

New Appointments



Alexander Arlt

Internal Medicine –
Gastroenterology

Prof. Dr. Alexander Arlt has been appointed Professor of "Internal Medicine" with Special Focus on Gastroenterology at the Department of Human Medicine. Arlt is also Director of the University Clinic for Internal Medicine - Gastroenterology at the Klinikum Oldenburg. Before coming to Oldenburg, he was Deputy Director of the Clinic for Internal Medicine I at the Kiel campus of the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein (UKSH). Arlt studied human medicine at the University of Kiel. After obtaining his medical licence in 2002 he worked as a research assistant and junior doctor at the UKSH's Department for General Internal Medicine. In 2007 he earned his habilitation with a thesis on pancreatic cancer and completed his specialist training in internal medicine in the same year. In 2009 he became a consultant at the UKSH's Clinic for Internal Medicine I, and in 2012 its medical director. During this period, he earned additional qualifications in gastroenterology and intensive care medicine. In 2013 he was appointed Associate Professor and took up the position of Senior Consultant at the clinic, becoming Deputy Director in 2019.



Doreen Brandt

Low German Literature

Dr. Doreen Brandt has been appointed Junior Professor of "Low German Literature in Historical and Cultural Studies Perspectives" at the Institute of German Studies. She was previously a research assistant at the Universities of Rostock and Göttingen. Brandt studied history and German studies at the University of Rostock. She completed her Master's degree there in 2009 and then became a lecturer and research assistant and earned her doctorate in German medieval studies in 2017. In her dissertation, Brandt examined how event-related poetry and songs were handed down through the generations in the transition from the Late Middle Ages to the Early Modern period. In a project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) at the University of Rostock, Brandt worked on the analysis and digital edition of 16th century collections of sayings in Low German. She also designed a Centre for the Regional History and Culture of Mecklenburg, and worked at the University of Göttingen's Seminar for German Philology. Brandt's research interests include Middle Low German literature, 13th century Minnesang and literary historiography.



Gerald Enzner

Speech Technology
and Hearing Devices

Dr. Gerald Enzner has been appointed Professor of "Speech Technology and Hearing Devices" at the University of Oldenburg's Department of Medical Physics and Acoustics. He previously headed the teaching and research area "Adaptive Systems of Signal Processing" at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at Ruhr-University Bochum. Enzner studied electrical engineering at the University Erlangen-Nürnberg. After study visits to the Eindhoven University of Technology (the Netherlands) and Siemens Corporate Research (New Jersey, USA), he became a research assistant at RWTH Aachen University, where he also completed his doctorate in 2006. In 2013, Enzner habilitated in the field of adaptive systems in signal processing. At the University of Oldenburg, Enzner will conduct research and teaching aimed at improving speech signals in complex acoustic settings (with ambient noise or reverberations) at the newly established Speech Technology and Hearing Devices Centre. This includes, in particular, binaural modelling and processing of speech using adaptive signal processing and machine learning methods.

New Appointments



Katharina Hombach

Accounting and
Corporate Governance

Prof. Dr. Katharina Hombach has been appointed Professor of "Accounting and Corporate Governance" at the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law. She was previously an assistant professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. Hombach studied business administration at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and corporate law and accounting at the London School of Economics and Political Science. After holding various research positions, she completed her doctorate at the WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management. A key focus of Hombach's scientific work is the economic analysis of corporate transparency, with a special emphasis on disclosure regulations and their economic impact. The expert for financial reporting was recently appointed by the government of Lower Saxony as a new member of the Commission for the determination of the financial needs of public service broadcasters in Germany (KEF).



Gero Junike

Actuarial and
Financial Mathematics

Dr. Gero Junike has been appointed Junior Professor of "Actuarial and Financial Mathematics" at the Institute of Mathematics. The professorship is funded by Oldenburg business enterprises and organizations. Before moving to Oldenburg, Junike worked in risk management at a Düsseldorf-based financial services company. He studied mathematics at the TU Braunschweig. Following his Master's degree he first worked as a risk manager at HSBC investment bank in Düsseldorf and then enrolled at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where he completed his doctorate with a thesis on advanced stock price models. Junike also conducted research as a visiting scholar at KU Leuven (Belgium), in the Statistics and Risk working group led by Professor Wim Schoutens. Most recently, Junike worked at the financial services company Finovesta, where he developed algorithmic trading strategies. His current research focuses on mathematical modelling of financial markets. Among other things, he is investigating how investors can build up cost-efficient portfolios despite the uncertainties of the market models.



Martin Könneke

Benthic Microbiology

Dr. Martin Könneke has been appointed Professor of "Benthic Microbiology" at the Institute of Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM). He previously led a research group at MARUM - Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen as a fellow of the renowned Heisenberg Programme of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Könneke studied biology at the Technical University of Braunschweig. He then conducted research at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Marine Microbiology in Bremen and received his PhD from the University of Bremen in 2001. After a research stay at the University of Washington, Seattle (USA), Könneke moved to the ICBM in 2005. He returned to Bremen to the MPI in 2011 and then moved on to the university in 2012. In 2014, the microbiologist earned his habilitation in Oldenburg, and from 2016 he established the Heisenberg group at MARUM. Könneke's research focuses on the role that previously uncharacterized microorganisms living in marine sediments play in the cycling of elements in the oceans. He also develops methods to isolate previously unknown microbes from seawater and cultivate them in the laboratory.



Anna Langenbruch
Cultural History of Music

Dr. Anna Langenbruch has been appointed Professor of "Cultural History of Music" at the Institute of Music. She previously led a junior research group at the university that investigates the topic "Music History on Stage" and is funded by the Emmy Noether Programme. Langenbruch studied music and mathematics in Cologne. She completed her bi-national doctorate at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales Paris (France) in 2011, then took up a research post at the University of Oldenburg in 2012, where she was awarded a Carl von Ossietzky Researchers' Fellowship in 2013. The university funding programme enabled her to successfully apply for the German Research Foundation's Emmy Noether Programme, through which she established her own research group. Langenbruch's research interests include the cultural history of exile and migration and music theatre from the eighteenth to twenty-first century. Most recently, she has been investigating the ways in which music history has been presented on stage in operas, operettas, musicals or plays with music.



Miriam Liedvogel
Ornithology

Dr. Miriam Liedvogel, an evolutionary biologist, has been appointed Professor of "Ornithology" at the Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences. She is also the new Director of the Institute for Avian Research 'Vogelwarte Helgoland' in Wilhelmshaven. She previously led an independent research group at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Plön. Liedvogel studied biology at the Humboldt-Universität, in Heidelberg and in Oxford (England), where she graduated with a Master's degree in Integrative Biosciences. In 2002 she moved to Oldenburg and completed her PhD there in 2006 with a thesis on orientation mechanisms in migratory birds. She then held postdoctoral research positions at the Universities of Oxford, Lund (Sweden) and Freiburg. In 2014, she moved to the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, where she used blackcaps as a model system for studying the genetic architecture of migratory behaviour. She combines exact characterization of migratory behaviour in the field and under controlled laboratory conditions with cutting-edge sequencing methods to investigate the molecular foundations of bird migration.



Johannes Lorenz
Business Taxation

Dr. Johannes Lorenz has been appointed Junior Professor of "Business Taxation" at the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law. He was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Paderborn University's Chair of Business Administration. Lorenz studied business administration and economics at the University of Passau, where he also completed his doctorate in 2017. In the same year he was appointed as a tax advisor by the Munich Chamber of Tax Advisors. After working as a research assistant and senior lecturer at the University of Passau's Chair of Business Administration with a Focus on Taxation, Lorenz was an associate at the Munich-based law firm Flick Gocke Schaumburg, which specializes in commercial law, from 2018 to 2020. He then took up a research associate post at Paderborn University. Lorenz's research interests include the impact of taxation on the decisions of companies and individuals in interaction with strategically acting tax authorities, with a particular focus on (international) tax avoidance and tax complexity.

New Appointments



Astrid Petersmann

Clinical Chemistry
and Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Astrid Petersmann has been appointed to the Professorship for "Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine" at the Department of Human Medicine. She is also Director of the University Institute for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine at the Klinikum Oldenburg. She was previously Medical Director of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory and Acting Director of the Institute of Clinical Chemistry at the University Medical Centre Göttingen. Petersmann studied biology at the University of Hannover and human medicine at Hannover Medical School and the University of Greifswald. She completed her medical studies while serving in the German Armed Forces, where she rose to the rank of Stabsarzt (Captain Dr.). After earning her doctorate, Petersmann worked at the Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine in Greifswald and became senior consultant there in 2014. Following her specialist training she earned her habilitation in 2017 with a paper on the quality of laboratory medicine examinations and then moved to Göttingen in 2019. Her research focuses on improving the quality of laboratory analyses and establishing new analytical methods.



Bernhard Rauch

Pharmacology

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Rauch has been appointed Professor of "Pharmacology" at the Department of Human Medicine. He was previously Acting Head of the Department of General Pharmacology and Acting Managing Director of the Institute for Pharmacology at Greifswald University Hospital. Rauch studied human medicine at the Universities of Düsseldorf and Texas (USA). After obtaining his licence to practise medicine in 2000, he worked at the Institute for Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology of the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf until 2011, initially as a research assistant and later as a research associate and senior lecturer. He is a specialist in pharmacology and toxicology, as well as clinical pharmacology. In 2011, he took up the professorship in pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Greifswald. Rauch's research focuses on cardiovascular and oncological pharmacology. Among other things, he studies inflammatory processes and the function of blood cells and blood coagulation and investigates their pharmacological alterations in cardiovascular and tumorous diseases.



Jan Sauermann

Modern Political Theory

Dr. Jan Sauermann has been appointed Professor of "Modern Political Theory" at the Institute of Social Sciences. He was previously a research associate at the Chair of Comparative Political Science at the University of Cologne. Sauermann studied economics in Cologne. After a period as a research assistant at the Chair of Comparative Political Science and a research stay at New York University (USA), he completed his doctorate in 2010 in the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy programme in Cologne. He then took a post as a postdoctoral researcher at the Cologne-based Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, before returning to the University of Cologne as a senior lecturer. Sauermann's research focuses on how groups can achieve common goals and how they reach joint decisions. In particular, he is investigating new coordination mechanisms and the question of how social preferences influence decision-making.



Daniel Sonntag

Applied Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Daniel Sonntag has been appointed to the Endowed Chair of "Applied Artificial Intelligence" at the Department of Computing Science. The chair is funded by Oldenburg-based business enterprises and organizations. Sonntag was previously a research group leader at the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) in Saarbrücken. In his capacity as professor he will establish a new research group focused on interactive machine learning at the DFKI's Oldenburg location. Sonntag studied computer science and linguistics in Saarbrücken, where he also earned his PhD in 2008. He began working as a research assistant at the DFKI in Saarbrücken in 2004, and became a Research Fellow at the institute in 2016. He has also taught at Saarland University and the Technical University of Kaiserslautern. Sonntag is editor-in-chief of the German Informatics Society's German Journal of Artificial Intelligence and of the book series Cognitive Technologies, published by Springer-Verlag. His research focuses on interactive machine learning – in which computers receive human feedback as they collect data – and its potential uses in industrial and medical applications.



Heike Wehrheim

Theoretical Computer Science

Prof. Dr. Heike Wehrheim has been appointed Professor of "Theoretical Computer Science: Formal Methods" at the Institute of Computer Science. She was previously Professor of Specification and Modelling of Software Systems at Paderborn University. Wehrheim trained as a mathematical-technical assistant at the Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung (GMD) in St. Augustin, near Bonn. After studying computer science at the University of Bonn, she completed her doctorate at the University of Hildesheim in 1996. From 1998 to 2004 she was a research assistant and then research associate at the University of Oldenburg, where she also earned her habilitation in 2002. She took up the professor position at Paderborn University in 2004. Wehrheim's research focuses on mathematical methods for formally verifying the correctness of computer programmes. Before moving to Oldenburg, she was the deputy speaker of a German Research Foundation Collaborative Research Centre based at Paderborn University.



Gundula Zoch

Sociology of Social Inequalities

Dr. Gundula Zoch has been appointed Junior Professor of "Sociology of Social Inequalities" at the Institute for Social Sciences. Previously, she was a research assistant at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories in Bamberg. After completing a degree in sociology and in economics in Leipzig and London, she was employed as a research assistant at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin. Afterwards, she held a doctoral fellowship by the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, funded by the German Excellence Initiative. In 2018, she received her PhD with distinction from the University of Bamberg. In her research, Zoch is concerned with the emergence and consequences of social inequalities in employment and family work. Her empirical analyses of large longitudinal surveys such as the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) focus on persisting differences between East and West Germany, for example in maternal employment or in the prevailing role models. In her current externally funded projects, she is investigating the effects of the Corona pandemic.