

forschen

University of Bonn magazine

Spring 2025



Times and Wonders in P26

Also in this issue

Are professional footballers elite slaves?

What does a geographer study in the polar ice?

UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**

AusBildung Wissen schaffen.

MACH DEINE AUSBILDUNG
AN DER UNI BONN



Ausbildung an der Uni Bonn – weil das Arbeitsumfeld mit Forschung, Lehre und Verwaltung einzigartig ist! Bei uns findest du 18 Ausbildungsberufe im kaufmännischen und naturwissenschaftlichen Bereich, in Handwerk, Technik und in der IT. Die Bewerbungsphase für das nächste Ausbildungsjahr startet im Spätsommer 2025.

Dear Readers,

Our University has opened a new chapter in its story right in the center of the city in the shape of P26. As well as enriching the architecture of the surrounding area, this extraordinary building also symbolizes the desire to make science accessible to all.

P26 is more than just bricks and mortar—it is a shop window for the University, where science meets society and new perspectives are born. Whether you are into talks, interdisciplinary projects or exhibitions, P26 invites you to experience the

University and the people who make it what it is. In this issue, we will be taking you along on a voyage of discovery through our new center for science communication.

And *forsch* will once again be opening many other windows into the University—into its research, teaching and learning and into some of the latest developments. We will be introducing you to a whole host of people who are enhancing our University of Excellence through their work.

The *forsch* editorial team



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P26 *Ages and Wonders*

The University of Bonn has formally opened P26, its House of Knowledge and Research, in the heart of the city center. Short for “Poststraße 26,” it is a place where research, teaching and the general public can now come together. The rented building—a former department store—recently welcomed two University museums, the Global Heritage Lab, the University’s Infopunkt information desk, the Knowledge Lab and the Café Luise.

Across four floors, P26 invites visitors to explore a range of time periods, look at the supposedly familiar in a new light, find out more about the University, or simply relax over a coffee. During the opening evening, guests could already be seen strolling with great interest through the building, drink in hand, as they took in the various exhibits and artifacts in their unique setting or joined one of the guided tours. For the concept behind the development and transformation of the building, the University of Bonn was supported by chezweitz, an award-winning Berlin-based firm specializing in museum and urban scenography whose work includes the Jewish Museum Berlin, the German Historical Museum in Berlin and Moderna Museet in Stockholm and which also designed the scenographic installations.

Entering P26 on the ground floor, the visitor will immediately be confronted with the Knowledge Lab Uni Bonn (KLUB), an exhibition space in which over 40 of the University’s academic and scientific collections, its Clusters of Excellence, Transdisciplinary Research Areas and other institutes, departments and units will be showcasing their work in a series of temporary exhibi-

tions. The University’s Infopunkt, the first port of call for any questions about the University, can also be found on the ground floor. Café Luise, named after the art historian Luise Straus-Ernst, who in 1917 became one of the first women to obtain a doctorate from the University of Bonn, likewise invites visitors to come and linger awhile.

The other floors are home to the Egyptian Museum, the Department of Art History’s Paul Clemen Museum and the new Global Heritage Lab, all three of which are associated with the Present Past Transdisciplinary Research Area. The University Main Building, where the museums were previously housed, had to be vacated due to renovation.

The next few pages will give you a detailed introduction to the building and further insights into each of its floors with the help of selected “favorite pieces.” If you would prefer your pictures to be of the moving kind, you can watch a video from the opening day by scanning the QR code on page 7. Needless to say, however, the best way to experience P26 is in person, so we look forward to seeing you!



- ▲ There was joy on everyone's faces as P26—the University's new House of Knowledge and Research—was officially opened.
- ◀ Experiencing the wonders of science live and up close is the driving force behind P26, which opened its doors to the general public on October 23, 2024 and which presents its treasures to visitors in some fascinating ways

Museums:

Opening times and prices can be found at uni-bonn.de/en/university/university-life/p26/p26?set_language=en.

Group guided tours can be arranged on request.
Special guided tours and workshops are offered for schools.

Infopunkt/KLUB:

Monday to Friday: 10 am to 6 pm
Saturday and Sunday: 2 pm to 6 pm
The Infopunkt information desk in the University Main Building has now closed



Video of the opening celebrations





Egyptian Museum

3.

With its 1,000 or so exhibits, the Egyptian Museum presents a journey through the history and culture of Pharaonic Egypt that includes highlights not to be found in any other museum outside Egypt itself. It is also the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts in North Rhine-Westphalia. Particular emphasis is placed on the findings of research carried out in Bonn and on the broad field of appropriation phenomena, the latter being taken into account with the aid of selected gifts and loans from private collections assembled in a “Cabinet of Collecting.” The next-door seminar room in P26 holds a study collection and is used for teaching students as well as for lectures, special exhibitions, workshops and other events. Founded in 2001 by Professor Ursula Rößler-Köhler (1947–2019), the museum had previously been housed in the Koblenzer Tor—part of the Electoral Palace, i.e. the University Main Building.

Paul-Clemen-Museum

2.

The Paul Clemen Museum (PCM) is the University of Bonn’s art museum. Here, in its new location, it is opening up to the public more than ever before. The PCM’s exhibitions are centered mainly around topical issues and contemporary art, both of which enjoy a multifaceted relationship with its collection. On display are molds of sculptures and examples of goldsmithery that Paul Clemen (1866–1947) began to collect before the First World War. These days, the collection is likely to be among the largest of its kind held by a university in the German-speaking world. Like the exhibitions, the principle works of art presented here—which cover an impressively wide range of eras, from the Middle Ages to modern times—serve both research and teaching purposes. The collection also provides insights into the evolution of art history as a subject and the formation of its canon, not only in Bonn. The PCM’s exhibitions and collections make it a “workshop of visual knowledge.”

Global Heritage Lab

1.

The Global Heritage Lab is a research hub and laboratory for critical reflection on museums and cultural heritage and is geared toward rethinking heritage from global and historical perspectives and stimulating the redesign of museums and university collections. The Lab is devising innovative approaches to tackling colonial pasts and supporting collaborative forms of research and teaching, focusing on bodies of knowledge that have historically been suppressed. What relationships between people and the environment exist outside European conceptions of nature and culture? How are stories of contact and conflict negotiated at a global level? How do ideas of what is considered “familiar” and “foreign” that have evolved over time shape how we coexist nowadays? And how can we forge the future together in a time of environmental and societal crises? Affiliated with the Present Pasts Transdisciplinary Research Area, the Global Heritage Lab is devoted to the interrelationships between the challenges of the moment and comparable phenomena from times past. “Global Interrelationships in the University of Bonn Collections,” an exhibition curated together with students, is currently on display. A 3D workshop—“(Im-)Materiality of Knowledge”—is also being offered in partnership with the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities.

Knowledge Lab Uni Bonn, Infopunkt und Café Luise

0.

The latest exhibition in P26, entitled “Hunting for Clues Among the Museums and Collections of the University of Bonn: Stories of Objects.,” runs until May 31, 2025. Based in the KLUB on the ground floor of P26, it provides a glimpse into provenance research at the University of Bonn, which involves researchers questioning the provenance, or origin, of the objects in the collection. Who acquired them? How and why did they end up in Bonn? The exhibition also explores the question of how museums can handle objects from sensitive contexts in an appropriate way. As the pilot exhibition for the “Open Museum for Open Science for an Open Society” project, it set out to showcase the diverse nature of the University’s teaching and study collections. The exhibition marked the first time that 25 different University of Bonn institutions—museums, collections, archives and libraries—had joined forces. Besides the three curators Alma Hannig, Naomi Rattunde and Elizabeth Stauß as well as the research associates at and directors of the various museums and collections, 30 master’s students from different subjects were also involved, conducting their own research into the history of individual pieces. The University’s Infopunkt, the first port of call for any questions about the University, can likewise be found on the ground floor in P26, while Café Luise gives visitors somewhere they can rest their weary legs.

Five favorite pièces, five stories

Three museums, one special exhibition, the Infopunkt information desk... there is so much to choose from in the University of Bonn's new building that you hardly know where to start. We asked P26's new "residents" to name their favorite objects in their own museum, in individual exhibitions and in the whole building and tell us what they love about them. Each of their stories shows how vibrant, diverse and relevant museums can be if you engage with them.

3rd floor: Egyptian Museum

Dr. phil. habil. Frank Förster,
Curator of the Egyptian Museum

"I actually have at least a dozen favorite exhibits in our collection, but one of them really stands out: a painted earthenware bowl over 4,000 years old that comes from a tomb in the rocky necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa near Aswan right in the south of Egypt. Archaeologists from the University of Bonn dug it up there in 1969—the year I was born. Its decoration, which is typical of the time, condenses complex motifs that would previously have covered entire tomb walls into a single, extremely striking image of a man. It shows a proud Nubian, bearing a bow and arrows and accompanied by two hunting dogs, holding sway over his environment and the wild animals living in it. Rather than just being a condensed picture of a human being—or, more accurately, a male—it's also one of the oldest depictions we have of someone with dark skin.

By way of a counterpart, our museum owns another bowl that shows female figures from the elite of the time, namely two women sitting on a bed doing their hair. Because of their rarity, their motifs, the good state they're in and the detailed paintwork on them, the two bowls are among the most valuable and important objects in our collection—they're genuine highlights.

However, my own particular connection with the "Bonn Hunting Bowl" comes from somewhere else. It's something I've kept coming across ever since I was a student. It played a significant role in both my doctoral thesis in Cologne and my Habilitation in Bonn and was also the first exhibit I had the opportunity to write something about when I had just started out as a museum curator. So it's been a kind of companion to me for many years now—and yet I never cease to be amazed and fascinated by all the new things you can keep on finding out about it."



2nd floor Paul Clemen Museum

Professor Harald Wolter-von dem Knesebeck,
Director of the Paul Clemen Museum, part of the Department of Art History at the University of Bonn



"One of my favorite objects is Giovanni Pisano's Madonna and Child from the Scrovegni Chapel—also known as the Arena Chapel—in the Italian city of Padua. As part of our collection of plaster casts, it provides a link between medieval sculpture and another collection that Paul Clemen assembled, namely Italian works of art. It's a masterpiece by a groundbreaking artist whose work combined the Gothic style of sculpture with a distinct nod to antiquity. Plus it comes from the Scrovegni Chapel, one of the most famous church interiors that the well-known painter Giotto di Bondone decorated with his innovative frescoes in the early 14th century.

What's more, the purchase of the plaster cast was funded by a group of friends of the Department of Art History at the suggestion of my colleague Professor Georg Satzinger, which I think is absolutely exemplary."

1st floor: Global Heritage Lab

Raquel Cortés Mora,
Co-curator of the "Global Interrelationships in the University of Bonn Collections" exhibition overseen by Assistant Professor Julia Binter

"I have a particular soft spot for the Ahianmwẹ-Ọrọ, a little brass bird that is one of the famous Benin Bronzes and that long went unnoticed by many visitors to the Bonn Collection of the Americas,



or BASA. It was among numerous objects that came from London in 1957 and were incorporated into the teaching collection in the University of Bonn's ethnology department.

Despite its small size, it makes a striking impression and hides a great many unique features. Researchers have still not been able to figure out exactly where, when and under what circumstances it was made. Yet it also reflects an important part of the painful history of colonialism, which is proving more complicated than many people think. The raw material used to sculpt the object contains metal from what is now the UK that was brought to Africa to buy slaves. Even more unique is the story of the Kingdom of Benin that the sculpture tells. It represents a 'bird of prophecy' that was sacrificed after Oba Esigie, the ruler of Benin in 1515, had won a battle against a neighboring kingdom by defying its prophecy and defeating fate."

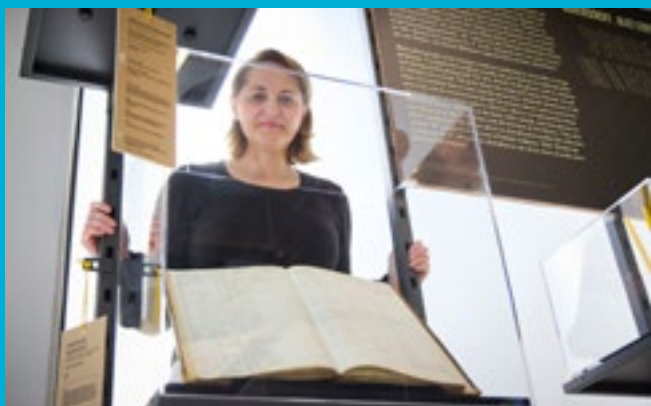
Ground floor: special exhibition

Alma Hannig,

Collection Coordinator at the University of Bonn and curator of the special exhibition entitled "Hunting for Clues among the Museums and Collections of the University of Bonn. Stories of Objects."

"It's hard to pick one 'favorite piece' from an exhibition that involved more than 25 museums, collections, libraries and archives, because many of the objects are worthy of mention.

*However, one that I find both especially fascinating and representative of the exhibition as a whole is the historical inventory of the Zoological Collection. Officially entitled *Eingangsverzeichnis für die zoologische Abteilung der Universität Bonn*, or 'Initial Index for the Zoological Department at the University of Bonn,' it's a hand-*



written list of everything added to or removed from the collection between 1849 and 1883. For instance, you can learn what stuffed animals were bought, sold and swapped and who the buyers and sellers were.

What makes this exciting is that you can work out what zoologists at the University of Bonn were focusing their research on during that period and reconstruct their academic and scientific networks. The inventory reads like a 'Who's Who' of the history of science for the 19th century. All the well-known researchers of the day are in it—it's a real gold mine for provenance research!

It's also particularly significant for me personally, because it was during a research visit to Argentina's second-largest natural history museum in La Plata that I came across the correspondence between the researchers there and the people in charge of zoology at the University of Bonn. Because the Institute of Zoology, together with its collection and everything in its archives, was more or less completely destroyed when Bonn was bombed in 1944, the inventory—supplemented with the correspondence I discovered in Argentina—is incredibly valuable for the history of zoology in Bonn and its collection."

..

Ground floor: the University Infopunkt



Heike Bersem-Roder und Nadine Kirdorf,
Youth University team

"Our favorite item on the Information Desk is definitely the door hanger that we like to give out to prospective and first-semester students. It's actually a really simple product, but it's highly symbolic and has amusing lettering for its 'Come in' and 'Please do not disturb.' The hanger is our way of welcoming anyone who's thinking about studying here with us or has just begun to do so. It has a link to the Youth University website printed on it, so they can go and read up on all the details of what we've been talking about. Obviously, though, we also get a lot of locals coming to us who are interested in the University of Bonn. It's really enjoyable to meet so many different people and tell them about the University. We've been giving out the door hanger for over 10 years now, so we're happy to call it our 'classic.' Since we've been in our new home in P26, it's become even more relevant, we think. It's an invitation to visitors to come in and have a look around."



"Deep Down, I'm an Idealist"

Professor Ilona Grunwald Kadow was appointed Vice Rector for Research and Career Development on August 1, 2024. In an interview, the neuroscientist talks about her experience of moving to within University management and what priorities she is keen to set during her term of office.

How were your first few weeks as a new Vice Rector?

Very exciting. You get to meet so many new people and have to make so many decisions that you hadn't necessarily seen coming at all. I used to think my diary was full before, but now it's full to bursting. Something I noticed first up was how many highly skilled people there are working in the divisions. I meet so many fantastic people in the administration who are so unbelievably dedicated and really give their all for the University—it's genuinely impressive.

What surprised you most when you moved to within University management?

How different the various Vice Rectors are. As everyone knows, we hold these positions on a voluntary basis on top of our main jobs, because we truly believe in the University and in the mission and vision of our Rector. It's something we all have in common. But I was surprised by how differently the Vice Rectors organize themselves, how different they are in character and how much discussion goes on among them about what needs to be done along what lines, where things could be improved, and so on. There's always an awful lot to talk about and an awful lot of time that's put into making decisions.

What do you want to achieve as Vice Rector for Research?

First, promoting early-career researchers is very important to me. I'd say we're already in an excellent position in this regard, thanks to the Argelander Program, for instance. But there's also scope for us to do it even better. We need a larger number of structured graduate programs and want to make sure that most of our doctoral students are on them. Second, we want to create long-term career prospects—from the time someone begins their career at the University of Bonn to when they move to a senior position—so that we can retain our best minds too.

What's the Argelander Program about?

It's a supporting program for doctoral students and young members of group management that offers mentoring, HR development and continual professional development, contributes to travel expenses for conferences and provides grants for research projects. I'd like to expand the program even further, developing it more toward a holistic understanding of science, or polymathy as it used to be called. So that aspects such as philosophy, ethics, perhaps also culture, politics and religion are incorporated too. This is because we'll not only need people who are strong in their specialist field but also those who have an eye on the big picture if we're to answer the questions we'll be faced with in the future.

”

You get to meet so many new people and have to make so many decisions. ““

Prorektorin Prof. Ilona Grunwald Kadow

You yourself are continuing your research in neurophysiology and genetics; you're now a member of the Rectorate and are also academic lead of NeurotechEU—the European University of Brain and Technology—in Bonn. Why is it important for the University of Bonn to be a member of this network?

NeurotechEU brings together several European universities. It's partly a scientific alliance that unites the very best minds in order to find out how we can translate our fundamental understanding of the neurosciences into actual technologies. But it also exists to answer the question of how we can train the next generation. And I really mean from the very start, from fresh-faced first-semester students to working people seeking opportunities for continual professional development. We have a common job market in the EU, but we should also have a common training and apprenticeship market—not just in terms of training placements and apprenticeships at companies but also in higher education. But there's still a huge number of obstacles there that we in the university alliance want to eliminate.

It's really impressive how many balls you're juggling at the same time. Where do you get the energy? What motivates you?

Somehow I've always had a lot of energy. It helps if you're the kind of person who can never sit still. And who's curious to boot. I've simply always wanted to know things. Deep down, I'm an idealist. I believe in this University, in my research objectives, in everything I've described. That's what drives me.

The interview was conducted by Katja Fels.



Hear the podcast
(in german)







A Question of Satisfactions

University's administration team expanding its services

Central Administration at the University of Bonn ran its first satisfaction survey two years ago in partnership with the Center for Evaluation and Methods, asking all clients how happy they are with the administration's main processes. Based on the findings, Central Administration is now optimizing its services in a conception process divided into several stages. Much has already been put in place, benefiting all members of the University.

As Provost Holger Gottschalk, who heads up Central Administration, explains: "The staff who responded to our survey have shown us where we should set about making improvements." Together with his Vice Provost and the divisional directors, Gottschalk identified a number of fields of activity, which have been tackled in a systematic process. These include: identifying innovative potential solutions, e.g. harnessing the power of digitalization; improving processes to significantly reduce the administrative burden; ensuring that information and documents are easy to find; and securing a high level of accessibility and availability. Ultimately, Central Administration wants to be seen as a unit that leaves nothing to be desired in terms of how it fulfills its duties in the service of the University. "Everything we do is shaped by a 'proactive administration' mindset, which is our contribution to the University's Excellence Strategy," Gottschalk says.

Service Portal: more than just a new intranet

The Service Portal: more than just a new intranet Central Administration has taken a truly major step forward with the Service Portal, which replaced the old intranet about a year ago, and Provost Holger Gottschalk is happy with how these past 12 months have gone: "The Service Portal is a real landmark achievement for our University. It's simplifying access to our services and is doing much to make information easier to find and thus people's day-to-day work more efficient." The portal is structured by topic, enabling users to put their finger quickly on the information that is relevant to them without needing a detailed knowledge of the inner workings of Central Admi-

nistration. Service Portal Project Lead Lena Zimmer from University Communications says: “We’ve been gathering feedback from users since day one, and they’re all highly satisfied with the new service offering. The user-friendly interface and the fact that information and documents can be found quickly have been especially well received.” It is this aspect in particular that has helped bring about a marked increase in the general level of satisfaction with the services offered by Central Administration. A chatbot based on artificial intelligence is set to be introduced soon too in order to make it even easier to search for and find information.



This new structure is improving reliability and accessibility and making the service much better for all its users. ““

Wiltrud Radau

According to Provost Holger Gottschalk, the Service Portal is also a shining example of an unbridled innovative spirit: “The project team took just 12 months to develop the portal, working closely with all the divisions in the process. The end result is a platform that meets the needs of users and Central Administration in equal measure.” And this is just one example of many digitalization ventures under way in Central Administration, he reveals. Thanks to digitalization, many inquiries, such as requesting a parking permit or booking rooms or places on training courses, can already be processed automatically and thus in real time. After evaluating the findings from its satisfaction survey, Central Administration proceeded to launch the next step in their strategy, christened the “Service Concept 2.0.” Workshops have been held in all the divisions in order to identify necessary improvements and service strategies for each of the various administrative areas.

Multiple service levels

The Service Portal represents the basic level, giving users the tools they need to find information out for themselves at any time of day or night. This in turn underpins a multi-stage model that echoes IT services. The first stage comprises several front offices, which bundle and handle phone inquiries as the first port of call. “This measure alone has helped relieve the burden on the administrative assistants,” reveals Wiltrud Radau, Director of Division 1. “This new structure is improving reliability and accessibility and making the service much better for all its users.” This level is also home to several functional email addresses, which serve to ensure that inquiries can be processed faster and passed on to the right people. The second service level, the back offices, focuses on specific tasks, while the third features teams of specialists—mostly put together from various areas of the administration—tackling new or particularly complicated issues.

Room for improvement was also identified in terms of how easy it is to locate administrative services. Some of these improvements have already been made. For instance, the International Office has held events to raise awareness of the Welcome Center that it runs and has optimized its interface with Human Resources. Human Resources, for its part, has set up a careers website that brings all the University’s vacancies together in one place, enables them to be found on various search portals and presents information for applicants in clearly structured lists.

And there have been numerous positive developments in the other divisions too. In Research and Innovation Services, for example, a training course on managing third-party funding has been introduced that is designed for project managers. Electronic forms are simplifying various request and reporting processes, from asking for parental and care leave through to getting relocation costs reimbursed. Meanwhile, University Communications has introduced a bilingual staff newsletter, thus creating a new channel to improve the internal flow of information.

Added value for Central Administration

Besides optimizing service structures in order to free up researchers at the University to focus on their day-to-day work, the Service Concept 2.0 is also creating added value for the administration itself. For instance, reassigning standard tasks to the Self-Services team or a front office is helping to tackle the more intense workload and carve out space for specific assignments.

Positive feedback

Central Administration is particularly proud of the mountain of positive feedback that it has received from the various teams, with researchers and other staff expressing their thanks for the support received and praising the speed at which their inquiries have been handled. “Thank you very much for the rapid and expert support you gave me when I submitted my proposal,” wrote one researcher following her success in securing third-party funding for a project. “That wouldn’t have been possible without your help.”

Looking ahead

Although the service concept adopted by Central Administration has already made it significantly more efficient, there is still more to do. Provost Holger Gottschalk says: “We’re continuing to develop our services further and adapt them to the needs of our users. The list of digitalization projects that this will require is still a long one, but we’re making major progress.” A process to draw up a roadmap for the several dozen projects is helping to set priorities..

From polar ice to ice cream

Geographer from the University of Bonn investigated the effects of climate change on the interaction between ice and the ocean aboard a polar research vessel.

How do chemical processes in the ocean work and how do they change as the climate warms? Prof. Dr. Christian März's environmental geology working group at the Institute of Geosciences at the University of Bonn is investigating this question. And not only in the laboratory, but also in the field. More specifically: in the Arctic, in southeastern Greenland. On a six-week expedition aboard the research icebreaker RRS Sir David Attenborough, doctoral student Katrin Wagner, together with an interdisciplinary team of 40 researchers and staff from renowned research institutes around the world, investigated traces of glacier changes in Greenland and life in the coastal waters at the edge of the world's largest island. Wagner's task in the KANG-GLAC project was to extract sediment cores from the seabed and take samples for later analysis in the laboratory in Bonn. During the expedition, Kat-

rin Wagner reported on her life on board and answered questions from citizens.



What samples did you examine?

My research involves two types of samples: sediment (mud) and pore water (the water content of mud). The focus is on chemical changes that occur in sediments under specific conditions. Other scientists on board—we are a multidisciplinary team—are doing microscope analysis of the mud to find microfossils. Harmful impact from ongoing climate change is particularly great in the Arctic, which moreover is a region where we still have an inadequate understanding of many environmental processes. Those two circumstances in combination are why Arctic research is so important.

The samples taken will allow us to identify the geochemical processes currently taking place in the seabed, so we will learn a lot about how glacial activity is affecting conditions in the marine environment. We will also be collecting evidence of how these conditions may have changed over time.

What is the process for taking samples?

We utilize different systems and methods to bring sediments from the ocean floor up onto the ship. One important thing in this process is to leave the deposit layers intact. The most recent layer of sediment is on the surface of the seabed, with older deposit layers beneath, forming a chronological record which we intend to preserve. Thus the typical process is to sink one or more pipes down to the seabed, which we then bore into the mud, as straight in as possible, using a weight. We then carefully retrieve the sediment-filled pipes up onto deck to collect samples. A range of diffe-

What is the most important aspect of your research? Is there potential for something to go wrong?

To me it's extremely important to take copious notes on the context from which the core samples are taken. We keep a logbook on every sediment core brought on board for recording the precise station coordinates and water depth among other information. Each individual sample is also labeled, designating the station and core depth. Core depth is determined in relation to the seabed surface as zero point of the depth scale. Amid all the busy, fast-paced work going on, mistakes can happen like mislabeling by mixing up two digits—but things like that are rapidly noticed and corrected. Much more frequently, problems arise during the actual drilling, which you may notice for example when the equipment comes back up on deck without any sediment. But even that is not a problem, we will just have another go at it!

What do you do when cabin fever hits you?

I try to find somewhere quiet and make it pretty obvious that I am not “open for a chat”, e.g. by reading a book. That works pretty well. Day-to-day, however, there's not a lot of time for that. Then it's important to remember to be patient and show empathy. Days and nights are long for everyone on board. Work is tiring and we're all far away from our families and friends. It's important not to take every comment to heart and allow everyone to also have a “bad day” from time to time. That approach works pretty well!



The short trip to the glacier at sunset and the view of our current “home” from a distance were a very special experience! ““

Katrin Wagner

rent methods are used for sample taking. Often we cut the cores into slices, each slice taken as one sample. Being a relatively large team, we are able to assist each other in this work. It still takes several hours per station however, and we can only manage about three to four stations in a 12-hour shift.

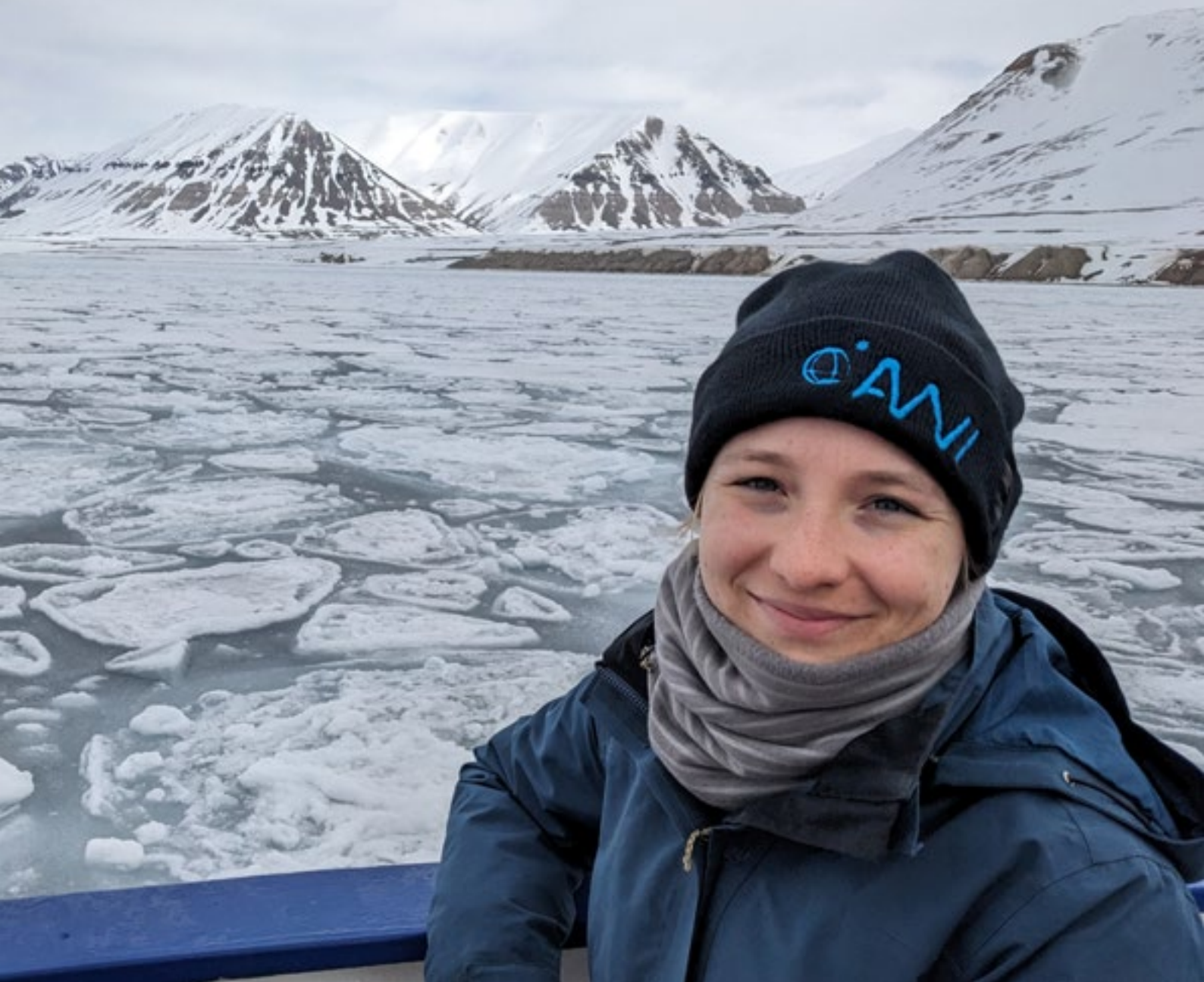
What were your plans after returning?

I took a few days off and spent some time with my family and friends. First, I had to get used to the summer temperatures in Germany again. I was especially looking forward to ice cream on the banks of the Rhine and a really good salad—after so many weeks at sea, fresh fruit and vegetables are slowly becoming a scarce commodity. But

after that, I headed back to the lab as soon as possible. I'm very curious to see what data we can extract from the samples we took and am eagerly awaiting the first results!

Do you have time to explore the surroundings?

Going for a walk on the ice or ashore is not possible for me, unfortunately. I work either on deck or in the labs on board. Trips out on the ice are dangerous and usually only taken when the projects requires to do so. Excursions ashore also pose a logistical challenge since we're miles away from the next harbor. Greenland is the country of the polar bear, especially the east. It is not possible to go for a walk outside the few villages if you are not armed to protect yourself. We have a small boat on board, however, which we use to go out in waters less deep and take scientific measurements.



I was able to go on a small trip with this boat (Erebus) and much enjoyed that! Taking a small trip to the glacier at sunset and watching our current “home” (the RRS Sir David Attenborough polar research vessel) from afar was spectacular!

What is the worst thing for you on board the ship, and what is the best?

There are a lot of things I love about expeditions like this. At the top of my list is the camaraderie between the scientists and the crew. We see ourselves as one single team, and even though we usually didn't know each other before the voyage, we are there for each other with help and advice most of the time, even for minor problems. To me it is also an incredible privilege to experience the breathtaking landscape. I have worked in the Arctic for several years now, but I am always touched and astoun-

ded by the supreme beauty of the ice in this place of solitude. One negative point is having very little time and hardly any place to get in some me-time alone. I like to retreat and be alone with my thoughts for a while at times, but often that's just not possible here.

Further questions and answers as well as background information on KANG-GLAC





Are football pros the elite slaves of today?

What do elite slaves have in common with professional football players? This was the question that historian Dr. Alexander Rothenberg tackled for his doctorate at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) Cluster of Excellence. What are elite slaves?

Historians use the concept of elite slavery to describe systems in which people undergo a lengthy process of education, usually starting in their childhood. They will usually have been stolen, trafficked or sold first. Thanks to their education, they would go on to occupy some of the highest positions in the land, such as palace eunuchs—under the Byzantine Empire, for instance—or a concubine who would one day give birth to the future sultan, e.g. during the Ottoman Empire. Although these individuals had access to power, riches and agency, they were also socially isolated and their freedoms restricted. Thus the term highlights the ambivalence of their situation: on the one hand, they are privileged and influential; on the other, they are trapped in a system of dependencies that it will be hard if not impossible to escape from.

investors, also reveal similar structural dependencies to those found under elite slavery, because the sportsmen and -women often seem to have little influence over their own careers and decisions.

psychological violence, as studies into sexualized violence and mental health issues in elite sport have shown. This system prioritizes performance and profit over the health and wellbeing of the players.

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on the one hand, they are privileged and influential; on the other, they are trapped in a system of dependencies that it will be hard if not impossible to escape from.“

Dr. Alexander Rothenberg

To what extent are the working conditions and dependencies experienced by professional football players comparable with the elite slaves of times past?

There are parallels in terms of their promotion from an early age and their dependency. Just like in the elite slavery systems, soccer players are often picked out at a young age and trained in academies to develop their skills. Their bodies and their performance are continuously assessed, which is another similarity with the (Atlantic) slave trade. The trading in players' rights and their financial exploitation by third parties, such as advisors or

What social and economic structures are partly to blame for enabling professional football players to fall into a system where they are being exploited and having their fate controlled by other people?

Professional football hinges on spotting talent early and on an intense training process that often severs players' family and social ties. Investors and advisors exploit power asymmetries to control players' careers and maximize their own profits. These athletes are also not given any structural protection from physical and

Moderator Denis Nasser has discussed the idea of professional football players being the elite slaves of today with Dr. Alexander Rothenberg in the *Hypothese* podcast (in German).



“Ethical Behavior Needs a Global Mindset”

How the DRZE is transforming its agenda in the age of climate change and AI

Experts gathered at the German Reference Center for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE) at the University of Bonn to discuss “the rediscovery of bioethics.” The center, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, represented a landmark in bioethics research in Germany when it was founded. Climate change and artificial intelligence (AI) are just two of the many developments presenting us with new ethical challenges. The head of the DRZE, Professor Dirk Lanzerath, explains in an interview how bioethics has evolved, why individual autonomy is no longer enough and what makes solidarity key. What he has to say makes it clear that responsibility and ethical behavior need a global mindset.

To what extent do we have to impose limitations on ourselves because of climate change so that future generations don't suffer?

It's not entirely clear in the debate whether all the measures and shifts we need to put in place are limitations in the true sense. For example, eating less meat not only has a positive environmental impact—it also brings significant benefits for our health. Rather, we need to redefine “quality of life” as a concept, because everyone agrees that climate change and biodiversity loss aren't going to make it any better. We should also think critically about the term “future generations,” because our decisions are already affecting our children and grandchildren who are alive today. The concept of sustainability grew out of this spirit of intergenerational responsibility in forestry and describes how decisions made today should also benefit the younger generations and those yet to come.

The debate in the DRZE's anniversary year is all about “rediscovering bioethics.” How has the discipline continued to evolve?

In bioethics, as well as in other fields of applied ethics, there was a phase in which people prioritized individual autonomy in order to break the shackles of paternalism. In some cases, this produced forms of individualization that drifted into egoism. These days, the focus is more on a sense of belonging and collectivity, e.g. in medicine, where solidarity with regard to organ do-

nation or sharing health data for research is important. Ethics means placing individual decisions in the context of the collective. It's not just about personal decisions but also about taking responsibility within a community. We need to think globally when it comes to climate action. What we're doing in Germany or Bonn in isolation isn't enough.

What ethical “sticking points” do you see in global questions?

If we're navigating through the world by our moral compass, then we'll have a degree of intuition about justice, solidarity and dignity in human life. At a global level, there are principles that can be universalized, but cultural and religious differences play a role too. Climate action can only succeed if countries work together, so we need to find principles that can be communicated across cultures. We want to formulate joint strategies that take both local and global issues seriously. Unfortunately, it's more so national egoisms that are dominating the political scene at the moment.

Are we more dependent on nature than we thought?

Over the past few years, our focus has been turning increasingly toward planetary health. The concept of global health also encompasses the planet and the environment. We need to recognize that we're creatures of nature who are reliant on that nature staying intact. Biodiversity

research looks at how organisms interact, for example, and what as-yet undiscovered ingredients might help us to solve today's problems, especially in drug research. Biodiversity also boosts our mental health. Global health affects each and every one of us, although the people in the Global South are being hit harder by climate change. However, if the desertification that's going on in African countries continues, this will have a knock-on effect on migration to the health systems in the Global North.

How are philosophy and ethics tackling these challenges?

The current trend in many disciplines is for thinking to no longer be channeled along the familiar thematic and methodological corridors, such as purely medical, biological or agricultural ones. Instead, the social responsibility that research bears is increasingly at the forefront of people's minds. The ethical questions being posed, which range from genetics and stem cells through to AI, are concerned particularly with justifying the aims of certain courses of action and agreeing on the means appropriate for achieving them. Only through dialogue between the individual disciplines and with society will we find answers.

How important is ethics in science?

Very. Ethical questions must be considered from an early stage—during the research process—rather than leaving this reflection step until a scientific innovation



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Science doesn't exist in a vacuum; it's a social practice in a social context. “

Professor Dirk Lanzerath

is already being used by society. Science doesn't exist in a vacuum; it's a social practice in a social context. Our doctoral students need to learn to consider social responsibility too alongside their research. For example, the University of Bonn recently introduced a central research ethics curriculum that we developed at the DRZE and that's available to all the faculties.

What's the link between AI and responsibility?

AI can support us, but responsibility has to stay with the humans involved. You can't permit a breach of trust by saying "AI made the decision." Decisions must be transparent.

In light of the various crises affecting the world, can ethics triumph in a global context?

Ethics doesn't have any way of imposing sanctions. The law does that. Ethics and the law need to work together to enforce norms and standards. However, even the best law is useless if society doesn't feel that it's fair or logical. So you always need this interplay between ethics and the law. The power of persuasion is the strongest tool in ethics's armory. It's about the ability to pursue a debate, analyze arguments and make sound ethical decisions. Ethics is a practical science that investigates which arguments are really justified and which aren't. And it's precisely this that we need to push more strongly in today's complex world, not least now that social media has shortened communication channels.

▲ Professor Dirk Lanzerath at the event held to mark 25 years of the German Reference Center for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE)

Biography:

Dirk Lanzerath has been Head of the German Reference Center for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE) since 2022 and its Managing Director since 2002. He was appointed Adjunct Professor for Philosophy at the University of Bonn in 2022. Two years later, he was elected Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Johannes Rau Research Foundation (JRF) and Deputy Chairman of the Central Ethics Committee at the German Medical Association for the current term of office. He has been a Member of the Board and Secretary General of the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC) since 2012. Lanzerath obtained his doctorate in Bonn in 1999 and completed his Habilitation in Philosophy in 2013. His research focuses mainly on bioethics, environmental ethics and the ethics of science and technology.



Lush growth: the plants needed for the neighboring climate chambers can be pre-grown in the research greenhouse. This keeps distances short. Dr. Alina Klaus (right) from the Plant Trials Service Platform and Jörg Nettekoven (left), Technical Assistant.

Hot or cold? Collaborative research in climate chambers

Controlled plant growth ensured through precision-calibrated conditions

In the new climate chamber greenhouse, temperature, humidity and light are adjusted with maximum precision. This new high-tech facility enables plant experimentation under exactly controlled conditions. Recently opened at Nussallee 9, the University of Bonn's new 656 sqm core facility has twelve climate chambers and a greenhouse. The facility is open to University of Bonn and outside research groups from many different fields to conduct experimentation, available by application.

Temperature is a primary influence factor on plant growth, along with humidity, air circulation and light. All these variables can be regulated with high precision in the facility's twelve climate chambers, enabling super-accurate controlled growth experimentation. Additionally, plants can be prepared for experimentation in the connected research greenhouse.

"One of the primary research objectives to be achieved by means of the new climate chambers and greenhouse is to gain a better understanding of the genetic and physiological processes that are essential for crops to adapt to changing environmental conditions," elucidates Professor Frank Hochholdinger, Chair for Crop Functional Genomics at the Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation (INRES). Climate chambers used to be in short supply at the University of Bonn, and the ones available were furthermore outdated. "It became increasingly apparent that creating a new core facility would be more economical," explains Dr. Hochholdinger, who after retention negotiations in 2018 was finally allowed to file a large equipment procurement requisition for twelve climate chambers.

It took nearly six years until successful conclusion of the requisition process. "It took tremendous persistence to properly address all users' interests, and to keep the



▲ The light spectrum and light intensity can even be regulated in the climate chambers. Dr. Alina Klaus (left) and Rebecca Kaiser (right).

project moving forward in the midst of the pandemic," relates Dr. Birgit Hoegen, Real Estate and Finance Manager at the Faculty of Agriculture, who was in charge of coordinating the project. "With resources limited,

the University's progress depends on effective cross-faculty coordination and organized joint efforts," underscores Dr. Hoegen, who sees such projects as fun learning opportunities for all parties involved.



“The goal is to develop ‘climate-resilient’ plant varieties”

Working groups will soon be conducting experiments on maize, barley, wheat, rice, sugar beet, potatoes and tomatoes at the University of Bonn’s new core research facility. “This research is aimed at making advances to the development of ‘climate-resilient’ plant varieties that can survive heat and drought in connection with climate change,” relates Hochholdinger. In addition to the Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has related projects ongoing at the facility.

Internationally competitive

The University of Bonn has multiple core facilities bundled at the Bonn Technology Campus, which in addition to the new climate chambers is also equipped for microscopy, gene editing, next-generation sequencing and proteomics.

“Bundling cutting-edge technology and expertise makes sense both economically and scientifically,” says Core Facilities Business and Operations Coordinator Dr. Elmar Endl.

“A broad array of shared research infrastructures is crucial for our established research groups to remain internationally competitive, giving ambitious researchers access to technologies they otherwise would not have due to budget reasons.”

▲ Spiegelung im Glas des Gewächshauses: Es dient dazu, Pflanzen für die Klimakammern vorzuziehen und Versuche durchzuführen.

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A broad array of shared research infrastructures is crucial for our established research groups to remain internationally competitive. ““

Dr. Birgit Hoegen

Formally, the climate chambers are research infrastructure of the Faculty of Agriculture, and facility administration and maintenance are conducted via the DLP plant trials service platform. Integration into the Bonn Technology Campus as a core facility opens up access to all interested faculties at the University, whose members can file requests for climate chamber usage.

External parties can also use the facility, under cooperation agreements and other frameworks, as Dr. Alina Klaus of the DLP office comments: “The core facility can be booked by private businesses as well, although internal uses always get priority when capacity is scarce.”

Consultations for potential users

Researchers who have a clear idea of what will be required to conduct their intended experiments can book a climate chamber via the Bonn Technology Campus website (<https://btc.uni-bonn.de/core-facilities/>). Booking requests are forwarded to Alina Klaus for review and approval. “As a rule we hold an advance consultation with all parties interested in conducting trials, where the information provided is binding,” says Klaus. “It is of course also possible to contact us already in the trial planning phase to discuss various options.”



Fees apply for use of core facilities. “To afford better budget planning we charge flat fees that are reimbursable from third-party funding.” Students can use the climate chambers as well, for a final thesis project, for example.

“Top-level plant research”

Operation of the plant trial service platform usually differs from one day to the next, as Klaus notes: “Because we support many different researchers with trials of a highly varied nature, every day we are called upon to adapt to users’ requirements and preferences.” Klaus is the contact person for all questions of a scientific or organizational nature. She and Technical Director Josef Bauer coordinate daily operations and plan room occupancy

to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Cross-border research is nothing new at the University of Bonn, as Professor Heiko Schoof points out, who is Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture: “We have been closely collaborating with other faculties for many years now,” “This is our way of optimally deploying our available resources to capture synergies for our common benefit.” The climate chamber greenhouse represents excellent infrastructure enabling “top-level plant research” across faculties and disciplines. “We believe this approach can serve as a model.”

Author: Johannes Seiler



▲ A bird's eye view of the new climate chamber greenhouse. It is located at Nussallee 9 in Bonn.

The climate chamber greenhouse is a new core facility operated jointly by the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The roughly seven million euros in funding required to build the complex was provided by the University of Bonn, BLB NRW (the building and real estate management organization of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia) and by the German Research Foundation and the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia under a large equipment requisition. Three old greenhouses were demolished on the project site in order to build the new 656 square meter climate chamber-greenhouse complex. Temperature, humidity, air circulation, light intensity and light spectrum are precision-controllable in the facility’s twelve climate chambers to create constant conditions for plant growth in a wide array of experiments on such topics as UV stress and climate change. A five-cabin glass greenhouse is attached to the facility, which is built in accordance with a sustainable energy concept involving energy screens and heat recovery. Waste heat from the climate chambers is thus captured and used to heat the greenhouses.

New professorships of excellence

“Gaining New Angles on Much-Debated Problems”

Professor Laura Münkler is Professor of Public Law and the Philosophy of Law and will drive forward transdisciplinary research. Besides the philosophy of law, her main areas of focus are legal theory, constitutional and administrative law and health-care law, especially the foundations of the democratic state governed by the rule of law. She was appointed a Schlegel Professor at the University of Bonn in October 2023.

Professor Laura Münkler is motivated by scrutinizing existing structures and broadening the horizons of her own field through inter- and transdisciplinary work. “I think that inter- and transdisciplinarity always helps us to gain new angles on problems, even those that have already been debated at length by subject experts, and to iden-



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With its Transdisciplinary Research Areas, the University of Bonn will give me some excellent opportunities to network with colleagues from other subjects. “

Prof. Dr. Laura Münkler

tify some of the blind spots caused by the assumptions underlying the various disciplines,” the legal scholar explains. And the University of Bonn is the perfect place for her to do just that: “With its Transdisciplinary Research Areas, the University of Bonn will give me some excellent opportunities to network with colleagues from other subjects.”

At the University of Bonn, she now plans to apply this approach to the very building blocks of the democratic state governed by the rule of law. How is the knowledge sys-

tem structured? How should such a state deal with differing points of view? How is digitalization transforming processes? In so doing, she will be expanding on the research that she carried out for her Habilitation thesis, which addressed the relationship between knowledge and democracy—an issue that became a particularly hot topic of discussion in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. “I finished my Habilitation just at the right time, when the pandemic was just getting going,” Laura Münkler laughs. “My thinking is that democracy and expertise ultimately have an ambivalent relationship with each other, meaning that all experiments—and there are quite a few approaches one can take—come with a degree of friction.”

Looking back, she has this to say on how politicians handled the contributions from

experts during the pandemic: “The main problem in my view was that, for a very long time, people only focused on virological and epidemiological knowledge.” This caused expertise from other fields and feedback from society to be overlooked, such as insights from psychologists and educators about the situation facing school-age children. “This showed that, although every opinion essentially deserves to be given attention in a democracy, this rarely happens until it’s backed by some form of expertise that can support it.”

Laura Münkler believes that the Individuals and Societies Transdisciplinary Research Area (TRA), in particular, will offer her a number of starting points for developing this further. “I’m interested in questions of community-building in a way that, rather than suppressing the individual, allows them to join communities while preserving their liberty yet without remaining solely focused on themselves as an individual.” Professor Münkler will contribute to the work of the Life and Health TRA as well since she is also interested in aspects of health-care law and serves as a policy advisor in this area.



Hunting the Optimum Solution



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My main aim is to bridge the gap between mathematics, computer science and economics, focusing specifically on algorithms and optimization, and to foster collaboration between the various groups. “

Prof. Dr. László Végh

The University of Bonn is once again welcoming a top-notch reinforcement in the shape of mathematician Professor László Végh. He has been appointed to a Hertz Chair, which connects up different disciplines at the University of Excellence in a unique way. Professor Végh will be based in the Modelling Transdisciplinary Research Area, where he will help to strengthen the links between different departments in the fields of algorithms and optimization problems in particular.

Whether it is about finding the optimum solution for resource allocation, medical simulations or training neural networks, digital applications are necessitating increasingly complex calculation methods based on mathematical principles. And it is these kinds of optimization problem that Végh will be studying at the newly established Hertz Chair for Mathematics, Modelling and Simulation of Complex Systems. “The University of Bonn enjoys an exceptional reputation in mathematics,” says Professor Végh, who is looking forward to his new responsibilities. “But there are also some outstanding groups here working in related fields, such as mathematical economics.”

The Hertz Chair comes under the Modelling Transdisciplinary Research Area (TRA). “The TRA Modelling has members from many different departments and teams. My main aim is to bridge the gap between mathematics, computer science and economics—focusing specifically on algorithms and optimization—and to foster collaboration between the various groups.”

Discrete optimization problems are about finding the best option from among a finite but very large number of possibilities. “Although you can’t hope to find an optimum solution to your problem, you can identify a solution that’s guaranteed not to be far off that optimal state,” Végh explains.

One of the best-known optimization problems is the traveling salesperson problem, which involves finding the shortest possible route for a traveler to visit multiple cities one after the other without passing the same one twice.

“As well as routing problems for vehicles, this particular problem is also relevant to areas that seem unconnected to it, such as chip design,” László Végh says. “And the Research Institute of Discrete Mathematics at the University of Bonn has some major

longstanding industry partnerships in place in this field.”

At the University, he is currently focusing on coming up with new approaches to general mathematical optimization models such as network flows, convex programs and linear complementarity problems. The latter is a general model that also encompasses questions of calculating equilibrium in games and markets. “I’ve also been looking at questions of optimization posed by problems of fair distribution and the allocation of resources as well as at how machine-learning methods can be applied to the design of mechanisms.”







„Pioneers Aren't Born, They're Made“

Professor Denise Fischer-Kreer, based at the Institute for Entrepreneurship, teaches the knowledge and skills required to think and act like entrepreneurs..

Professor Denise Fischer-Kreer accepted her appointment as Professor for Entrepreneurial Behaviour at the University of Bonn in October 2023. Her institute is part of the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences. In an interview, she explains why she offers her new business management module to all the faculties and what skills you need when setting up your own company.

You've been Professor for Entrepreneurial Behaviour at the University of Bonn for about a year now. What exactly does your work entail?

My students get to take a close look at the topics of self-employment, entrepreneurship and starting a business. My courses give them the opportunity to devise their own business ideas and models and work on them in a really practical way. I support them through this process, which has already produced some impressive projects, and work closely with the enaCom Transfer Center based at the University of Bonn. The center supports them with their start-up ventures and opens doors to them. In my courses, we also explore the question of why individuals become entrepreneurs. What motivates them? What skills do they need? And, above all else, how do they shape their entrepreneurial journey? These are all questions we tackle.

Have any of your students' ideas become actual businesses yet?

Yes, and I'm delighted about it! In the 2024 summer semester, Kathrin Schumilin worked on an entrepreneurial approach to combating food waste together with some of the other young ladies taking my Sustainable Entrepreneurship & Venturing master's module. Her start-up, called "Mangolade," has now secured her second place at the Female Innovation Award 2025. The underlying idea is that she turns mango seeds into an alternative to cocoa butter, a key ingredient in chocolate. This fantastic example is encouraging me to go even further in offering my courses to all the faculties, because innovation is born out of diversity. And we'll only succeed in advancing and driving entrepreneurship at the University of Bonn if we all pull together. We've already taken the first step: in the 2024/2025 winter semester, I launched a module in Entrepreneurship and Business Management, which is open to bachelor's students from other faculties as well. It's

attracted great interest: I had 100 people register right there and then.

What do students learn in one of these inter-faculty modules?

In my lectures, I teach them the basics of entrepreneurship and also look at sustainable business strategies. Because I set great store by having specific examples from the real world, I invite everyone—from founders of start-ups and scale-ups to experts from large corporations—to give keynote lectures. Thus my students get first-hand insights into all the things that go into setting up a company. In the next step, we explore the growth and maturity phases, i.e. all the stages that a business can go through. But we also go on field trips and take a look behind the scenes at an urban mushroom farm, for instance, to learn more about its processes and chat to the founders.

Who can already take this module at the University of Bonn?

The module is currently open to students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences as well as those studying computer science, cyber security, geography, geosciences or economics. Some faculties are still wrestling

with structural challenges but have likewise shown great interest. In this week alone, I've once again been holding discussions with several colleagues from these faculties. We're now working toward being able to offer the module to their students too in the 2025/2026 winter semester. Honestly, I'm absolutely thrilled with everything that we've set in train since I've been here.

What's next on your list?

During the Dies Academicus, for example, we ran a workshop whose title translates as "Impropreneurship—where creative spontaneity meets entrepreneurial spirit." The entrepreneurial mindset has a lot in common with improvisational theater. Participants get the chance to learn relevant skills that are also important for start-up entrepreneurs, such as flexibility, creativity, teamwork, courage and spontaneity—but also a focus on your audience, which in the figurative sense can also be understood as focusing on your target group. We try to impart entrepreneurial skills through creative formats, if you like. I'll also be doing a lecture on "From beans to business" for the Children's University, where I'll talk about some of the business models in the chocolate industry.

What aspects are particularly important to you when teaching new skills?

As far as I'm concerned, acquiring transformative skills is key, which include things like critical thinking, reflection, empathy, resilience and the ability to cooperate. These skills are vital not only for the students' personal success but also for overcoming global challenges, which entrepreneurs are faced with every single day. The skills thus provide the foundations you need to be able to take responsibility, understand complex inter-relationships and play an active role in helping to devise lasting solutions. This is what makes transfer possible: rather than remaining abstract for ever, the knowledge generated through research has to find a way to be applied in practice. This is why, on my courses, I always combine teaching knowledge transfer skills with developing the competences needed for a sustainable transformation of society.

We're living in increasingly uncertain times. What impact is that having on students who are taking your courses and maybe toying with the idea of starting their own business?

Of course, that's something I can only guess at. However, we ran a survey of the students who registered for my inter-faculty Entrepreneurship and Business Management module, because we wanted to find out what was motivating them to sign up and what they were looking for in general. The most common response we got was that they were curious about the topic and interested in it as a basic principle. Many people answered with the entirely traditional "interest in starting a business," while a few wrote that they wanted to "buy a Porsche" one day. I also remember the reply we received from one particular student, who was pursuing the "dream of working for myself." I'd say that was a strong statement. I think there's definitely many young people who are looking for a secure job in these uncertain times. But there are also a great many among them who want to have a lot of freedoms very quickly. Although entrepreneurship can't meet this need for security, it definitely checks the "freedom" and "autonomy" boxes. So self-employment can be an attractive career path, perhaps for the younger generation in particular.





And we'll only succeed in advancing and driving entrepreneurship at the University of Bonn if we all pull together. ““

Prof. Dr. Denise Fischer-Kreer

In May 2024, you received the Nicolaus August Otto Award, which honors people for their pioneering spirit. To what extent are you inspired by the man who gave his name to the prize?

Nikolaus August Otto built the world's first engine factory about 160 years ago. He was an impressive human being and a businessman and inventor who had the courage to follow his dreams and didn't let setbacks put him off. These are precisely the skills that I focus on in my teaching and that I'd also like my students to develop, because pioneers aren't born, they're made. Because I'm a professor at the only university-level faculty of agricultural, nutritional and engineering sciences in the whole of North Rhine-Westphalia, many of my students will end up working in the agriculture or food industry. Both sectors are facing major change, because the systems they run on are undergoing a transformation toward cultivation and processing methods that are more sustainable, more digital, kinder on the environment and more conducive to preserving biodiversity. I have no doubt that our students will go on to make an important contribution to the development of suitable solutions to these environmental and social challenges. Our job at the University of Bonn is to help give them the knowledge and skills they'll need for this.

What current trends and developments are playing a big role in agriculture at the moment?

Shrinking farm numbers and transferring ownership of them are two of the hot topics right now. In Lower Saxony, farmers are being paid to stop breeding pigs, a development that start-up entrepreneurs are taking advantage of. For example, one of the guest speakers in my lectures will be growing hemp on a former farm in the future. The benefit of this is that farms like these already have the necessary infrastructure in place, such as solar panels, ventilation systems and much more besides. This makes them particularly attractive prospects for being taken over by other industries and sectors.

Can you see yourself starting a business?

My mum worked for herself, my husband works for himself, but I belong at university. When I was still at Grundschule, I dressed up as a professor—as Albert Einstein, in fact—for Carnival. When I heard about my appointment at the University of Bonn, I took a photo of myself in this costume to my parents and asked them “Well, who can you see there? And what am I now?” Initially, they looked at me somewhat perplexed, until I told them: “I used to have to disguise myself, but I don't have to do that anymore as of today.” Then they

understood. Their and my joy in this beautiful moment is something I'll never forget.

The interview was conducted by Evelyn a

Information on the modules of Prof. Dr. Denise Fischer-Kreer can be found here.



The website of the Institute for Entrepreneurship at the University of Bonn can be reached via the following link.



In the annual report of the Rectorate of the University of Bonn you will find another interview with Prof. Dr. Denise Fischer-Kreer on her professional career starting on page 12.



The International Days



2024's International Days shone a spotlight on overcoming global crises.



The University of Bonn's International Days in 2024 ran from October 15 to 18, focusing on tackling global challenges together, strengthening international partnerships and honoring excellence in research. The Vice Rectorate for International Affairs had designed the days in cooperation with Harvard University's Professor Homi K. Bhabha, a renowned cultural scientist and pioneer of postcolonial theory. The diverse program also included the traditional presentation ceremony for the state awards and the DAAD Prize as well as other fact-finding events, talks and workshops.

In his keynote lecture, Professor Bhabha looked at various crises and conflicts that are currently posing a threat to democracy all over the world, from the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine through to racist police violence in the US. He highlighted how art and the humanities could play a key role in ending conflicts by providing space

for feelings such as doubt and vulnerability.

The workshop for the Bonn University Ambassadors has grown to become another firm fixture in the International Days calendar. These researchers, all of whom

have spent time working at the University of Bonn and are now teaching abroad, encourage dialogue between international researchers on the one hand and University of Bonn students on the other.

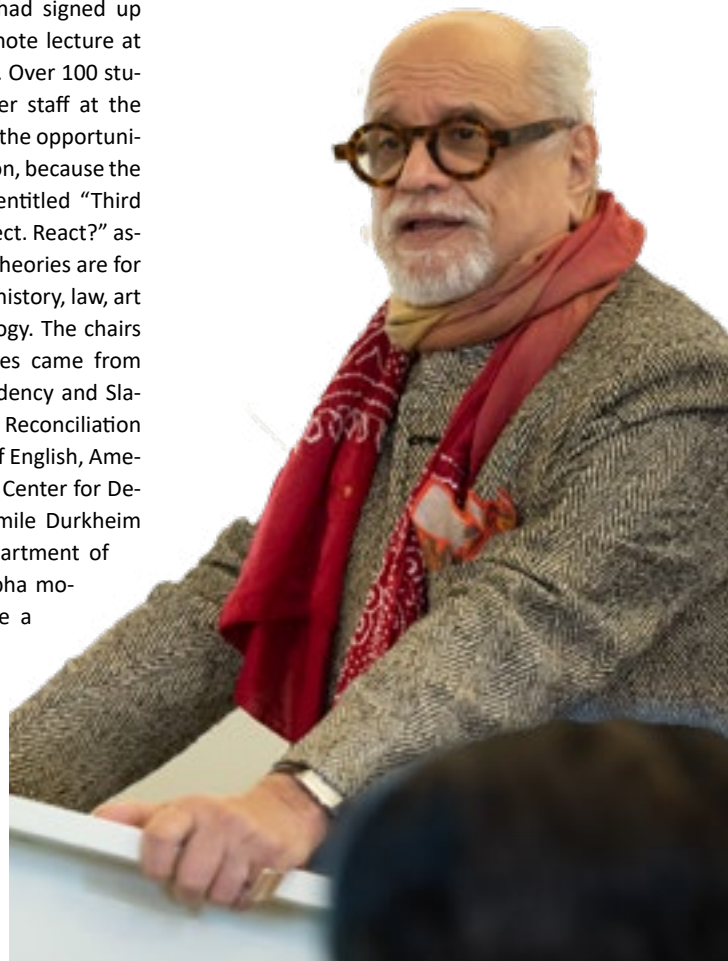


Why Homi Bhabha's theories are more relevant now than ever

To mark 30 years of his book *The Location of Culture*, the Harvard professor discussed postcolonialism with students, staff and researchers.

Published in 1994, *The Location of Culture* by Harvard professor Homi K. Bhabha is one of those works that triggered a paradigm shift in the humanities. The Afro-American novelist and winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature Toni Morrison rightly said that undertaking a serious study of postcolonialism it would be simply impossible without this book. And it has still lost none of its relevance, not least regarding the distinction between cultural diversity and cultural difference: here, Bhabha argues that cultural diversity often remains little more than a superficial recognition of differences that does not call existing power relationships into question, while cultural difference assumes that culture always develops in a space of encounter, overlap and resistance—what Bhabha terms the “Third Space.” As a collection of 11 key essays, however, *The Location of Culture* also covers shifts in and differences to the current cultural and political debate, e.g. when considering the core concept of “hybridity.” New geopolitical realities and the seal that has been set on globality across the board in the 21st century are placing the publication in a new light. Notions that Bhabha coined, such as cultural hybridity, are now commonplace in our globally interconnected world.

More than 800 people had signed up to hear Homi Bhabha's keynote lecture at the 2024 International Days. Over 100 students, researchers and other staff at the University of Bonn then had the opportunity to chat to the man in person, because the interdisciplinary workshop entitled “Third Space Turns 30: Revisit. Reflect. React?” asked how relevant Bhabha's theories are for subjects such as geography, history, law, art history, literature and theology. The chairs for the five discussion tables came from the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, the Center for Reconciliation Research, the Department of English, American and Celtic Studies, the Center for Development Research, the Émile Durkheim Research Unit and the Department of Intercultural Theology. Bhabha moved from table to table like a chess grandmaster playing multiple games simultaneously. At each one individually, and then collectively with the whole group, he discussed his theories in depth from different academic angles.



Homi Bhabha's concept of hybridity holds that cultures are always influencing one another rather than existing statically side by side. For instance, he argues that cultural identities are formed in a “Third Space,” where cultures are negotiated and overlap.

It is within this hybrid space, says Bhabha, that new meanings, ways of thinking and forms of expression are created outside the realm of the original cultures. His concept of hybridity thus calls the idea of fixed, homogeneous cultural identities into question and shows how power relationships, colonialism and globalization influence—and are influenced by—cultural formation.

Homi Bhabha's theories and his studies of postcolonial societies can help us to demonstrate and understand how former victims of colonialism absorb, transform and re-interpret elements of that colonialism.

What the experts say

With an eye on what is currently going on in the international research landscape, including—and in particular—with regard to postcolonialism and minorities, we asked six researchers who had taken part in the workshop, most of whom work at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS), the following two questions after it had finished; this is what they said:

How is Homi Bhabha’s approach important for your own research?

Why is *The Location of Culture* still relevant, especially now?

Professor Claudia Jarzebowski
(Professor for Early Modern History and Dependency Studies, BCDSS)



” Thinking with Homi Bhabha means critically scrutinizing your own views, something that can’t be valued highly enough in the humanities. Bhabha thinks against the grain and never just in one dimension.

This call to include the other, the unexpected, potentially also the unwelcome, in your thinking is what I’m trying to put into practice in my research. Ultimately, and this is why I’m so grateful to theoreticians like Bhabha, you get building blocks for your research that can underpin and drive emancipatory social programs in history and cultural studies, including—and especially—for future researchers.



Professor Pia Wiegink
(Professor for Slavery and Dependency Studies, BCDSS)



” Homi Bhabha’s *The Location of Culture* has accompanied me throughout my academic journey. When I was studying theater studies, his concept of mimicry was key to my own understanding of representation, cultural performance and colonial encounters.

Later on, his thoughts on the complex interplay between nation and narration had a deep impact on my thinking concerning literary texts and how nations form themselves. Bhabha’s reading of Fanon, his observations on constructs of Blackness and his writings on core concepts like difference, ambivalence and hybridity are very important to my work at the BCDSS in terms of disentangling the conceptual binarity of slavery vs. freedom and taking account of human rights issues. ”

Professor Marion Gymnich
(Professor for English Literature and Culture, BCDSS)



” Besides still being a key text for postcolonial studies to this day, Homi Bhabha’s *The Location of Culture* also offers up some inspiring insights for the emerging field of dependency studies. It’s the kind of text that encourages us

to grapple with complexities, such as the complexity of psychological processes that shape colonial thinking—an approach that proves eye-opening and, occasionally, perhaps discomfiting too when it comes to analyzing how people are continuing to handle the heritage and depictions of colonialism in the 21st century. In other words, *The Location of Culture* is anything but outdated and can help us to cast a critical eye over the neocolonial structures and mentalities of our time. ”

Professor Chioma Daisy Onyige (Professor for Sociology (Criminology), BCDSS)



” Homi Bhabha’s approach is crucial to my research, because he provides a framework for understanding the hybrid nature of law and culture in Nigeria, where I’m from. His concept of the “Third Space” explains how the

normativity of law is negotiated outside the scope of state institutions, on religious councils and within local communities, by applying customary law. By freeing law from the shackles of a purely Western model, Bhabha’s theory helps to explain how legal pluralism works in Nigeria, where you have statutory law, customary law and religious law existing side by side. This perspective permits a nuanced approach to the form of law being considered while taking account of cultural realities and human rights issues. “

Professor Ulrike Münch (Professor for Art History and Vice Rector for International Affairs, BCDSS)



” We really wanted to secure the services of Homi Bhabha for our 2024 International Days, now more than ever! As a historian and art historian, I’ve been fascinated by the huge potential that lies in the illustration and imagery of his

theories ever since I began my studies—theories like the “Third Space” or the concept of mimicry, which he presented as being distinct both from the biological term and from Lacan or Naipaul’s “mimic man.” Acting as a form of camouflage, Bhabha’s mimicry nevertheless reveals differences and distinctions, always seeing the procedural and the transformational, the “almost, but not completely.” His approaches are extremely relevant to my visual and cultural studies research, e.g. in the context of minority discourse and unarticulated resistance. “

Professor Markus Gabriel (Professor for Epistemology and Modern and Contemporary Philoso- phy)



” With The Location of Culture, Homi Bhabha created a completely new kind of conceptual frame- work that allows us to see cultural phenomena as hybrid, opaque, dynamic and ambivalent products

that exist in “gray areas” of ideologically focused attention and thus drive social and political transformation. He therefore remains one of the leading thinkers in postcolo- nial theory, which does not see cultures as closed spaces that are thus there to be dominated. “

▲ Professor Markus Gabriel (photo: Volker Lannert)
Professor Marion Gymnich (photo: Barbara Frommann)
Professor Claudia Jarzebowski (photo: Barbara Frommann)
Professor Birgit Ulrike Münch (photo: Bernadett Yehdou)
Professor Chioma Daisy Onyige (photo: personal)
Professor Pia Wiegink (photo: Barbara Frommann)

Faculty of Agriculture Renamed

The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Bonn has been renamed the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, and Engineering Sciences. Dean Prof. Dr. Heiko Schoof explains: "With this name change, we want to highlight that, alongside agricultural sciences, nutrition and engineering sciences are also central pillars of our research and teaching." The combination of these three fields shapes a unique profile within Germany, as evidenced by numerous successful collaborative projects, such as the PhenoRob Cluster of Excellence and the DETECT Collaborative Research Center. "We are a dynamic, internationally oriented faculty that addresses highly relevant societal issues — from sustainable agricultural and food systems to cutting-edge technologies such as drones, robots, and satellites," says Schoof. Engineering research and teaching at the faculty include geodesy, agricultural engineering, and food technology, which also offers the Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing.) degree.

The university's rector, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch, also welcomed the renaming: "The faculty has an outstanding tradition and enjoys an excellent reputation both nationally and internationally. Its research addresses major global challenges and drives the development of innovative technologies. With the new name, the faculty is taking an important step into the future by making the breadth of its disciplines and its strengths even more visible."

[Hier geht es zur Webseite der Agrar-, Ernährungs- und Ingenieurwissenschaftlichen Fakultät](#)



Ten Bonn researchers among the most cited in their field

The University of Bonn is once again strongly represented in the international list of "Highly Cited Researchers" in 2024: According to information service provider Clarivate Analytics, which compiles the list, ten researchers are among the world's most influential one percent in their field. The list contains around 6,600 researchers from 59 countries. From Germany, 332 scientists have made it onto the list - including ten from the University of Bonn: Prof. Dr. Wulf Amelung, Institute of Crop Sciences and Resource Conservation (INRES), Cross-Field (also Forschungszentrum Jülich); Prof. Dr. Dr. Prof. h. c. Dr. Stefan Grimme, Mulliken Center for Theoretical Chemistry, Clausius Institute for Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, Chemistry; Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Marcel A. Mueller, Institute of Virology at the University Hospital Bonn, Cross-Field (now Charité Berlin); Prof. Dr. Martin Qaim, Center for Development Research, Cross-Field; Prof. Dr. Andreas Schlitzer, LIMES Institute, Cross-Field; Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Jonathan L. Schmid-Burgk, Institute for Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Pharmacology at the University Hospital Bonn, Cross-Field. In addition, Prof. Dr. Frank Neese (Chemistry, Max Planck Society) and Prof. Dr. Joachim Schultze (Immunology, DZNE) are two further researchers on the list who are primarily affiliated with other institutions but have academic links with the University of Bonn.

[Hier geht es zum „Highly Cited Researchers“-Ranking von Clarivate.](#)



Rotational building offers flexibility for science at the Poppelsdorf campus

BLB NRW and the University of Bonn are setting standards for fast, modern and flexible university construction with the commissioning of the new rotational building on the Poppelsdorf campus at the end of September 2024. Built in just around 16 months, it offers state-of-the-art laboratories and seminar rooms and, with its variable-use spaces, creates opportunities for university flexibility and sustainable development. The decisive advantage lies in the modular construction method, which BLB NRW used for this project together with the university and Cadolto Modulbau GmbH: Large parts of the building consist of 141 prefabricated modules, which were manufactured in special plants far away from the construction site. During this manufacturing process, other work could take place on site at the same time. This meant that many work steps were less dependent on the weather and could be completed more quickly overall. "The rotational building is more than just a temporary solution," says Holger Gottschalk, Chancellor of the University of Bonn. "It is a functional building for long-term use that will enable us to gradually carry out the necessary renovation work in Poppelsdorf over the coming years. That is why 'flexibility' is the central characteristic of this building: it must be able to adapt to the future, changing needs of research and teaching."

[Das Video zur Room-Tour durch das Rotationsgebäude gibt es hier](#)



For the Love of Agriculture

A bachelor's degree in just three semesters? Emin and Yasin Gündogmus completed their degree programs in Agricultural Sciences in record time while also making a ramshackle farm fit for the future on the side. Thirty-three modules and a bachelor's thesis in the space of thirteen months. Burning the midnight oil, hauling rubble—and all while juggling the demands of family life. How did they manage it?



“You’re welcome to go and study, but don’t lose any time on the farm!” was how their sister Rümeyşa Saemian motivated the two brothers to get their degree program finished as quickly as possible. Having started studying in 2023, they needed only three semesters to get their hands on their bachelor’s diplomas. Their tight schedule required them to put in 60 to 70 hours a week and commute between lectures and their building site. “The farm project gave us the motivation we needed,” Yasin explains. They knew that the faster they finished their degree program, the sooner they would be able to focus on their farm.

But they had a few trump cards to play: Rümeyşa had completed the same degree program before COVID-19 and gave them some handy hints. Plus, the 37-year-old

twins already had professional experience and degrees in civil and structural engineering from Cologne and Siegen under their belts, which left them with fewer modules to complete this time around. Yasin worked as a research associate for building technology and building physics at the University of Siegen. “We know how to learn efficiently and plan your study and exams strategically,” Emin says. What was particularly helpful was that they often sat basic and advanced written examinations back to back, thus keeping the content fresh in their minds.

The fact that they shared the same goal and were both studying toward it made their daily routine easier: one worked on the farm while the other went into the University. Then, between 8 pm and midnight,

▲ Prof. Dr. Ralf Pude (links) mit Emin und Yasin Gündogmus und Rümeyşa Saemian in Klein-Altendorf. Im Hintergrund Miscanthus, ein nachwachsender Rohstoff.

they would compare notes, allowing them to discuss and consolidate what they had learned there and then. Their preferred study method? Old-fashioned index cards!

“It’s not everyone’s cup of tea,” Rümeyşa says. “Studying is often a time of self-discovery, after all.” Yasin adds: “We were extremely focused and had the farm as our clear goal in our minds. We wanted to get productive as quickly as we could.” Studying at the University of Bonn also brought some practical benefits: “We were able to take a plant protection course at the local chamber of agriculture, which will be of use

- ▶ The new courtyard has to be completely renovated. Sister Rana provides support on the excavator.

to us further down the line. Without a tip-off from our sister, we'd probably have missed out on it," he explains. Courses like this are hard and expensive to catch up on later, when people are working full-time. "Here too, it's useful to think outside the box and look closely at the examination regulations."

Farm of the future

The farm that had inspired the pair is not far from the town of Brauweiler. The ground is still muddy from the previous weeks' rain, and just a glance at the old buildings is enough to appreciate the size of the challenge: many of them have begun to show their age, and some are structurally unsound.

Emin, Yasin, Rümeyssa, their sister Rana and their parents bought the dilapidated farm at auction in the summer of 2021 and plan to have renovated it completely within five years. Rana, who actually works as a doctor, is now wearing her second hat—that of digger driver—and transports rubble across the site. Other aspects, such as the roofs contaminated with asbestos, pose a particular challenge.

This is where the family's specialist skill set comes in: Rümeyssa has already been involved in renovating an office building and, as civil and structural engineers, the brothers are experts in construction techniques and materials. This knowledge is invaluable, because they want to make the farm—which will combine horse management and crop production for the feed industry—sustainable and fit for the future. "We're aiming to become carbon-neutral," Emin explains. We could put solar panels on our roofs and generate enough electricity to power 200–300 homes in Dansweiler." They are also planning state-of-the-art building insulation. "But that will have to be worth the investment," Rümeyssa adds. "Not everything you want to do is going to be feasible." During their degree program, Professor Ralf Pude from the Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation at the University of Bonn showed them the possibilities offered by renewable raw materials, and now they are examining whether these can be incorporated into the renovation of the farm.

Professor Pude thinks that the field harbors potential: "Using renewable raw materials from agriculture for renovation or



▲ A mixed courtyard is planned.

refurbishment could do much to shrink the construction sector's carbon footprint and conserve resources. It's something we've been researching at the University of Bonn for 20 years, with growing success. Needless to say, we're delighted when materials like these are prized in a sustainable farm renovation project and also used later on in day-to-day operations, and we'll be following developments closely."

Enthusiasm for agriculture

"Thinking outside the box while you're studying gives you a clear advantage," Yasin thinks. The family makes joint decisions on what to do and how to do it. "We often have different ideas in our heads and, of course, there are sometimes arguments—especially while we're planning or making decisions," Yasin admits. Ultimately, however, the family are united by a longstanding

love for agriculture. "We've been dreaming of having our own Vierkanthof, which is a traditional kind of farm built around a central courtyard, for 25 years," Rümeyssa reveals. "The sense of solidarity you get among the farmers is fantastic," she adds. It took them 10 years to find the perfect farm. "We could have moved to the Eifel region instead, but we wanted to stay here in the region."

They put a similar amount of careful thought into their decision to go back to university. "You get turning points in your life," Emin says. "The fact that we've now landed up in agriculture and been able to draw on our careers to date shows that we've picked the right path."

Autor: Sebastian Eckert

In der Bilderstrecke erhalten Sie weitere Einblicke in die Arbeit auf dem Hof.





Internationality, Top-Level Research and Spirit of Innovation

Why Bonn University Ambassadors are representing the University of Bonn abroad

Having got to know the University of Bonn inside out during a research visit, the 15 active Bonn University Ambassadors are now performing an ambassadorial role for their German alma mater. They are all successful researchers at research institutions in other countries, where they tell interested students and fellow researchers about how they might study and work in Bonn. They also engage in close dialogue with researchers at the University through joint teaching, event and research formats and put people in touch with contacts abroad. Four Ambassadors tell us why they have chosen to represent their German alma mater and what they appreciate about our city.

**Professor Veena Kumari,
Brunel University of London (UK),
Psychology**

What's your research about?

I'm a cognitive neuroscientist and use methods taken from experimental psychology, clinical psychology, electrophysiology and neuroimaging to understand mental health conditions.

What's your link to Bonn?

I first came to Bonn to work with my colleague Professor Ulrich Ettinger, for which I was supported with a Humboldt Research Prize. Working with my team, I experienced an extremely supportive environment for research and was impressed by the cutting-edge techniques and lab facilities I could use to study how the human brain works.

What do you like about Bonn?

I really enjoyed staying in one of the University apartments beside the Rhine and come back to visit Bonn every year. My group has been collaborating with colleagues from Bonn for over eight years now, and we don't see that changing for many years to come.

My favorite experience being a Bonn University Ambassador has been...

...interacting with other ambassadors, all of them seasoned researchers from a range of countries and disciplines. I find this dialogue very stimulating and a source of fresh ideas for launching and cultivating new scientific partnerships.



Studying in Bonn opened up the most important prospects for me and my career. ““

**Professor Roberto Hofmeister Pich,
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio
Grande do Sul (Brazil), Philosophy**



What's your research about?

My main field of research is the history of medieval philosophy and early modern thought, but my projects also touch on the philosophy of religion and the metaphysical background to theological systems.

What's your link to Bonn?

My education in philosophy was greatly influenced by some outstanding teachers at the University of Bonn, who I've worked with in various ways since I finished my doctorate.

What do you like about Bonn?

The University of Bonn is a place of excellence in teaching and research. It has some exceptional professors and researchers, and the atmosphere there is very international and collaborative. Studying in Bonn opened up the most important prospects for me and my career as a researcher and University professor in my home country, Brazil.

My goal as a Bonn University Ambassador is to...

...highlight the University's excellence by promoting international collaboration with leading universities and top-level researchers in Brazil.



The University of Bonn is somewhere that encourages cultural diversity and internationalization. ““

**Professor Benjamin Kofi Nyarko,
University of Cape Coast (Ghana),
Geography**



What's your research about?

Risk profiling, hydrodynamic modeling, landscape dynamics, climate change and nature-based solutions.

What's your link to Bonn?

I did my doctorate at the University of Bonn's Center for Development Research, or ZEF, and have stayed in touch ever since.

What do you like about Bonn?

The University of Bonn is somewhere that encourages cultural diversity and internationalization. Cutting-edge technologies and a supportive environment make for a highly interdisciplinary approach to scientific work.

What does your role as a Bonn University Ambassador entail?

I encourage students and researchers to think of the University of Bonn as the destination of choice for higher education in Europe. As well as sharing information and advice, my job also involves representing the University's interests and forging links with other institutions.

**Professor Kikuko Kashiwagi,
Kansai University (Japan),
German Language and Literature**



What's your research about?

My research focuses on 20th- and 21st-century German literature, German drama and European ethnology.

What's your link to Bonn?

I came to Bonn as a Humboldt Research Fellow 10 years ago to work with Professor Michael Wetzel, who's known for his interdisciplinary research style.

What do you like about Bonn?

The University of Bonn is one of Germany's leading universities and provides a fantastic environment for research with the perfect blend of tradition and innovation. The city is also the gateway to the romantic Rhine.

I'm a Bonn University Ambassador because...

...I'm impressed by how open-minded and innovative the University is. Under the leadership of Rector Michael Hoch, it's grown into a center of expertise for study and research, and I'm honored to be able to pass this spirit on in my role as an Ambassador.

You can find out more about the Bonn University Ambassador Program under the strategic direction of the Vice-Rectorate International Affairs and the contact details of the 15 Ambassadors here.



When Materials Remember Their Shape

Professor Angkana Rüland awarded Leibniz Prize

If you take paper clips made from a certain material, bend them and heat them up, they will return to their original shape. Professor Angkana Rüland studies the mathematical principles that underlie this phenomenon and has been awarded the €2.5 million Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize in recognition of her efforts. The German Research Foundation (DFG) honored the mathematician for her outstanding work in the field of mathematical analysis, especially on microstructures in phase transitions in solid bodies and inverse problems with non-local operators. She conducts her research at the University of Bonn's Hausdorff Center for Mathematics.

"Completely lost for words"—this was how Professor Angkana Rüland reacted to the call from the DFG telling her that she had won the Leibniz Prize. "I'd just stepped through the door into my office when the phone rang, and it was the DFG," says the mathematician, who is also a member of the Modelling Transdisciplinary Research Area at the University of Bonn. She plans to use her prize money to continue building up her research group. "The environment for research here in Bonn is already exceptional, and the Leibniz Prize is going to make it infinitely more so."

Angkana Rüland gets a lot of inspiration for her research from problems taken from the natural sciences. In her research into microstructures, for instance, she is particularly interested in a certain class of materials. These are metals that have shape-memory properties. This means that, for example, a severely bent paper clip made of such a material will return to its original state as if by magic when it is heated up. The secret lies in special lattice structures that are combined in different

ways, just like individual building blocks, and thus influence the material's behavior.

The mathematician also studies what are known as inverse problems, which is about reconstructing information from indirect measurements—such as is done with X-ray tomography or ultrasound scans, for instance. This indirect information lets you infer the condition of the human body without having to take any tissue samples. Phenomena like this can also be found in nature, such as the ultrasound echolocation that bats use to navigate.

Making her way to the University of Bonn

Angkana Rüland actually began studying mathematics at the University of Bonn while she was still at school, taking part in its "Fördern, Fordern, Forschen" (FFF) early studies program. After obtaining her Abitur, she returned to the University for her degree program. She completed her doctorate at the Mathematical Institute in 2014, being awarded the "Hausdorff Memorial Prize" for the best doctoral thesis in mathematics. Angkana Rüland then moved to the University of Oxford to work as a postdoctoral researcher, before being named head of a research group at the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences in Leipzig in 2017. She was appointed to a position at Heidelberg University in 2020. Finally, she returned to Bonn in 2023 as holder of a Hausdorff Chair, one of several professorships for exceptional researchers based in the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics Cluster of Excellence. Later that same year, she won the €100,000 New Horizons Prize, a pres-



▶ Z Two Leibniz Prize winners from the field of mathematics: Prof. Dr. Catharina Stroppel received the award in 2023, Prof. Dr. Angkana Rüland in 2024.

tigious accolade presented by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation.

Twenty Leibniz Prizes at the University of Bonn

When Professor Rüland won her award, it meant that no fewer than nine Leibniz Prizes had been conferred on mathematicians based at the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics, including Professor Catharina Stroppel as recently as 2023. The University of Bonn now counts a total of 20 Leibniz Prize winners among its ranks, the second-highest number in Germany since the award was created in 1986.

University of Bonn Consolidates MULTIPLIERS Concept

After the end of the EU-funded MULTIPLIERS project, the University of Bonn is keeping up momentum with a new open-schooling project of its own.

Around 1,500 schoolchildren from six EU countries have been engaged in intensive study of some of the challenges currently facing the world in the company of STEM experts. After completing each module on a different topic, they have been acting as “multipliers,” sharing their knowledge and experiences with their family, friends and classmates. Three schools from Bonn have taken part so far.

“I want to really get stuck in, see how people in this field do their job and work with their materials,” said an enthusiastic Selena, a school student at Bonn’s Liebfrauenschule, at the wrap-up event for the MULTIPLIERS Horizon 2020 project held at the city’s LVR-Landesmuseum. Hers was one

of three partner schools from Bonn involved in the project. MULTIPLIERS’ open-schooling approach is geared toward opening up schools and providing spaces for research-based learning. As well as enjoying direct contact with partners from research and industry, therefore, the aim is also to enable the schoolchildren to pass on their newly acquired knowledge, e.g. through podcasts and videos.

But how come MULTIPLIERS worked so well? Quite simply, the schools were spared the laborious task of tracking down the experts themselves as they would otherwise have to do. Besides saving teachers time and removing some of the organizational obstacles, this has other benefits too, as Dr. Barbara Busert—a teacher at the Liebfrauenschule in Bonn—explains: “The experts were more or less served up to us on a plate. This made life a lot easier for us, because we could rest assured that we were getting some highly skilled, highly dedicated people

who would convey the topics to the children fantastically well.”

Passing on knowledge

For example, a number of podcasts on vaccination were made at the Liebfrauenschule in collaboration with the ImmunoSensation2 Cluster of Excellence and the nonprofit association Impfaufklärung in Deutschland e. V. “I’d say that I’m now better informed about HPV and vaccinations than other people my age”, says Selena, a member of the podcast team from the Liebfrauenschule. Meanwhile, the Gemeinschaftsgrundschule Michaelschule produced video reports on the schoolchildren’s experiences of their visits to the Wiesengut campus—the University of Bonn’s organic teaching and research site in Hennef—and screened them at the school’s open house. Professor Annette Scheersoi, Vice Rector

► During their visit to the ImmunoSensation2 Cluster of Excellence, researchers from the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), the Life & Medical Sciences Institute (LIMES) and the Institute of Innate Immunity showed schoolchildren from the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Gymnasium how to use PCR to distinguish between different strains of a virus and transfect cells with the aid of DNA plasmids





▲ In the potato field at the Wiesengut Campus in Hennef, the University of Bonn’s experts Dr. Martin Berg (front left) and Frank Täufer (not pictured) shared some useful tips and tricks with the Grundschule class from the Michaelschule to ensure that their own potato harvest, in their school’s raised bed, would be a resounding success

for Sustainability at the University and coordinator of the MULTIPLIERS project, had this to say at the end of three successful years: “All I hope is that many, many more schools get the chance to experience this kind of teaching, i.e. that many more schoolchildren are able to tackle the big challenges of our time in a really practical way.” Professor Scheersoi firmly believes that the project has to keep going, expand its networks and remain part of day-to-day learning despite its funding phase having now ended. Feedback from partners has also been positive, says the project coordinator, because “not only have the schoolchildren themselves learned a massive amount, the partners have also been able to get across their enthusiasm for their own subject or line of work.”

MULTIPLIERS at local level

Even though the EU funding phase has now come to an end, there is already some good news for the Bonn region: together with the University of Bonn, the Dr. Hans Riegel Foundation will be supporting the

MULTIPLIERS project at local level for a further three years from 2025, thus enabling a great many schoolchildren to engage in practical learning in the STEM subjects. Concrete plans for new topics and additional partners from different (research) institutions are currently being put together.

Video report by the MULTIPLIERS team from Michaelschule at Campus Wiesengut



Three years of MULTIPLIERS in Europe conclude with a final event in Bonn



MULTIPLIERS is an EU-funded Horizon 2020 project that addresses various societal challenges together with schoolchildren of different ages and teaches them the natural sciences in a way that is relevant to their daily lives. This involves the children collaborating with experts from outside their schools as they follow an open-schooling approach before going on to act as “multipliers” by passing on their knowledge and experience. A total of 20 schools across Europe took part in all manner of different MULTIPLIERS projects over the three-year period, which saw the schoolchildren become experts in areas such as vaccinations or biodiversity and agriculture. At the wrap-up event in Bonn, the eight partner institutions from Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, Italy, Cyprus and Germany presented their project activities alongside schoolchildren from the German schools that had taken part. A number of policy briefs were produced at the end of the project, as was the “MULTIPLIERS White Paper,” a summary of examples of best practice and handy hints for educators and political decision-makers.



Proud of all the young multipliers

Brief Interview with Professor Annette Scheersoi, Vice Rector for Sustainability

What's your verdict after three years of MULTIPLIERS?

MULTIPLIERS is a fantastic project because it's extremely practice-oriented and gets people interested in STEM subjects. It's been a lot of fun to see so many schoolchildren really grappling with topics from the natural sciences and putting so much energy and commitment into passing their knowledge on to others. I'm very proud of all the young multipliers who are now sharing the knowledge of topics like vaccinations and biodiversity that they've just acquired at the University of Bonn with the rest of society. MULTIPLIERS is not just an open-schooling project. It's something truly special, because a great many colleagues at the University have spent a long time putting their heart and soul into presenting their research in a stimulating way and conveying their enthusiasm for their own area of work. This has rubbed off on the schoolchildren. Looking back, you really can say that we all had loads of fun together and learned heaps from one another.

Is there anything you have a particularly fond memory of?

That's hard to say, because there were so many great moments. What really fascinates me is seeing people work together who don't usually move in the same circles. And, of course, the delight in the schoolchildren's faces when they pass what they've learned on to someone else. When they get a platform to tell people what the researchers have taught them. I've fond memories of the Grundschule children who found out a great deal about organic agriculture on the Wie-

”

What really fascinates me is seeing people work together who don't usually move in the same circles ““

Vice Rector Professor Annette Scheersoi

sengut Campus in Hennef, our organic teaching and research site. The class planted potatoes in their school's raised bed after their school trip and organized a tasting of various potato varieties for parents during their school fair, which was full of stories of their experiences in the potato field.

The project is continuing to run at local level here in Bonn.

What's next on the agenda?

First of all, we want to expand our network in Bonn, i.e. add more schools and secure more partners from the fields of research and the natural sciences, who'll be working together with the schoolchildren on some of the challenges facing society. The next topic we'll be tackling is entitled "plastic, waste and resources." Particularly where avoiding waste is concerned, the research community and society need to work hand in hand to really get something done. We've already secured some fascinating experts for this topic who'll be helping the schoolchildren to collect and analyze data and to debate dilemmas and trade-offs with them—in a wide range of different locations.

Visual Computing Incubator Generating Virtual Worlds

The metal dome stretches across the nearly seven-meter-high hall like a spider's web. With the help of over 300 specially developed high-performance lighting modules, laser projectors, cameras and other optical sensors, it will be transformed over the next few months into a "capture stage" that will enable University of Bonn researchers to generate lifelike digital worlds. With its new Visual Computing Incubator (VCI), housed in a building on Am Propsthof, the University of Bonn is helping its researchers and local start-up entrepreneurs to conjure up virtual worlds. Close collaboration with the University's own enaCom Transfer Center is creating an incubator and technological breeding ground for deep-tech start-ups. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is providing around €3 million in funding for the pioneering technology.



◀ Vibhor Sharma (left), Stefan Schulz (center) and Janelle Pfeifer (right) are part of the VCI team at the University of Bonn. They are currently building the capture stage, which will be equipped with hundreds of pieces of electronic and optical equipment to allow highly detailed photorealistic 3D models of people and objects to be captured and processed

University of Bonn, who serves as Scientific Director of the VCI alongside his colleague Professor Reinhard Klein.

In the future, the possibilities afforded by the VCI will, for example, enable behavioral studies to be conducted in the digital space, new potential treatments for mental health conditions to be developed and trialled, and astronomical and geographical simulations to be run. Researchers are also planning to record eyewitness accounts and live concerts to the highest possible technical standard, establish a forum for interactive digital art and drive forward research into computer graphics methods. In short, there will be a wide range of activities going on that will put the findings of the University of Bonn's visual computing researchers into practice.

"The Visual Computing Incubator is the only research and innovation center in Europe that's dedicated to technologies and applications linked to the metaverse," Professor Hullin explains. "It's part of the Institute for Computer Science and will

In the long term, the VCI will be a place where people can use state-of-the-art computer graphics methods to turn innovative ideas into reality. For example, this kind of technology is already enabling physicians to create moving 3D models of patients, known as digital twins, in order to detect conditions such as Parkinson's disease more accurately. However, there are many other fields in which the VCI can help to create virtual figures and simulations of our real-life environment, which could then interact and collaborate with actual people

in the so-called metaverse—a digital, interactive "intermediate world."

Europe's only research and innovation center of its kind

"What might sound like science fiction to many people is already not only a flourishing industry sector with countless start-ups in it but also a valuable tool for gaining new scientific findings," explains Professor Matthias Hullin, a computer scientist at the



▲ The team building the capture stage, which includes VCI members, University of Bonn students and an army of volunteers. The state of NRW is providing some €3 million in funding for the new technology platform

be kitted out with the kind of hardware arsenal that you'd usually only find at big companies like Google VR or Netflix." The building on Am Propsthof will boast a high-resolution LED wall for virtual film and TV productions that can be used for technology demos, for example, as well as various motion capture and virtual reality devices, a well-equipped data center and, of course, the capture stage itself—a large-scale laboratory for producing digital twins.

Creating photorealistic 3D models

First of all, however, the groundwork had to be laid: the VCI team moved into the first extensively renovated room in the building on Am Propsthof in late 2024. One of its floors had had to be removed in order to provide the height required by the over six-meter-tall scaffolding, which was erected in December 2024 with the aid of an army of helpers.

Over the next few months, the VCI team

will be fitting hundreds of pieces of electrical and optical equipment to it so that it can function as a capture stage once the VCI server room next door is finished. It will be the kind of space for recording motion and 3D images in optimum quality that is also used in the film industry. Researchers will use motion capture and similar technologies to create digital reproductions of people or objects and their movements and behavior with great precision.

This will allow researchers and start-ups alike to think up and implement disruptive business ideas such as virtual reality applications, innovative approaches in media production and data-intensive mobile applications in partnership with the University of Bonn's enaCom Transfer Center, which supports fledgling start-up teams and newly developed technologies with its start-up and innovation consulting services.

The VCI is being funded by the NRW Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy to the tune of around €3 million as part of an individual grant from the Exzellenz Start-up Center.NRW initiative.

Technology good to go

BResearchers and budding start-up entrepreneurs are already able to gain experience of using the VCI technology and put their own ideas into practice thanks to an interim solution offered by the Institute for Computer Science. The service, which is available to start-up projects associated with the University, has been incorporated into various courses and is already being used in a number of research projects.

Author: Evelyn Stolberg

Curious? You can find more information and contact details on the VCI website



Graduated. Now What?

You should start thinking about life after university even while you are still studying. The Career Service at the University of Bonn can help you out here. The Career Service's tips for students.

+ Tip 1:

Start thinking early, i.e. in your first few semesters, about what kind of job you would like to do after university.

This will help you make more targeted study choices, e.g. picking electives that are relevant to your dream profession. You will also know early on whether it makes sense to obtain additional qualifications such as (language) certificates. Any additional skills you need can be acquired while you study.

+ Tip 2:

Spend the first few semesters gathering information on the fields of work you have in mind.

For example, you could talk to fellow students or graduates who already work in your dream field or could exploit sources of information such as industry associations and company

websites. This will give you a better understanding of what skills and competences are in demand in these areas and what your daily routine at work might look like, because sometimes people's expectations do not match up with reality.

+ Tip 3:

Use part-time jobs, internships and volunteering as an opportunity to gain real-life experience in the fields of work you would like to get into after university or that you are interested in.

This will help you not only to apply your theoretical knowledge in practice but also to hone your curriculum vitae and build your network. You will also be able to find out whether working in this area would actually suit you and what your strengths and weaknesses are.

+ Tip 4:

Throughout your studies, make use of the career guidance services offered by your degree program, departments, institutes and faculties as well as the Career Service.

Some degree programs and faculties run careers days, where you can meet employers. These include the Faculty of Law and Economics and the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional, and Engineering Sciences as well as degree programs in Geography. Certain degree programs hold their own events. Departmental student bodies will invite you to alumni meetings, where you can find out where graduates from your degree program are working now. The Career Service offers workshops, coaching and consultations to support your career planning.

Five questions for Dr. Anke Bohne

Careers advisor, University of Bonn's Career Service

Anke Bohne has been working at the Career Service for over 12 years and supports University of Bonn students and graduates who have questions about getting on the career ladder.



How do I as a student know what kind of job might suit me?

By trying out the areas of work that I'm interested in and finding out whether they're really what I want to do and am capable of doing. For example, if I'm keen on working in a museum after I've graduated, I should get some work experience there with an internship, a part-time job or some volunteering.

Let's talk about procrastination. The end of your degree might seem far away, but that's often just an excuse. So how can you find the motivation to start career planning or apply for an internship or part-time job?

Just get stuck in. Enjoy wrestling with the question of what kind of work you want to do after university. This can also be a way to lend a sense of purpose to courses that are supposedly not always that interesting. Maybe take advantage of the Karriere-Sprechstunde offered by the Career Service. It's completely confidential and not restricted to a particular subject and can give you a few suggestions for how you can take baby steps toward your career planning.

Do you think it's a good idea to view every single activity during a degree program through the lens of a future career?

No, broadening your horizons and trying things out for yourself are part and parcel of your studies. And, after all, the question to ask is "What does 'career' mean to me personally?" This can have some very different aspects to it. At the Career Service, we define "career" as the pathway to the job that matches the interests, skills and values of the students and graduates seeking it and that gives them financial security. So it's much more than simply a question of completing the standard period of study, getting the requisite grades or lining up a series of impressive internships, part-time jobs and all that.

Why should students start thinking about career entry even before they've graduated?

On many degree programs, it's not clear what kind of work I should be doing and where once I've graduated. To get an overview of my options and find out what work I personally am capable of doing—but also what it is I want to do—it's worth thinking about my own career at an early stage. Doing so can also help me focus my studies more on a particular goal, which will bring me more personal satisfaction.

Is there also a "too late" when it comes to career planning?

There's no such thing as "too late," because career planning is an ongoing process. Even when I've landed a particular job, I'll undoubtedly undergo something of a career change at some point. But the earlier you start, the better. And, by "early," I even mean the second or third semester of a bachelor's.

+ Tipp 5:

Check the web page of the Career Services for workshops, advice sessions, careers events and the like.

The Career Service invites you to come along to its careers day during the Dies Academicus in December, where a series of talks, short workshops, one-to-one coaching sessions and advice stalls will tell you about making the leap from university to the world of work once you have graduated.

Career Service
consultation
hours:
Tuesdays and
Thursdays,
14:30 - 16:00

Offers, tips and
dates from the
Career Service:



From a Punched-Card Reader to a Super-computer

Half a century of innovation: University IT at the University of Bonn is celebrating 50 years of pioneering IT work in the service of research and teaching.

University IT at the University of Bonn celebrated its 50th anniversary in November 2024. Established in November 1974 as the “Regionales Hochschulrechenzentrum,” or “Regional University Computer Center,” it has developed into the mainstay of the University of Bonn’s IT infrastructure over the past five decades.

Putting people front and center

“University IT always puts people front and center,” Dr. Rainer Bockholt explained during the celebrations. He himself has been Director of University IT for over 21 years now and is especially proud of its pleasant working atmosphere, a view echoed by many current and former employees.

Rather than being an empty phrase, “we’re happy to be here” is an accurate reflection of reality, reveals Daniela Korden, the project manager responsible for DiCe projects at University IT.

Professor Maren Bennewitz, Vice Rector for Digitalization and Information Management, expressed her thanks to University IT staff, who she said had had a big hand in the University now being able to look back on a great many fantastic achievements: “When University IT came into being half a century ago, only a tiny handful of people in the academic world could have foreseen what a vital role data processing, digitalization and information technology would go on to play in research, teaching and administration. While University IT was initially engaged in pioneering digital work, our society—and

this University with it—experienced one technological revolution after another in the decades that followed: from the transition from centralized mainframe computers to interconnected systems through to the invention of the Internet and the harnessing of artificial intelligence.”

Vice Rector Bennewitz added that all of these developments had brought about a fundamental shift in how people research, teach and learn: “University IT has accompanied this transformation over the years and made the University of Bonn fit for the digital age. Many research projects would have been virtually unthinkable without its services and technical expertise, and a fair few scientific breakthroughs would simply never have happened.”





▲ The HRZ did pioneering digital work.

▶ In recent years, high-performance computing capacities in particular have been expanded.

◀ Insight into the HRZ in its founding decade.



Advances in technology call for flexibility

From the point of view of a former user, Professor Max P. Baur recounted the early days of the former Regionales Hochschulrechenzentrum and how cumbersome to operate mainframe computers still used to be back then. In his ceremonial speech, Professor Harald Ziegler from Ruhr-University Bochum explained that “a computer center year corresponds to about 22 university years,” because technological changes in a computer center’s operations happened much faster. Given the fast pace of advances in technology, therefore, one key attribute shared by all University IT staff was their flexibility, he said.

Susanne Sigmund, a former training manager and head of the User Support section, highlighted the successful apprenticeship scheme at University IT: “Every single apprentice has passed their final exam since we launched our apprenticeships to train IT specialists for system integration in 2005.” One particularly remarkable achievement is that the first two apprentices from the 2005 intake are still working at University IT.

Milestones in IT history

University IT has been the driving force behind numerous technical developments over the past 50 years. Some of its more noteworthy milestones include:

- 1979: The then Regionales Hochschul-

rechenzentrum was involved in the **projections for the 1979 European elections**, one of the largest international projects of the time.

- **Switching from mainframes to micro-computers:** the transition from centralized mainframes to decentralized micro-computers began in the 1980s, ushering in a new era of flexibility for researchers and students.
- **Integration into the Wissenschaftsnetz:** during the 1990s, the University of Bonn was connected to the Wissenschaftsnetz science network, or WiN, which brought about a sea change in international research.
- **“Millennium bug”** vanquished: by taking action early, University IT successfully averted the “millennium bug,” or “Y2K problem,” that threatened numerous computer systems worldwide.

Facts and figures

- 1. Year founded:** University IT was established on November 1, 1974 as the Regionales Hochschulrechenzentrum, or RHRZ for short. When it started out back then, it was still processing data using punched cards.
- 2. 1975—a year of consolidation:** the IBM/370-165 data processing system was upgraded to an IBM/370-168 with the help of a new central unit, thus giving the core memory a capacity of between 512 kilobytes (kB) and 2 megabytes (MB).

3. Speed: the high-speed data network operated by the DFN association, known as the Breitband-Wissenschaftsnetz (“Broadband Science Network,” or B-WIN), went live on April 1, 1996. It offered a connection capacity of 34 or 155 MBit/s.

4. Demand: the RHRZ had over 21,000 registered users in April 2000, and the University of Bonn was sending and receiving around 30,000 emails every day by this point. The Internet was being accessed about 100,000 times a day, resulting in some 100 GB a day being received and 60 GB a day being sent. The central back-up and archiving system contained roughly 2 TB of stored data in 2000.

5. The RHRZ becomes University IT: the Regionales Hochschulrechenzentrum was renamed University IT (or Hochschulrechenzentrum in German) in 2003. The move emphasized the key role that it played as a technical service provider for the University itself rather than as a regional provider to several institutions as previously.

6. IT services: numerous central services that form the backbone of the University of Bonn’s IT setup were developed on an ongoing basis during the 2000s, including the University-wide network BONNET.

7. Marvin the supercomputer: christened “Marvin,” the University’s new high-performance computer was inaugurated on October 20, 2023. The supercomputer boasts 18,432 CPU cores and was ran-



▲ The university computer center has been the driving force behind numerous technical developments over the past 50 years.

◀ *The transition from centralized mainframes to decentralized microcomputers began in the 1980s.*

▼ The HRZ was a digital pioneer.

ked 423rd out of the world’s 500 fastest high-performance computers at the time it was switched on. Its acquisition was part-funded from Excellence funding and forms part of the University of Bonn’s Digital Strategy. With its new resources and computing capacity, the University of Excellence is sending out a strong signal to its competitors in Germany and further afield.

and flexibility—without ever losing sight of the needs of students, teachers and researchers.

About University IT

University IT at the University of Bonn provides central IT services for research, teaching and learning. In particular, its high-performance computing capacity has been expanded in recent years. It has succeeded in increasing computing pow-

er several times over through significant investment in infrastructure, especially with the installation of the supercomputer “Marvin.” This is opening the door to simulations that would have been unthinkable a few years ago and is supporting researchers in general with their complex computing tasks. University IT operates the BONNET internal communication network and provides IT and network services as well as running the IT helpdesk, teaching courses and giving advice on IT procurement.

Looking ahead

In order to meet the growing requirements in research and teaching, University IT is driving forward issues such as virtualization and expanding network capacity with an eye on the future in its role as a major player in the University of Bonn’s Digital Strategy. Its current projects include research data management, IT support for the Hertz Chairs and the ongoing optimization of the Uni Bonn app. Its eyes are fixed firmly on the future, which will call for innovation

Curious about even more HRZ history?

Exciting insights into the milestones and technical advances of the past 50 years can be found here:



There is also a video series on YouTube with the most important development steps from the founding decade to the here and now:



Further information on the services of the HRZ can be found here:



Imprint

Published on behalf of the Rectorate of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn

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Layout

kreativrudel GmbH & Co. KG
www.kreativrudel.de

English translation

Central translation service

forsch online and archive

Sebastian Eckert / Triantafillia Kera-
nidou

Printing

dieUmweltDruckerei GmbH
www.dieumweltdruckerei.de

Print run

8,000 copies

Photos

ASK.Berlin Grafik U4
Sebastian Eckert
p. 20 KI generated via Adobe Firefly
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