Dear doctoral students,

We would like to invite doctoral students from the natural sciences to our upcoming event “Doktorhut – alles gut?!?” on April 27, 2022. The online event will be in German. The orientation event informs on career opportunities beyond academia. Four doctorate holders, all University of Bonn alumni, will talk about their careers, their current job and employers.

Furthermore, this issue includes our new Doctorate plus program, new funding lines, informative reports and interesting portraits of our young researchers in Bonn.

Kind regards
from your Bonn Graduate Center

Liebe Promovierende,

wir möchten gerne Doktorand*innen der Universität Bonn mit naturwissenschaftlichem Schwerpunkt einladen, sich für die Online-Veranstaltung „Doktorhut – alles gut?!?” am 27. April 2022 anzumelden! Das Event informiert über Karrieremöglichkeiten außerhalb der Wissenschaft. Vier promovierte Naturwissenschaftler*innen werden über ihren Werdegang, ihre derzeitige Tätigkeit und ihre Arbeitgeber*innen sprechen.

Außerdem finden Sie in dieser Ausgabe das neue Doctorate plus Programm, neue Ausschreibungen, spannende Berichte und interessante Portraits unserer Bonner Nachwuchswissenschaftler*innen.

Herzliche Grüße
Ihr Bonner Graduiertenzentrum
Online Coaching for Doctoral Students!

Are you a doctoral student at the University of Bonn and in a challenging phase of your PhD project? Do you need help and suggestions to overcome it?

Benefit from our individual coaching sessions – free of charge. Three time slots are available each month. The coaching sessions are offered in both German and English and they address doctoral students in all stages of their doctoral studies.

Patrik Kutzer is happy to answer your questions regarding our coachings:
0228 73-60221
bgz@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de

Join the Pro-Buddy Program and Become a Mentor

Within the Pro-Buddy program Bonn “Buddies” help new international doctoral students start their doctoral studies and get settled in Bonn. Volunteer as a mentor now!

Want to improve your academic and social networking? Tired of only talking about your research topic? The Pro-Buddy program needs new mentors for our incoming doctoral students. Feel free to join and support your fellow doctoral students during the start of their doctorate.

The only requirements are good vibes for helping and answering new arrivals’ questions as well as about 5 minutes a week in case your mentee needs something clarified.

Beyond the unique intercultural exchange you also have the opportunity to obtain the Certificate for Intercultural Competence. The program is offered by the International Office and is looking for volunteers.

Sparked your interest? Register now:
https://mobility-international.uni-bonn.de/mobility

Online-Coaching für Promovierende. Sind Sie Promovierende*r an der Universität Bonn und befinden Sie sich in einer schwierigen Situation der Promotion? Brauchen Sie Hilfe und Anregungen, um diese zu bewältigen?

Melden Sie sich für eines unserer kostenfreien Einzelcoachings an. Pro Monat stehen drei Slots zur Verfügung. Die Coachings werden in deutscher und englischer Sprache angeboten und richten sich an Promovierende in allen Phasen ihrer Promotion.

More information and registration for the next coaching dates:
- April 26, 2022 Dr. Majana Beckmann
- May 30, 2022 Prof. Dr. Martin Zierold
Doctoral Researcher Study on Stress Management

There is no doubt about it: The doctorate can be a very stressful phase in your life which often brings challenges and crises. Healthy Campus Bonn offers stress management seminars for doctoral students and is looking for test subjects for a study linked to the seminar.

The stress management seminar is about understanding the origins of stress and its effects, as well as developing beneficial mindsets and attitudes. Time management, one’s own work organization and also learning to ‘set limits’ will take a main part in the seminar. Mindful body and breathing exercises are integrated into each of the 5 sessions. The seminar is tailored to your needs as a doctoral student.

The workshop series is part of an intervention study that aims to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of this seminar. The aim is to implement supportive mental health services and to establish health-promoting structures for doctoral students at the University of Bonn. Everyone who participates now is not only doing something good for themselves, but also for future doctoral researchers.

Keine Frage: wer promoviert, befindet sich in einer ganz besonderen Lebens-Phase, die oftmals Herausforderungen und nicht selten Krisen mit sich bringt. Healthy Campus Bonn lädt Promovierende ein an einer Doktorand*innen-Studie zum Stressmanagement mitzumachen.

Charlotte Henschen is happy to answer any questions on the study: healthy-campus@uni-bonn.de

There are still free places in the seminars starting mid-May. Are you interested? Information about the seminar, the intervention study and registration can be found online. Register now until Mid-April!

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An award-winning Lego Model of Resource-efficient Agriculture

Doctoral student Lukas Drees is working on his doctorate in Remote Sensing at the Institute of Geodesy and Geoinformation.

Congratulations on winning a prize at the Bioeconomy Camp of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. What was the prize awarded for?

In the camp, about 60 young researchers from all over Germany came together to explore the different bioeconomy facets. Bioeconomy is about using resources in the economy more sustainably, i.e. using renewable raw materials, promoting product cycles and cascade use, and using resources more sparingly overall. All participants were asked to use any "artifact" to present and illustrate their research and intersection with the bioeconomy in a creative way. The three best ideas were chosen and awarded by the participants themselves at the end of the camp.

What does your Lego model show exactly? Why did you choose Lego?

In the last two years, I've presented enough posters both digitally and non-digitally, so it was a welcome opportunity to let my creativity run free with a different form of presentation. And I have enjoyed playing with Lego since I was a child. The artifact shows the vision of a resource-efficient agriculture of the future. Resistant mixed cropping systems are cultivated by small, autonomous vehicles in a targeted and punctual manner. A drone with a camera flies over the field, detects and locates weeds in real time via image analysis and sends the positions to the field vehicles. So instead of applying crop protection products over a wide area, autonomous systems operate specifically at the plant level. Because resources are only applied where they are needed, fewer of these products have to be purchased and less enters the groundwater. As a result, large tractors no longer need to enter the field, but stay on adjacent roads, which can reduce soil compaction. In addition, there are green and flowering strips between the cultivated areas, which help to increase the number of pollinators. Such a model also has an impact on the work of farmers: They work less frequently directly in the field, but digitally on the basis of the sensor data collected.
Is this also the focus of your doctoral thesis? How would you describe the aim of your project to someone from a different subject?

The model covers many areas of the PhenoRob cluster of excellence. My focus is on the interpretation, analysis and modeling of images taken by drones and robots in the field. The goal is to automatically detect weeds, measure plant sizes, or estimate how much biomass the respective components make up in a mixed cropping system. This not only has a positive influence on the actions of robots in the field, but also on the planning of farmers, who can, for example, estimate harvest yields at an early stage or identify potential areas for manual intervention in the field.

Why are you particularly interested in this topic?

It is clear that agriculture must change. On the one hand, it is urgently necessary to save resources in the interests of sustainability in order to reduce emissions of various kinds. On the other hand, it must become increasingly efficient and productive in order to feed a growing world population. I therefore find it really fascinating to work with state-of-the-art technology such as artificial intelligence drones makes it all the more exciting.

What are the most significant results or insights you gained so far?

With the help of artificial intelligence, we have succeeded not only in analyzing images, but also in generating entirely new images of plants of the future. So if you have an image of a plant from an early growth stage, you can visualize what this plant will probably look like at a later growth stage. This makes it possible to identify irregularities in the growth process at an early stage, to which the farmer can react in time.

Do you have any plans for your next steps?

I still have almost 2 years of doctoral studies ahead of me and currently I could well imagine continuing to work in this field on concrete solutions from image analysis.

Thank you very much for the interview and good luck for your doctorate!
DOCTORATE PLUS

Your Skills and Training Opportunities in the Summer Term 2022

The Doctorate plus skills and training program in three career tracks allows you to broaden your academic and transferable competencies and prepare for your envisaged career path:

- **Research Track**: Workshops in this track prepare for an academic career at a university or a research institution.
- **Research Management Track**: The training offered in this track qualifies for a career at the interface of science and administration.
- **Business and Organizations Track**: The skills and competencies you can acquire in this track equip you for a career beyond academia, e.g. in industry, NGOs or your own start-up.

Learn more about the three career tracks at [www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de](http://www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de).

### April 2022

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<td>DEiN Parcours</td>
<td>Wissenschaftlerin der ersten Generation - was heißt das für mich?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Apr</td>
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<td>Wissenschaftlerin der ersten Generation - was heißt das für mich?</td>
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<td>Getting Started. The Successful Path to a Doctorate Degree</td>
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<td>11. + 18. May</td>
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<td>Souverän vortragen und präsentieren – von der Tagung bis zum Kolloquium</td>
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<td>Feedback und Evaluation - Grundlagen</td>
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<td>16. May</td>
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<td>Wie erstelle ich ein Promotionsexposé?</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>Practical Tools for Strategic Innovation Management</td>
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**Registration and more info at** [www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de](http://www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de)
19. May E Dealing with Research Ethics - An Introduction
19. May D Auf den Punkt gebracht: Grundlagen des Drittmittelmanagements
19. May D Studierende beraten - Grundlagen
20. May E Time management, Motivation and Writing Strategies
20. May D Prüfen und Bewerten - Grundlagen
24. May D Promotionsfinanzierung
24. + 25. May D Disputationstraining
30. May D Stimme und Körpersprache im Vorstellungsgespräch - Die eigene Präsenz und Kommunikation steigern
31. May E Leadership Skills for Young Scientists
31. May, 2., 7. + 9. June D Female Leadership

June 2022

1. + 2. June E Managing Scientific Projects
2. + 3. June D [Soziale] Medien und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit für die Wissenschaft: Wie Forschung in die Medien kommt
2. + 3. June E Coaching Skills for Research Managers and Future Academic Leaders
7. + 8. June E Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) - Compact Course
8. June D Feedback und Evaluation - Aufbau
9. June D Vom Forschungsprojekt bis zur eigenen Geschäftsidee
9. + 10. June E Me and My Supervisor - Tools and Strategies for a Constructive Relationship
9. + 10. June E Identifying Your Competencies and Exploring Your Career Options
10., 13. June E Science in the Spotlight - Video Production with Smartphone
14. June D Meine Sichtbarkeit als Expert*in für Recruiter auf LinkedIn & ResearchGate
21. June D Studierende beraten - Aufbau
21. + 22. June E Diversity – Shaping a Successful Team Culture

22. + June E Building Resilience: Managing Change, Handling Risks and Coping with Uncertainty
23. June D Prüfen und Bewerten - Aufbau
23. + 24. June E Presentation Skills - How to Deliver Engaging Talks
23. + 28. June D Was hat meine Promotion mit meiner Herkunft zu tun? Persönliche und soziale Einflüsse verstehen und positiv nutzen
29. June E Conflict Management In & Outside Academia: From Squabbles to a Culture of Conflict
29. June E How to Start Your Podcast in Science Communication
30. June E How to Write and Publish a Review Article
30. June + 01. July D Die ersten 100 Tage im neuen Job: Ein guter Start

July 2022

1. + 2. July D Wissenschaftliches Schreiben für Promovierende
5. + 6. July E How to Negotiate Successfully in Business - Strategies and Techniques for Best Results
7. + 8. July D Die schriftliche Bewerbung für den außeruniversitären Arbeitsmarkt
7. + 8. July E From PhD to Innovator
7. + 8. July E A Mindful Approach to the Imposter Syndrome
8. + 15. July D Visualisierung in der Lehre
12. + 13. July D Gute Laborpraxis
14. July E Proposal Writing: How to Create Promising Grant Applications
14. July D Aktivierende Methoden der Gruppenarbeit
15. July E An Introduction to Good Scientific Practice
19. July D Einführung in das deutsche Wissenschaftssystem für Wissenschaftsmanager*innen
21. July E Your Idea’s journey: Design Thinking
21. + 22. July D Überzeugen im Vorstellungsgespräch
22. July E Publication of Scientific Work
26., 27., 28. July E Introduction to Statistics
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<td>Academic Writing across Disciplines</td>
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<td>Finanzen und Controlling im Wissenschaftsmanagement</td>
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<td>Science Communication – Media Training to Pitch Your Research to a Broad Audience</td>
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### Training on Demand

Register for our **E-Trainings** now and learn at your convenience.

You can easily acquire new knowledge from the comfort of your own home with our 45 - 120 minute E-Training courses. Various topics such as agile skills, communication or stress management are available as e-learnings. The E-Trainings contain short learning units such as learning questions, exercises and interactive learning elements. We offer both English and German language E-Trainings provided by Pinktum.

**Eileen Bradley** is happy to answer your questions on Doctorate plus: bgz@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de

Lernen, wann immer es Ihnen zeitlich passt – **Jetzt für unsere E-Trainings anmelden**


Registration and more info at [www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de](http://www.promotion-plus.uni-bonn.de)
Open Calls by the University of Bonn

Funding Lines for Doctoral Students

Do you need financial support for your participation in an international conference? Are you planning a workshop in Bonn and want to invite international researchers to work together with you on a topic? Do you want to fly in your international second supervisor for your thesis defense? Then our re-opened funding lines are just right for you. In addition, our support for your participation in academic online events continues.

- Participation in International Conferences
- Funding for Doctoral Workshops in Bonn
- Invitation of international second supervisors
- Participation in Academic Online Events

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed quarterly. The next deadlines are April 15 and July 15, 2022.

Argelander International Conference Grants for Postdocs

The University of Bonn awards grants to support postdoctoral researchers’ active participation in international conferences, summer schools or workshops, and thus help them build international networks. The next deadline is June 1, 2022.

NEW Argelander Starter-Kit Grants “Stepping Stone” and “Research Funds”

A new call for the “Argelander Starter-Kit Grants” for postdocs is out now! The funding line has been further developed and is available in two variants:

(A) Starter-Kit “Stepping Stone” offers postdocs who want to transfer to Bonn from a national or international research institution up to two years of employment for their start into an academic career. Aim of the grant is to support postdocs in the preparation of a third-party funding application.

(B) Starter-Kit “Research Funds” is aimed at postdocs at the University of Bonn and provides funding for material resources (max. 25,000€ for a max. of two years) for research activities related to a planned third-party funding proposal and the preparation of the proposal itself.

The application deadline for both funding lines is April 24, 2022.

As a sign of solidarity with those affected by the Ukraine war, 75% of the personnel costs of early-career researchers who want to transfer from an institution in Ukraine to the University of Bonn will be covered by the Argelander Grant.

The University of Bonn condemns the invasion of Russian troops. The war has manifold consequences also for academic life. Find all support offers and information of the University of Bonn online.

Dr. Robert Radu is happy to answer your questions on our funding lines: funding@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de
Meet our Argelander Grantee Dr. Max Christian Pensel

In his research project supported by an Argelander Grant Dr. Pensel analyzed the impact of the Sars-CoV-2 pandemic and official contact prevention measures on psychiatric patients in Germany. He does clinical research at the Department of Psychiatry of the University Hospital Bonn.

How would you describe the aim of your project to someone from a different subject?

We were interested to find out how psychiatric patients are affected by the Sars-CoV-II-Pandemic and by respective countermeasures taken by the government of North-Rhine-Westphalia. To that end, we handed out questionnaires to psychiatric patients of the University Hospital Bonn and healthy subjects at three timepoints since April 2020. We then correlated psychiatric symptoms (e.g. the perception of the external world as unreal, also called “derealization”) with the incidence of Sars-CoV-II and the intensity of contact prevention measures over time.

What did you find particularly interesting about this research question?

In spring 2020 I sensed a sudden change in the way politicians and journalists talked about respiratory viruses, and how people on the streets reacted to the news of a novel and deadly disease, that was about to decimate the population of the world. Also, based on my medical and philosophical background, I had the impression that prior scientific and social norms and beliefs have changed their meaning. I felt somehow threatened by this new situation, although I was not able to fully understand it.

At the same time, patients in the clinic of Psychiatry told me about intense feelings of derealization, that fall into the category of dissociative symptoms, and are often found in the context of posttraumatic stress disorder. Since that moment, I was eager to find out how psychiatric symptoms are affected by the current situation, especially in people that experienced traumatic stress in the past.

Which aspects or activities of your research did the Argelander Grant make possible?

The grant was mainly used to finance a student who put a lot of effort into sending and receiving questionnaires, as well as into data management and analysis.

What are the most significant results or insights you gained?
We were able to show, that in a sub-group of patients with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the change of dissociative symptoms over time correlated much better with the intensity of contact prevention measures than with the local incidence of Sars-Cov-II itself. The results were already presented at an annual congress of psychiatry in Berlin, and a respective scientific publication is in an advanced state of preparation.

What is the societal relevance of your findings?

The study sheds light on the considerable vulnerability of (specific groups of) psychiatric patients towards restrictions of their everyday life. For future pandemics, this underscores the importance of proportionality, whenever it comes to containment measures like mask mandates, bans of hospital visits or closure of schools and social services.

Did the pandemic have any impact on your research question? Did you have to adapt your research focus along the way?

When our research started, I was convinced that the situation would be back to normal in summer of 2020. However, Corona-viruses have not disappeared since then, they can still be detected and our social life has changed much more profound and for a longer time than I expected. Therefore, since we initially planned only two timepoints for data collection, we later amended a third one to our study plan.

What is your current/next project about?
Will it build upon the results from your current project?

The study convinced me to dig deeper into the fascinating field of dissociative symptoms, which also encompass dissociative seizures, dissociative amnesia and dissociative fugue, to name just a few examples. My current projects deal with the detection and further classification of these phenomena, as well as with different treatment options.

What has the Argelander Grant meant for your scientific career?

At the moment I can just say, that without the grant this study would probably not have been possible at all, and that I am very grateful for the opportunity that was given to me. Also, future will show what the grant will mean for me and my patients in the years to come. I hope that the often-neglected topic of dissociative symptoms will attract more attention of researchers and clinicians alike, and that support in our society will further grow for the people who suffer from it.

Thank you very much for the interview and good luck with your next projects!

“For future pandemics, this underscores the importance of proportionality, whenever it comes to containment measures like mask mandates, bans of hospital visits or closure of schools and social services.”
Are Doctoral Students in Germany Happy with Their Situation?

Results of the German wide NACAPS longitudinal study 2021: Most doctoral students at the beginning of their studies at the University of Bonn are satisfied with their supervision and funding situation.

For the first time, the University of Bonn has participated in the DZHW’s nationwide longitudinal study of doctoral students and doctoral graduates in Germany, which is being conducted under the name "National Academics Panel Study" (NACAPS). Among other things, the study inquires about the general conditions under which doctoral students work, as well as their motives, career perspectives and career paths.

A look at the sociodemographics of the 420 Bonn respondents who started their doctorate between December 2018 and December 2020 reveals some interesting initial findings: 40 percent of them are between 27 and 30 years old, almost half are members of a structured doctoral program and 29 percent have a migration background.

The three decisive reasons for choosing the University of Bonn were: the supervisor, that the university was already known through studies or employment, and the location of the university. According to the NACAPS’ doctoral student survey, satisfaction with the supervision provided by the main supervisor is slightly higher at the University of Bonn than among the other respondents: 69.3 percent state that they are very satisfied or satisfied with their main supervisor (national average: 65.9 percent). About three-quarters of the Bonn respondents never or rarely consider dropping out of their doctorate.

Asked about their career path, 16.2 percent of them say they want to gain a foothold in the private sector/industry. This is well below the national average, which is 25.5 percent. As many as 38.7 percent are still undecided about their career path. It is striking that 43.9 percent of the Bonn doctoral students surveyed are aiming for a professorship, which is significantly higher than the national average of 32.5 percent. Gender plays a major role here, with as many as 58.7 percent of men aspiring to a professorship, and about half as many women, at 30.9 percent.

The concerns of doctoral students also play a role in the Nacaps survey: for example, 29.7 percent of the Bonn respondents think that it will be difficult or very difficult to find a postdoc position, and one quarter assume that it will be difficult or very difficult to find an adequate position outside academia.

In the winter 2020 issue of our newsletter we reported on the results of the previous survey. The results showed around three quarters (73 percent) of the total respondents considered their funding to be secure during their doctorate. At the time, we wondered how the Covid19 pandemic would affect this figure. Now we know: 74.6 percent still consider their funding secured. Apparently there was no significant impact in this context as the numbers have merely changed.

Zum ersten Mal hat die Universität Bonn an der bundesweiten Längsschnittstudie des DZHW über Promovierende und Promovierte in Deutschland teilgenommen, die unter dem Namen „National Academics Panel Study“ (NACAPS) durchgeführt wird. Dabei werden u.a. die Rahmenbedingungen, unter denen Promovierende tätig sind, sowie ihre Motive, Karriereperspektiven und Werdegänge abgefragt.


Die Zufriedenheit mit der Betreuung durch den*die Hauptbetreuer*in ist der NACAPS-Promovierendenerhebung zufolge an der Universität Bonn etwas höher als bei den anderen Befragten: 69,3 Prozent geben an, dass sie mit ihrem*ihrer Hauptbetreuer*in sehr zufrieden oder zufrieden sind (Bundesdurchschnitt: 65,9 Prozent).

Etwa Dreiviertel der Bonner Befragten erwägen niemals oder selten einen Promotionsabbruch. Zu ihrem Karriereweg befragt, geben 16,2 Prozent von ihnen an, in der Privatwirtschaft/Industrie Fuß fassen zu wollen. Damit liegen sie deutlich unter dem Bundesdurchschnitt, der hier bei 25,5 Prozent liegt. Immerhin 38,7 Prozent sind, was ihren Karriereweg angeht, noch unentschlossen. Auffällig ist, dass 43,9 Prozent der befragten Bonner Promovierenden eine Professur anstreben, was deutlich über dem Bundesdurchschnitt von 32,5 Prozent liegt. Das Geschlecht spielt hierbei eine große Rolle, denn bei den Männern sind es sogar 58,7 Prozent, die eine Professur anstreben, bei den Frauen mit 30,9 Prozent etwa halb so viele.

Auch die Sorgen der Promovierenden spielen in der Nacaps-Befragung eine Rolle: So denken 29,7 Prozent der Bonner Befragten, dass es schwer oder sehr schwer wird, eine Postdoktoratsstelle zu finden, und ein Viertel gehen davon aus, dass es schwer oder sehr schwer wird, eine ausbildungsadäquate Stelle außerhalb der Wissenschaft zu finden.


Save-the-Date!

What’s new at the University of Bonn? Mark your calendars for the upcoming events and opportunities!

Careers with a Doctorate - June 15, 2022!

Our career orientation event “Careers with a Doctorate – A Day for International Doctoral Students” will take place on June 15, 2022, in the Alte Sternwarte. Do you want to learn more on how to set the course for a career in academia? Then save the date for this year’s “Careers with a Doctorate”. More information will follow soon.

Diversity Days at the University of Bonn

Within the framework of nationwide events, The University of Bonn’s local Diversity Days will take place from May 30 - June 1, 2022.

On Monday, 30 May 2022, researchers from the University of Bonn are invited to present their work dealing with diversity dimensions. Registration is possible until April 10, 2022:
https://www.chancengerechtigkeit.uni-bonn.de

Sustainable Science Slam

Enjoy the Sustainable Science Slam with participants from the University of Bonn on April 22, 2022, 7 p.m., HS I in the Main Building of the University.

Veranstaltungen zu Gründungs- und Innovationsmanagement


Mehr Infos zu diesen und weiteren Veranstaltungen des Transfer Centers enaCom finden Sie hier.

Schulungsreihe Drittmittelmanagement

In der neuen Grundlagenschulung zum Thema Drittmittelmanagement werden alle Fragen rund um den Umgang mit Projekmitteln geklärt: Was sind Drittmittel? Wer darf Drittmittelanträge stellen? Wie werden die Gelder am besten verwaltet?


Learntec Messe in Karlsruhe

Vom 31. Mai bis 2. Juni 2022 werden auf der LEARNTEC Messe in Karlsruhe die neuesten Technologien rund um digitales Lernen, Lehren und Arbeiten präsentiert: www.learntec.de
5 ½ questions…

… to Marthe-Siobhán Hecke, doctoral student in English Literature.

Could you describe your research topic to someone from another discipline?

I examine the role that literature can play when it comes to the creation of (national) identity through both the texts (descriptions of nature, feminist characters, usage of different languages such as Scots or English...) as well as how these texts are used today (in connection to remembering the Scottish Literary Renaissance but also using them for tourism). The Scottish writer Nan Shepherd also wrote about hiking in the Cairngorms and that you need to experience a place yourself, which is why the last (and shortest) part of my dissertation is more personal and about me following in Nan’s footsteps by getting lost in the Cairngorms and stepping on snakes.

What do you especially like about the University of Bonn?

This may sound boring, but I love the main building. We have our very own castle. It’s magical!

Do you have a tip on how to overcome the lack of motivation during difficult phases of the dissertation?

Talking to people helps a lot. And if I cannot concentrate at all, take a break, go outside, do something else. I do not need to be productive 24/7 and sometimes stopping for the day and trying again the next day helps a great deal. Keeping tasks in connection to your dissertation manageable is also important. Baby steps!

What advice would you give new doctoral students at the University of Bonn?

Connect to other doctoral researchers, plan in breaks, and use all the help you can get (from your supervisor(s), your colleagues, your department, the university, external people or organisations). Be reckless and apply for all conferences that interest you, travel widely, and connect to researchers from all over the world. Explore Bonn and do not forget to enjoy yourself!

Max Alt-Hessenbruch, the doctoral student introduced in our last issue, wanted to know: What do you do to detach yourself from your project to refresh, reset or recalibrate your mind?

Going outside (exercising, taking a walk, gardening, tending to my bees) helps a lot, but I also read ridiculous amounts of books (200+/year) for fun and not for work. You sometimes lose track of why you started studying literature in the first place, reading for pleasure can counter that.

Which three questions would you like to ask the next doctoral student portrayed in our series?

Read our next issue and find out!

You are welcome to suggest a colleague or yourself for the next portrait. Just send an email to:

graduiertenzentrum@uni-bonn.de