Dr. Sinikka Lennartz has been appointed Junior Professor of “Biodiversity of the Marine Environment” 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 zoology in Zurich (Switzerland) where she completed her doctorate and habilitation in 2014, after which she held acting professor positions at the University of Mainz. From 2017 to 2021 she conducted research in Zurich on the origins of the Torah from an archaeological perspective, in a project with the Tel Aviv University (Israel). Her 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.

PD Dr. Benedikt Hensel has been appointed Professor of “Hebrew Bible” at the Institute of Protestant Theology and Religious Education at the University of Oldenburg. 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 anv/i, an open-source software platform used by researchers around the globe for data-enriched microbiology. In 2019, Eren started working at the University of Chicago, where he studied the ecology and evolution of microbes with novel computational strategies.

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 Beilstein (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 2019, including Osnabrück University and the University of Münster. In 2019 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.

PD Dr. Benedikt Hensel has been appointed Professor of “Hebrew Bible” at the Institute of Protestant Theology and Religious Education at the University of Oldenburg. 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 anv/i, an open-source software platform used by researchers around the globe for data-enriched microbiology. In 2019, Eren started working at the University of Chicago, where he studied the ecology and evolution of microbes with novel computational strategies.
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. 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 at 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 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 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 normale 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 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 Programme for young academics.

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’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 Associate 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).

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 at a global scale, and also applies numerical models to study the influence of microbes on DOM. Lemnartz has received various awards for her work, including the DFG’s Beerdend Preis for early-career geoscientists.

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.
Helmut Thomas

Marine Alkalinity

Prof. Dr. Helmut 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 Geesthacht. He is also director of the Helmholtz Centre Hereon's working group at the Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht. His research focuses on marine carbon cycles, particularly in marginal seas such as the North Sea, the Baltic Sea or the Arctic Ocean.

Kristin Tessmar-Raible

Marine Chronobiology

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 2019. She was awarded a Consolidator Grant by the ERC in 2017, which will fund a project in which she aims to decipher the molecular basis of lunar rhythms until 2024. Tessmar-Raible's research focuses on small marine annelids that is particularly well suited to molecular-level research in the laboratory.

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 University of Leipzig. 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, digitization and material cultures, oceans as spaces of knowledge, as well as media and architecture.

Antje Wulff

Big Data in Medicine

Dr. Antje Wulff has been appointed Junior Professor of "Big Data in Medicine" at Department of Computing Science. She was previously Head of Data Engineering & Research at Baqend GmbH, a research spin-off from the Universität Hamburg. Wulff studied computer science at the Universität Hamburg, where she also completed her doctorate in 2019. The main focus of her research is at the intersection between web technology and data management. The real-time database system Invalid, which she developed as part of her doctoral, is now being used commercially. Her work helps to improve website loading speed. Another subject of her research is the analysis and prediction of user behavior to make surfing the web a smoother experience.

Dr. Antje 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 "Postcolonial 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 Anglophone postcolonial literature. A future focus of her research will be the relationship between identity and social inequality as well as racism and classism.