Jörg Albert
Sensory Physiology and Behaviour
Prof. Dr. Jörg Albert has been appointed Professor of “Sensory Physiology and Behaviour” at the Department of Neuroscience. Before moving to Oldenburg, he was a professor at University College London (UK). Albert studied chemistry and biology at the University of Bielefeld and the University Erlangen-Nuremberg. He received his PhD from the University of Vienna (Austria) in 2002 and then held teaching and research positions at the Universities of Tübingen and Cologne, among others. In 2008, Albert moved to the UK, where he taught and conducted research at the University College London (UCL) Ear Institute and became Professor of “Sensory Biology and Biophysics” in 2016. From 2019 to 2022, he also led a research group at the Francis Crick Institute in London, which conducts biomedical research and is a partner institution of UCL.

Albert’s primary area of research is the mechanosensory world of insects, which includes the sense of hearing. His current research focuses on hearing in mosquitoes and fruit flies (Drosophila), which he is also studying with the goal of attaining key insights for the development of new treatments for deafness and age-related hearing loss in humans.

Kerstin Avila
Fundamentals of Turbulence and Complex Systems
Dr. Kerstin Avila has been appointed Professor of the “Fundamentals of Turbulence and Complex Systems” at the Institute of Physics. She is also a new member of the ForWind Center for Wind Energy Research. Prior to joining the University of Oldenburg she was a postdoctoral researcher and project manager at the University of Bremen’s Faculty of Production Engineering and at the Leibniz-Institut für Werkstofforientierte Technologien (IWT) in Bremen. Prof. Avila studied meteorology and physics in Kiel. She completed her doctorate in 2013 at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization in Göttingen and the University of Göttingen and then held research positions at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and the University of Bremen’s Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity (ZARM). Since 2019 she has led two research projects on turbulent flows at the University of Bremen. Her research focuses on interactions between regions where flow moves uniformly and those where turbulence occurs. Avila is a reviewer for several journals as well as for the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Sascha Alavi
Marketing and Innovation
Prof. Dr. Sascha Alavi has been appointed Professor of “Marketing and Innovation” at the University’s Department of Business Administration, Economics, and Law. Before coming to Oldenburg he was Professor of “General Business Administration” with a focus on sales management and held a chair at the Sales Management Department of the University of Bochum. Alavi studied business administration at the University of Mannheim and earned his PhD in Bochum. After completing his habilitation there in 2016, he moved to the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), where he was an assistant professor, before taking up the professorship at the University of Bochum in 2017. Alavi’s main area of research is marketing and innovation management with a focus on new technologies and innovation processes in organisations. He deals with questions such as how artificial intelligence (AI) and other new digital technologies are changing the working environment in marketing. He uses historical data and mathematical models to predict future developments. The German business magazine Wirtschaftswoche ranked him among the top German researchers under 40 in the field of business administration in 2020 and 2022.
Thomas Boyken  
Children's and Youth Literature  
Prof. Dr Thomas Boyken has been appointed Professor of “Children’s and Youth Literature” at the Institute for German Studies. He was previously a junior professor at the university. Since 2020, he has been director of the Oldenburg Research Unit for Children’s and Youth Literature (OlFoKi), where the academic activities of various disciplines on this subject are brought together.

Boyken is a graduate of the University of Oldenburg, where he also earned his PhD in 2012. From 2009 to 2014 he taught at the Institute for German Studies and conducted research at the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar, the German Literature Archive and at the University in Torun (Poland). From 2013 to 2015 he worked with the bibliographical journal “The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies”, before taking up a post as a junior lecturer at the University of Tübingen.

His research focuses on literature around the turn of the nineteenth century, post-war and contemporary literature, gender studies, narratology and drama theory. In his current projects he examines mediality in children's and youth novels and children's and youth literature of the post-war period.

Jan Clemens  
Auditory Neuroscience  
Dr Jan Clemens has been appointed Professor of “Auditory Neuroscience” at the Department of Neuroscience. Before joining the University of Oldenburg, he headed a research group at the European Neuroscience Institute Göttingen (ENI). Clemens studied biology and theoretical biology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and did his PhD on sensory computation in neural systems at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience Berlin. From 2012 to 2017 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University in New Jersey (USA), after which he returned to Germany in 2017 and became a group leader at the ENI. Clemens researches how the brain enables successful communication and how it processes acoustic information from our environment and communication partners so that we say the right thing at the right moment. He conducts experiments with insects, which are commonly used as a model for human hearing, and develops innovative machine-learning methods to explore the neural foundations of communication behaviour.

Mario Dunkel  
Music Education with a Focus Transcultural Music Education  
Prof. Dr Mario Dunkel, previously a junior professor at the Institute of Music, has been appointed Professor of “Music Education with a Focus on Transcultural Music Education”. Before coming to Oldenburg, Dunkel was a research associate at the Institute for Music and Musicology at TU Dortmund University. Dunkel earned a teaching degree in English and music at TU Dortmund. His studies included two extended stays at universities in the USA. In his dissertation in American Studies, completed in 2014, he examined the construction of jazz history between 1917 and 1956. Dunkel’s main area of research is cultural and musicological aspects of jazz and popular music as well as the political dimension of music and music education. He is exploring possibilities for diversity-sensitive music teaching and has investigated music diplomacy during the Cold War, the role of jazz musician Charles Mingus in the US civil rights movement and the connection between popular music and populism, among other topics.

Max Ettinger  
Orthopaedics  
Prof. Dr Max Ettinger is the new Professor of “Orthopaedics” at the Department of Human Medicine. He has also taken over as head of the Orthopaedics department at Pius-Hospital Oldenburg. Before joining the University of Oldenburg, Ettinger taught, researched and practised at the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (MHH). Ettinger studied and earned his doctorate at the MHH in 2011,
Yulia Golub
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy
PD Dr Yulia Golub has been appointed Professor of “Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy” at the Department of Human Medicine and has also taken over as director of the University Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy at Oldenburg Hospital (Klinikum Oldenburg). Golub studied human medicine at Samara State Medical University (Russia) and neuroscience at the University of Tübingen. She completed her doctorate at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich in 2009, after which she worked as a resident medical doctor in various clinics and trained as a specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry. In 2017 Golub moved to the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus in Dresden, where she was an executive senior physician at the Clinic and Polyclinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. She earned her habilitation at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in 2019. A key focus of Golub’s research is neurodevelopmental and behavioral consequences of childhood adversity including trauma and substance exposure. Among other she investigates epigenetic mechanisms transmitting environmental impact into an early behavioural phenotype. Furthermore, she conducts clinical trials on psychotherapeutic group interventions in adolescents with addiction and posttraumatic stress.

Sarahi Garcia
Pelagic Microbiology
Prof. Dr Sarahi Garcia has been appointed to the professorship in “Pelagic Microbiology” at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment. Garcia studied biochemical engineering at the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila (Mexico) and received a master’s degree in bioengineering from the University of Georgia (USA). She completed her PhD in microbiology at the University of Jena, Germany. She then became a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA), followed by a period at Uppsala University (Sweden), where she studied the ecology of freshwater bacteria. In 2019, she received a fellowship from the Swedish Science for Life Laboratory (SciLifeLab) and became an assistant professor at Stockholm University, where she focused on environmental genomics of aquatic microorganisms. Garcia is particularly interested in aquatic bacteria, their interactions and their influence on the global carbon cycle. She uses an integration of cultivation and omics methods, i.e. methods that allow the analysis of all genes present in a sample. One of her aims is to contribute to the fundamental ecological knowledge that can be used to develop microbial-based biotechnological tools that can convert industrial emissions into valuable chemicals.

Felicitas Macgilchrist
Digital Education and Schooling
Prof. Dr Felicitas Macgilchrist has been appointed Professor of “Digital Education and Schooling” at the Department of Educational Sciences. Before joining the University of Oldenburg she was head of the Department of Media|Transformation at the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media | Georg Eckert Institute (GEI) in Braunschweig and Professor of “Media Research with a focus on educational media” at the University of Göttingen.
Friederike Nastold
Art History with a Focus on Gender Studies
Dr Friederike Nastold is the new Junior Professor for “Art History with a Focus on Gender Studies” at the Institute of Art and Visual Culture. Before joining the University of Oldenburg, she held a substitute professorship at the Karlsruhe University of Education. Nastold studied fine arts, German language and literature and educational sciences at the University of Mainz and the University of Granada’s Faculty of Arts (Spain). After obtaining her Master of Education degree, she completed a master’s programme at the Academy of Fine Arts Mainz and went on to earn her PhD at the University of Mainz and the Academy of Fine Arts Mainz. In 2021 she became a research associate at the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle. In her research and teaching, Nastold links questions from the arts and visual culture with approaches from gender and queer theory. Her research interests also include performance studies, psychoanalytical cultural theory and affect theory. In 2015 she founded TOYTOYTOY, a collective which operates at the intersection of art, mediation and theory from a feminist perspective and organises lectures, workshops and event series.

Martin Maurer
Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology
Prof. Dr Martin Maurer has been appointed Professor of “Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology” at the Department of Human Medicine. He also took over as the director of the Institute of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at the Klinikum Oldenburg at the same time. Before coming to Oldenburg, Maurer was Senior Consultant at the radiology department of the University Hospital of Bern (Switzerland).

In addition to his medical degree, Maurer completed two Master’s degrees, one in Health Business Administration and another in Health Economics, Policy and Management. He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at the Charité University Hospital in Berlin in 2007 and another doctorate in health sciences in 2014. He also did his habilitation at the Charité in 2012. In 2019 he became an adjunct professor at the University of Bern. During his seven years at the Charité hospital Maurer completed his specialist training as a radiologist, before moving to the University Hospital of Bern in 2014, where from 2015 he led the abdominal and urological radiology team. The use of radiological procedures, particularly in the abdominal cavity, is a key focus of Maurer’s research.

Peter Rott
Civil Law, Commercial Law and Information Law
Prof. Dr Peter Rott has been appointed Professor of “Civil Law, Commercial Law and Information Law” at the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law. He had previously held the professorship on an interim basis. Rott studied law with a supplementary degree in economics at the University of Bayreuth and completed his PhD at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in 2002. In addition to several posts abroad at the universities of Sheffield (UK), Copenhagen (Denmark) and Ghent (Belgium), he was a junior professor at the University of Bremen and a professor at the University of Kassel. His research focuses on European private law and German and European consumer protection law. The legal challenges posed by a changing world, such as sustainability,
globalisation of supply chains and the privatisation of state-run services, are among his main areas of interest. Currently his key focus is on legal issues related to the digitalisation of economy and society, where he concentrates on the consumer and user perspectives.

Marius Sältzer
Digital Social Science
Dr Marius Sältzer has been appointed Junior Professor of “Digital Social Science” at the Institute for Social Sciences. Before moving to Oldenburg, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences in Cologne. Sältzer studied economics and political science in Mannheim and Hamburg. His doctoral dissertation, which he completed in 2021 at the University of Mannheim, dealt with methods for analysing the positions and priorities of politicians based on their posts on social media. As a postdoctoral researcher, he first took up a post at the University of Basel (Switzerland) and then moved to the Computational Social Science department at the GESIS Leibniz Institute.

Sältzer’s research interests include party politics, political communication, social media and data science. He is particularly interested in how new data sources and machine learning – an AI method – can be employed in the social sciences. He uses these innovative methods among other things to analyse political communication on social media.

Pascale Sandmann
Clinical Audiology
Dr Pascale Sandmann has been appointed Professor of “Clinical Audiology” at the Department of Human Medicine. She also took over as head of the Department of Audiology at the Otorhinolaryngology Department of the Evangelisches Krankenhaus Oldenburg at the same time. Sandmann studied zoology and neuropsychology at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and completed her doctorate in neuropsychology there in 2009. She then joined the University of Oldenburg’s Neuropsychology Lab in 2010. After three years there, she moved to the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (MHH) to take up the position of Junior Professor of “Audiological Diagnostics” in the Hearing4all Cluster of Excellence. In 2015 she moved to Cologne, where she became an academic audiologist at the university’s Department of Otolaryngology and then head of audiology and paediatric audiology as well as audiological head of the Cochlear Implant Centre Cologne. She completed her habilitation in 2021. Sandmann specialises in objective audiometry, which focuses on the measurement of hearing ability beyond subjective hearing tests. She also researches methods for testing the hearing and speech comprehension of cochlear implant users.

Simon T. Schäfer
Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Pain Therapy
Prof. Dr Simon T. Schäfer is the new Professor of “Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Pain Therapy” at the Department of Human Medicine, and was appointed director of the department of the same name at the Klinikum Oldenburg. Schäfer studied human medicine in Regensburg and at the Technische Universität of Munich, where he received his doctorate in 2003. He then worked at the university hospitals in Erlangen and Essen and at the same time completed a part-time Master’s degree programme in Health Business Administration. He earned his habilitation at Universitätsklinikum Essen and then returned to Munich the following year to work at the department of Anaesthesiology of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität-München (LMU), where he was appointed leading anaesthesiologist of the pediatric liver transplant program. Subsequently, he became vice chair of the department of anaesthesiology at LMU Munich and furthermore associate professor at LMU in 2020. Schäfer conducts research in the field of geriatric anaesthesia, which focuses on considerations when using anaesthesia in older persons. He also studies new methods for analysing the coagulation properties of blood and investigates hypoxia tolerance (mechanisms for compensating for oxygen deficiency in organs or tissue).
Lars Schwettmann

Health Economics

Dr Lars Schwettmann has been appointed Professor of “Health Economics” at the Department of Health Services Research. Before coming to Oldenburg, he led several research projects at Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Centre for Environmental Health (HMGU) and taught at the University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU). Schwettmann studied economics at the University of Osnabrück and earned a Master’s degree in economics at the University of Birmingham (UK). He completed his PhD in Osnabrück in 2008 and earned his habilitation at the University Halle-Wittenberg in 2015. In 2016, he moved to HMGU, where he led the research group Quantitative Methods in Health Economics.

Schwettmann’s research examines various aspects of health services, with special attention to regional inequality and vulnerable groups. He also investigates methods for measuring the costs and effects of public health measures. Another research focus is on behavioural economics, prevention, and health behaviour.

Gesa Wellmann

History of Philosophy

Dr Gesa Wellmann has been appointed Junior Professor of “History of Philosophy” at the Institute of Philosophy. She was previously a research associate at the University of Wuppertal’s philosophy department.

Born in Oldenburg, Wellmann studied philosophy at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). After completing her bachelor’s degree in 2011 and master’s degrees in 2013 and 2014, she earned her PhD in 2018 in Leuven with a dissertation on the concept of a metaphysical system in the works of Lambert, Kant, Reinhold and Fichte. She then took a position as a research associate at the University of Basel (Switzerland), before moving to the University of Wuppertal in 2019.

Wellmann’s main fields of research are German idealism, its impact and its history, philosophy of the Enlightenment and postcolonial theory. Her current research topics include a decolonial critique of the concept of history in the European Enlightenment and German idealism as well as questions regarding the conditions of immanent self-criticism.

Philipp Staudt

Environmental and Sustainable Information Systems

Dr Philipp Staudt has been appointed Junior Professor of “Environmental and Sustainable Information Systems” at the university’s Department of Computing Science. Before coming to Oldenburg, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, USA. Staudt studied Industrial Engineering and Business Mathematics at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), where he also earned his PhD. After heading a research group and serving as an interim professor, he moved to the US to take up the position at MIT. Staudt’s research interests include digital tools for analysing energy consumption, the use of data to increase corporate sustainability, and the sustainability of the platform economy. He is investigating how digital tools can help individuals to better understand their energy consumption and how organisations can use their data to implement sustainable innovations in decision-making processes. In recent years, he has also conducted extensive research on energy markets.
Matthias Wendland
Civil Law and Digital Transformation Law

Prof. Dr Matthias Wendland has been appointed Professor of "Civil Law and Digital Transformation Law" at the Department of Business Administration, Economics and Law. He was previously Professor of "Civil Law, Business Law and Information and Data Law" at the University of Graz (Austria). Wendland studied law at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the KU Leuven (Belgium) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Massachusetts, USA). He then earned a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) at Harvard Law School. In 2015 he received a PhD for his award-winning fundamental work on the relationship between mediation and civil procedure from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and went on to earn his habilitation there. His authorisation to teach (Venia Legendi) covers civil law, civil procedural law and private international law, as well as comparative law, legal philosophy and sociology of law. Prof. Wendland’s main fields of research are commercial law, civil procedural law, IT law and artificial intelligence laws. He focuses on the question of how laws can react flexibly to the challenges posed by the digital transformation in areas such as data protection, medical law, IT security and the use of algorithmic systems.