD in 2001. From 2001 to 2010 she held posts as a research assistant and research associate at the University of Leipzig, where in 2010 she also earned her Habilitation. Before coming to Oldenburg she was a lecturer at the University of Bremen's Faculty of Pedagogy and Educational Sciences in the area of inclusive education, specialized in emotional-social development and learning. Hartmann's research interests include school development in the context of inclusive education, diagnostics in inclusive settings and the professionalization of teaching staff.



Till-Sebastian Idel

School Education Studies and General Didactics

Prof. Dr. Till-Sebastian Idel has been appointed Professor of Educational Sciences with special focus on school education studies and general didactics at the Department of Educational Sciences. Before coming to Oldenburg he was Professor of School Theory and School Research at the University of Bremen. After completing his degree in education studies at Mainz, Idel studied philosophy and sociology and then earned his doctorate with a thesis on biographical socialization in Waldorf schools in 2004. He continued working at the University of Mainz until he took up the professorial post in Bremen. From 2008 to 2009 he was Deputy Professor of School Educational Studies at the University of Education Heidelberg. Idel's research group at the University of Oldenburg deals with the basic practices and processes of school education studies. He conducts research and lectures in the design, change and reform of lessons and educational professionalism. His focus here is on practical aspects of teaching and learning in the classroom, as well as changes in school and school culture.



Katrin Kleinschmidt-Schinke

German Language Education

Prof. Dr. Katrin Kleinschmidt-Schinke has been made Professor of German Language Education at the Institute of German Studies, where she previously held the position of Junior Professor.

Kleinschmidt-Schinke studied German and biology for Gymnasium teaching at Oldenburg University. In 2017, she earned her doctorate at the University of Cologne with an empirical thesis on student directed speech used by teachers. Before coming to Oldenburg, she held a deputy professorship for applied linguistics at the Leuphana University Lüneburg.

Kleinschmidt-Schinke's research looks at how teachers can best promote their students' oral and written language skills. For example, in a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) she studies adaptive language behaviour – the phenomenon of teachers adapting their language in the classroom to their students' developmental levels.



Tanja Jungmann

Speech and Communication
and its Facilitation through
Special Needs Education

Prof. Dr. Tanja Jungmann has been appointed Professor of Speech and Communication and its Facilitation through Special Needs Education with special focus on inclusive educational processes at the Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation. She was previously Professor of Educational Science with a focus on Education for Special Needs Pedagogy ("Learning") at the University of Siegen. Jungmann studied psychology at the University of Bielefeld, where she also completed her PhD in 2003. After working as a research assistant at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Hospital of Jena and at the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony in Hannover, in 2006 she was appointed Junior Professor of Special Educational Psychology at the University of Hannover. In 2009 she moved to the University of Rostock and took up the professorship of Speech Impairment Education and Special Needs Early Intervention. Jungmann's research focuses on professionalization training for educators, with speech training and early support.



Djordje Lazovic

Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery

Prof. Dr. Djordje Lazovic has been made Professor of Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery at the Department of Human Medicine. Lazovic had held the professorship in an acting capacity since 2013. He studied human medicine at the Hanover Medical School (MHH), where he also received his doctorate in 1983 and completed his specialist training as an orthopaedist in 1987. He went on to earn further qualifications in chiropractic therapy, sports medicine and special orthopaedic surgery, as well as specialist training in orthopaedics and trauma surgery. In 1996, Lazovic earned his Habilitation with a thesis on meniscus transplants. In 2001, he became Director of the Clinic for Orthopaedics at the Pius-Hospital Oldenburg, which is now the University Clinic for Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery.

Professor Lazovic's research focuses on the meniscus and ligaments of the knee as well as with the biomechanics of hip and knee joint endoprostheses. He has received several awards, including the Oldenburg University President's Plaque of Honour for his services to the development of the university's medical faculty.

New Appointments



Ulla Licandro

Heterogeneity and Diversity

Dr. Ulla Licandro has been appointed Junior Professor of Heterogeneity and Diversity with special focus on inclusive educational processes at the Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation. Prior to this appointment she was Acting Professor for Language and Communication and its Special Educational Support. Licandro studied rehabilitation and speech and language therapy at the Technical University of Dortmund, the Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), and the University of Iowa, USA. In 2010 she has held research and teaching posts at the University of Hanover, where she earned her PhD with a thesis on the narrative skills of multilingual children. She spent three semesters conducting research at the University of Iowa and the University of Ohio (USA) on scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Robert Bosch Foundation. Licandro's research focuses on the prevention of linguistic-communicative impairments. She also investigates intervention options for language/speech disorders and the importance of peer interaction in language acquisition.



Petra Löffner

Theory and History of Contemporary Media

Dr. Petra Löffler has been appointed Professor of Theory and History of Contemporary Media at the Institute of Art and Visual Culture. Prior to her appointment in Oldenburg she held a teaching position at the Humboldt University of Berlin and was a project leader in the Cluster of Excellence "Matters of Activity". Löffler studied German, art history and Slavic Studies at the University of Cologne, where she received her doctorate in 2003. After her studies she worked as a research assistant in the Collaborative Research Centre "Media and Cultural Communication" at the universities of Cologne, Bonn and Aachen and at the University of Regensburg. In 2008, Löffler became a University Assistant at the University of Vienna, where she obtained her authorization to teach film and media studies in 2012. She has held various guest professorships and was a Senior Fellow in international Collaborative Research Centres at the Universities of Weimar and Lüneburg. Löffler's research interests include contemporary media practices in the sharing and migration of images, digital infrastructures and archives of the future.



Karin Loser

Immunology

Prof. Dr. Karin Loser has been appointed Professor of Immunology at the Department of Human Medicine. She was previously a professor at the University of Münster and headed the Centre for Experimental Dermatology and Immunobiology of the Skin at the University Clinic for Dermatology. Loser studied biology at the University of Münster, where she also earned her PhD. She worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and then from 2001 at the Clinic for Dermatology. In 2005 and 2006 she was a visiting fellow at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. In 2012, she moved back to Münster, where she took over the management of the Centre for Experimental Dermatology and Immunobiology of the Skin. Loser's research focuses on basic cell and molecular biological processes in the skin and their influence on the development and progression of inflammatory diseases. She also studies the impact of environmental factors on diseases of the nervous system.



Bernd T. Meyer
Communication Acoustics

Dr. Bernd T. Meyer has been appointed Professorship of Communication Acoustics at the Department of Medical Physics and Acoustics. He was previously head of a junior research group in the medical physics group and a member of the Hearing4all Cluster of Excellence at the University of Oldenburg.

Meyer studied physics at the University of Oldenburg, where he also received his PhD in 2009. A scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) took him to the International Computer Science Institute (ICSI) in Berkeley, California, as a postdoctoral fellow. From 2016 to 2017 the physicist spent a year conducting research at the Center for Speech and Language Processing at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland (USA). He has also headed a junior research group in Oldenburg since 2011.

Meyer's research focuses on the processing and perception of language. He develops voice-controlled automated hearing tests and is investigating how machine listening can continuously improve speech intelligibility in hearing aids.



Astrid Nieße
Digitalized Energy Systems

Prof. Dr. Astrid Nieße has taken the post of Professor of Digitalized Energy Systems at the University of Oldenburg's Department of Computing Science. She was previously Professor of Energy Informatics at the University of Hannover. Nieße is also member of the board of the energy department at the university's affiliated OFFIS Institute for Information Technology, where she was involved in setting up the department over a decade ago.

Nieße studied biology and computer science at the University of Oldenburg and the Bremen University of Applied Sciences. After graduating in 2005, she worked with an Oldenburg start-up before joining OFFIS in 2007. She earned her PhD from the University of Oldenburg in 2015 with a thesis on the application of distributed algorithms for virtual power plants, and then took up the professorship in Hannover in 2018.

Her research focuses on the digitalization of energy systems using self-organizing methods and software agents. At OFFIS, Nieße supervises application-oriented research projects in connection with the energy transition.



Emmanuel Asane-Otoo
Environmental Economics

Dr. Emmanuel Asane-Otoo has been made Junior Professor of Economics with special focus on environmental economics at the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law. Previously, he was a postdoctoral researcher in the Economic Policy research group.

Asane-Otoo studied agricultural sciences at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He then took the international Master's degree course "Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis" at the University of Bonn and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, graduating with a double Master's in Economics and Food, and Resource Economics. During this period, he was funded by an Erasmus Mundus grant from the European Commission. In 2017, he completed his PhD at the University of Oldenburg with a thesis on energy and climate policy.

His research focuses on energy economy and the economics of climate change, using econometric methods and numerical equilibrium models.

New Appointments



Konstantin Pankrashkin
Analysis and its Applications

Prof. Dr. Konstantin Pankrashkin has been appointed Professor of Analysis and its Applications at the Institute of Mathematics. He was previously a lecturer ("Maître de conférences") at the Paris-Sud University, France. Pankrashkin studied applied mathematics at the Mordovian State University in Saransk, Russia. He completed his doctoral project at the Institute for Problems in Mechanics in Moscow and at the Humboldt University of Berlin in 2002. As a postdoctoral fellow, Pankrashkin conducted research at the Humboldt University as well as the Paris-Nord and Paris-Sud universities, and has been a lecturer at the latter since 2008. He completed his research habilitation degree there in 2010. Partial differential equations are one focus of his research. Pankrashkin uses theoretical methods to study various wave processes with external interactions as well as novel mathematical models in order to describe so-called metamaterials with special electronic and magnetic properties.



Kimberley Peters
Marine Governance

Dr. Kimberley Peters has been appointed to a joint professorship in Marine Governance 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. Peters does research at the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity of the University of Oldenburg (HIFMB). Previously, she was a lecturer in human geography at the University of Liverpool, UK. Peters studied geography at Cardiff University and the Royal Holloway College of the University of London, where she completed her PhD in 2011. After working as a Teaching Associate at the University of Sheffield and as a Lecturer at Aberystwyth University she moved to Liverpool. There, in 2019, she became a Reader. Peters is the first social scientist to join the interdisciplinary team of the HIFMB. Her speciality is marine geography. She researches the social, cultural and political meaning of the oceans, in particular rules and governance mechanisms for using and protecting the seas.



Oscar Puebla
Fish Ecology

Prof. Dr. Oscar Puebla has been appointed to a joint professorship for Fish Ecology at the Institute for the Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) and the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen. The biologist previously headed a research group as Junior Professor for Marine Ecology at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. Puebla studied biology and oceanography in Switzerland and Canada. In 2009 he received his PhD from the McGill University in Montreal (Canada). He then spent seven years at the Smithsonian Institute for Tropical Research in Panama, of which he remains an associate member. As part of his cooperation professorship, he heads the research group "Fish Ecology and Evolution" at the ZMT. Puebla's main research interests include population genetics. He is also interested in ecological and evolutionary processes in the seas and studies the impact of protected areas on Mediterranean fisheries.



Anne Rahn

Health and Care Systems

Dr. Anne Christin Rahn has been made Junior Professor of Health and Care Systems with special focus on international comparison at the Department of Health Services Research. She was previously a postdoctoral researcher at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

After training as a nurse, Rahn worked in nursing at the University Medical Centre Schleswig-Holstein. In 2007, she began studying to become a teacher and completed her studies in 2012 with the first State Examination. Within the same time she earned a Master's degree in Health Sciences at the University of York (England). She then worked as a research assistant at the University of Hamburg, where she also received her PhD. In 2016 she took up a post as a lecturer at the Medical School Hamburg (MSH).

In her research Rahn focuses on decision coaching in multiple sclerosis - a special form of counselling aimed at helping MS patients make informed immunotherapy decisions. She is also currently preparing a systematic review of responses to immunotherapies.



Teresa Sansour

Education and Didactics
for Intellectual Disability

Dr. Teresa Sansour has been made Professor of Education and Didactics for Intellectual Disability with special focus on inclusive educational processes at the Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation.

Sansour studied special education at the Heidelberg University of Education. After completing her teacher training period at the State Seminar for Didactics and Teacher Training Heidelberg, she became a research assistant at the Humboldt University of Berlin. In 2012 she returned to Heidelberg, where she completed her PhD as an academic assistant in 2016 and continued her work as an academic councillor. Prior to her appointment in Oldenburg, she held professorships at the universities of Paderborn and Halle-Wittenberg.

Sansour's research interests include pedagogical interactions in the context of intellectual disabilities. She also investigates inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities and the participation of people with multiple severe disabilities in school and outside school.



Marcel Schlechtweg

English Linguistics, Language
Acquisition, Language Processing

Dr. Marcel Schlechtweg has been appointed Junior professor of English Linguistics, Language Acquisition and Language Processing at the Institute of English and American Studies. As a postdoctoral research fellow, he headed the language laboratory at the University of Kassel.

Schlechtweg studied English and American Studies, Romance Studies and Educational Science in Kassel. His studies took him to Bordeaux, France, as well as Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, USA. He continued to focus on linguistics in his doctoral project on the acquisition of complex linguistic constructions in German, English and French, which he completed at the University of Kassel in 2017.

Among Schlechtweg's research interests is the role and function of fine acoustic and phonetic details in the language system. In the context of the Hearing4all Cluster of Excellence he plans to focus intensively on these aspects and at the same time establish a link to speech perception.

New Appointments



Christian Schneider

Quantum Materials

Dr. Christian Schneider has been appointed Professor of Quantum Materials at the Institute of Physics. He previously headed a research group at the University of Würzburg, for which he received a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (ERC).

Schneider studied physics and nanotechnology in Würzburg and at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. After completing his PhD in Würzburg in 2012, he headed the spectroscopy group at the Chair of Technical Physics. He completed his Habilitation in 2019.

In 2016 Schneider was awarded an ERC Starting Grant of 1.5 million euros for his project "unlimit2D". The project runs until 2022, and Schneider will continue it in Oldenburg. The focus of the research is interaction mechanisms between light and matter in innovative quantum materials just one atomic layer thick. The physicist aims to create novel light sources, quantum conditions and highly efficient lasers.



Ilia Solov'yov

Theoretical Molecular Physics

Prof. Dr. Ilia Solov'yov has been appointed Professor of Theoretical Molecular Physics at the Institute of Physics. The chair is a Lichtenberg Endowed Professorship. His research group "Quantum Biology and Computational Physics", which he set up in 2013 at the University of Southern Denmark, has relocated to the University of Oldenburg.

Solov'yov studied physics in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Frankfurt. He earned his PhD from the University of Frankfurt in 2008 with a thesis on magnetoreception in birds. In 2009 he received another doctorate for a thesis in theoretical physics at the Ioffe Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. He then held research posts at the University of Frankfurt and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, before moving to the University of Southern Denmark in Odense to take an assistant professor position in 2013. In 2014, he was awarded a lifetime professorship there.

Solov'yov's research interests extend from theoretical and computational physics to biophysics.



Jarl Ivar van der Vlugt

Anorganic Chemistry

Prof. Dr. Jarl Ivar van der Vlugt has been appointed Professor of Anorganic Chemistry at the Institute of Chemistry. He was previously an associate professor at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Van der Vlugt studied chemistry and chemical technology at the Technical University of Eindhoven in the Netherlands, where he also completed his PhD in 2003. He then took a post as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA). In 2005, he moved to the University of Göttingen on a scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Early 2007, van der Vlugt returned to Eindhoven to set up his own research group. Eighteen months later he moved to the University of Amsterdam as an assistant professor. In 2011 he was awarded a European Research Council Starting Grant, and in 2017 he was appointed associate professor with the right to award doctorates. Together with his research group, van der Vlugt studies chemical reactions inspired by biological models. Other focuses include phosphorus chemistry and sustainable chemistry.



Tobias Vogt

Art History: History and
Theory of Visual Culture

Dr. Tobias Vogt has taken the post of Professor of Art History: History and Theory of Visual Culture at the Institute for Art and Visual Culture. Before coming to Oldenburg, he held deputy professorships in Bochum, Tübingen, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main and Munich.

Vogt studied art history, journalism, literature and theatre studies in Mainz and Berlin, where he received his PhD in 2004. After working as assistant curator at the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart he took a research post at the Free University of Berlin's Institute of Cultural History. During this period, he was awarded a fellowship by the German Forum for Art History in Paris, and went on to complete his habilitation in 2015 in Berlin. Research stays took him to Paris, New York and Washington D.C. (USA).

Vogt is especially interested in the relation between word and image as well as works of art and commodities, recently focussing on the authentication of art.



Milena Wrobel

Explicit Methods in
Number Theory and Algebra

Dr. Milena Wrobel has been appointed Junior Professor of Mathematics with special focus on explicit methods in number theory and algebra. Wrobel studied mathematics at the University of Tübingen, where she also completed her doctorate in 2018. She then took up postdoctoral research posts at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences in Leipzig and the Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada. Before moving to the University of Oldenburg, Wrobel was a fellow of the Margarete von Wrangell Habilitation programme in Baden-Württemberg for half a year.

Wrobel's research focus is algebraic geometry, i.e. the investigation of geometric objects such as contorted surfaces in space using systems of equations. One way to simplify the description of a complex geometric object is to make use of its symmetries. Wrobel uses this approach to deduce combinatorial methods for describing such objects. Her research is based on Mori theory, which is i.a. used in the context of the "minimal model programme".