



Dear participants and friends of the GSBC,

In this edition of the GSBC newsletter you will find information on the recent developments at the Graduate School "Human Behaviour in Social and Economic Change" (GSBC). The contents of this newsletter are as follows:

1. **Latest News**
2. **Impressions from the 4<sup>th</sup> GSBC Schools Day**
3. **Announcements**
4. **Accomplishments**

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## LATEST NEWS

### **Grants and Offers**

*Stefanie Hiss appointed as member to the Junge Akademie*

The Junge Akademie is a joint project of the two oldest scientific academies in Germany of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Its mission is to promote interdisciplinary discourse and co-operation between outstanding young scientists and scholars, and to support initiatives at the interface between science and society. The Junge Akademie has a total of fifty members from all academic disciplines, and ten new members are elected each year. Membership lasts for five years. Each member is allocated a research budget of EUR 25,600 to support joint scientific projects.



*Andreas Freytag appointed as Research Associate to the Public Choice Research Centre, University of Turku (Finland)*

The Centre utilizes the methods of microeconomics and analytic philosophy to the study of political and social life. The partners of the Centre are the University of Turku, Turku School of Economics, and the University of Hamburg. The Centre specializes in the study of institutional design, decision making and policy evaluation.



*Oliver Kirchkamp elected as leader of the "Sozialwissenschaftlicher Ausschuss" (Verein für Socialpolitik)*

The "Sozialwissenschaftliche Ausschuss" (the Social Science Committee) of the Verein für Socialpolitik elected Oliver Kirchkamp as successor of Bettina Rockenbach (University of Erfurt). He will be the head of the committee for the next two years. The committee has been founded in 1971 by a group of economists, lawyers, psychologists and sociologists who apply methods from social sciences to better understand human behaviour.

### *Runner-up CGIR Best Paper Award 2011 for Katja Rost*

Our new faculty member Katja Rost has been awarded the Runner-up CGIR (Corporate Governance: An International Review) Best Paper Award 2011 for her paper *Opening the Black Box of Upper Echelons: Expertise and Gender as Drivers of Poor Information Processing* (Corporate Governance: An International Review 18 (3) (2010), 212-233, together with Margit Osterloh):



Why did the majority of directors prior to the financial crisis not have the foresight to predict the problems of taking on too much risk? The paper analyzes whether executives' characteristics affect strategic choices due to bounded rationality, as proposed by the theory of upper echelons. The literature has thus far not empirically opened this black box. Relying on psychological economics, the authors develop hypotheses under which conditions expertise and gender can lead to biased information-processing. Research Findings/Insights: To test the hypotheses, the authors propose a two-study methodology and take the financial crisis as a natural experimental setting. In Study 1, the authors analyze individual phenomena and show that under conditions of uncertainty, the processing of information by financial experts and men is worse than by non-financial experts and women. In Study 2, these findings for organizational phenomena are tested. It is shown that banks with a higher percentage of financial experts within TMTs perform better in stable environments, but are more negatively affected by the financial crisis.

### *GSBC-EIC Paper wins the DIME Best Young Scholar Paper Award*

The paper *Skill shortage and skill redundancy: Asymmetry in the Transferability of Skills* by Ljubica Nedelkoska (GSBC-EIC) and Frank Neffke (Erasmus School of Economics, Rotterdam) won the Best Young Scholar Paper Award at the final conference of the European Network of Excellence DIME, held in Maastricht 6th-8th of April 2011. The award was also awarded to two other papers, one by Zakaria Babutsidzé (SKEMA Business School) and one by Tom Broekel (Utrecht University).



The paper *Skill shortage and skill redundancy: Asymmetry in the Transferability of Skills* proposes measures of skill shortage and skill redundancy between occupations, relevant for workers who switch occupations. It then empirically shows several interesting patterns. Workers switch to occupations where few skills acquired before are rendered redundant and where few new skills need to be learnt.

When it comes to wages, the returns to useful and redundant skill experience are both economically and statistically significant, with the returns to redundant skills being about half of the returns to useful skill experience. The returns to redundant skill experience, while insignificant for low-earners, are non-negligible for workers at upper wage percentiles. This suggests that while for many workers redundant skills are simply sunk cost, other (better-paid) workers bring them into highly-productive use. Finally, we show that economic downturns result in high average skill redundancies, while economic upturns enable moves toward occupations where new skills can be learnt. This novel finding reveals another side of the costs of economic recessions—they turn human capital into sunk cost not only through unemployment but also through poor occupational matching.

### *Best Student Paper Award for Co-Pierre Georg (GFinM)*

One of the best student paper awards on the 17th International Conference on Computing in Economics and Finance in San Francisco (Society for Computational Economics, Sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, June 29<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011) will



be awarded to Co-Pierre Georg (GFinM) for his paper on *The Effect of the Interbank Network Structure on Contagion and Financial Stability*.

The paper proposes a dynamic multi-agent model of a banking system with a central bank. Banks optimize a portfolio of risky investments and riskless excess reserves according to their risk, return, and liquidity preferences. They are linked via interbank loans and face stochastic deposit supply. Evidence is provided that the central bank stabilizes interbank markets in the short-run only. Comparing different interbank network structures, it is shown that money-center networks are more stable than random networks. Systemic risk via contagion is compared to common shocks and it is shown that both forms of systemic risk require different optimal policy responses.

#### *Otto-Hahn-Medal for Vera Angelova (Popova) (EIC)*

Otto-Hahn-Medal 2010 of the Max Planck Society will be awarded to Vera Angelova (nee Popova, EIC) for her thesis on *Experiments on Cooperation and Markets with Asymmetric Information* (under supervision of Oliver Kirchkamp). The Max Planck Society has honoured up to 30 young scientists and researchers each year with the Otto Hahn Medal for outstanding scientific achievements since 1978. The prize is intended to motivate especially gifted junior scientists and researchers to pursue a future university or research career.

The dissertation explores theoretically and experimentally four research questions that relate to the topics of cooperation and markets with asymmetric information:

- Will entrepreneurship evolve in the laboratory?
- Are financial advisors with conflict of interest going to give better advice, if clients pay for it voluntarily?
- Do managers offer different wages to permanent and temporary employees? How does information on co-workers' wages affect wage policy? How do employees that are discriminated against react?
- Can equilibrium punishment in a simple prisoner's dilemma game increase cooperation?



The answers can be found here: <http://www.econ.mpg.de/english/staff/esi/popova>.

#### *Gert Sommer Award of Peace Psychology 2011 for Friederike Feuchte (IGC)*

Friederike Feuchte was awarded the Gert Sommer Award of Peace Psychology 2011 for her thesis *Can we make a difference tomorrow? Evaluation of the Peace Education Programme in a Liberian refugee camp in Ghana*. Friederike completed her doctorate as a fellow of the International Graduate College in Jena from January 2007 to December 2009.

#### **New Fellows**

##### *Susanne Hinzmann (EIC)*

I studied Intercultural Management at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena and the Université de Savoie in Chambéry. In May 2011 I became a PhD student at the Graduate College "The Economics of Innovative Change". During my graduate studies I am also working on the project "Evaluierung des Spitzenclusterwettbewerbes".

The focus of my diploma thesis was on measuring the diffusion of scientific knowledge by means of patent data from two different German cluster regions. In my further research I would like to investigate regional innovation systems and cluster dynamics. I plan to complete my PhD thesis on these topics and I am looking forward to the time within the Graduate College.

Contact: [Susanne.Hinzmann\[at\]uni-jena.de](mailto:Susanne.Hinzmann[at]uni-jena.de)



*Ronney Aamoucke (EIC)*

I studied economics at the University of Cologne. My thesis investigated the prevalent use of financial instruments in venture capital investments. In April 2011 I became a doctoral student at the Graduate College "The Economics of Innovative Change" (Michael Fritsch). During my graduate studies I am also working at the Chair of "Business Dynamics, Innovation and Economic Change". The focus of the dissertation will be about the determinants of the high quality start-ups, their location, and sectoral affiliation.

Contact: [ronney.aamoucke\[at\]uni-jena.de](mailto:ronney.aamoucke[at]uni-jena.de)

## IMPRESSIONS FROM THE 4<sup>TH</sup> GSBC SCHOOLS DAY



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Annual Conference of the Post-Graduate Programme Global Financial Markets: Organising Financial Market Supervision**

16-17 June 2011, Dornburg and Jena

The conference "Organising Financial Market Supervision" focuses on the problems of systemic risk and the organisation of prudent supervision. We cordially invite you to participate in the conference and contribute to our discussion on these central issues of financial market reform.

Thursday, 16 June 2011 (Altes Schloss, Dornburg)

- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30
  - Opening Address by Klaus Stein (Executive Director, IMF, Washington D.C.)
  - Lost in Complexity: Systemic Risks as an Insuperable Challenge (Mauro Grande, Director General Financial Stability, ECB, Frankfurt/Main)
- 15:00 Coffee Break
- 15:30
  - Systemic Risks and International Financial Regulation (Rolf. H. Weber, University of Zurich)
  - Political Responses to Systemic Risks (Thilo Liebig, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt/Main)
  - Break
  - Soft Law and the Financial Crisis (Christopher Brummer, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.)
- 19:00 Evening Programme

Friday, 17 June 2011 (Gr. Rosensaal, Fürstengraben 27, Jena)

- 09:00 Sketching the Architecture of European Financial Market Supervision
  - A New Triangular: The European Systemic Risk Board, the ECB and the ESAs (Alexander Kern, University of Zurich)
  - A Step Toward Coherent European Supervision? (Mathias Otto, Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt/Main)
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:30 The ESAs: A New Layer between International and National Supervision
  - Structures of International Supervisory Cooperation: Supervisory Colleges and MoU with third Countries (Andreas Guericke, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt/Main)
  - What is the Continuing Role of National Supervisors in the New EU Architecture? (Verena Ross, Financial Services Authority, London)
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:15 Jenseits der Effizienz: Wer kontrolliert die Kontrolleure?
  - Demokratische Verantwortlichkeit und rechtsstaatliche Kontrolle der Europäischen Finanzaufsichtsbehörden (Ulrich Häde, Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder))
- 15:15 End of Conference

### **IMPRS-EIC Summer School**

The fifth IMPRS - Uncertainty Summer School is scheduled from July 24, until August 19, 2011 at the Max Planck Institute of Economics, Jena. The Summer School is a coordinated event with the Summer school of the DFG Graduate School "Economics of Innovative Change" (see 5th Summer Academy on Innovation and Uncertainty).

More information can be found here: <http://www.imprs.econ.mpg.de/summerschool/>.

### ***5th Summer Academy on Innovation and Uncertainty***

From the 24th of July until the 7th of August 2011, the 5th Jena Summer Academy on "Innovation and Uncertainty" will be jointly hosted by the DFG Graduate College "The Economics of Innovative Change" (GSBC-EIC) and the International Max Planck Research School on Adapting Behavior in a Fundamentally Uncertain World (IMPRS-Uncertainty). The Summer Academy introduces young researchers from different disciplines to the study of the economic dynamics of firms, markets, sectors, and regions, with a focus on invention and innovation as driving forces.

This year's topics include: foundations of innovative behaviour, entrepreneurship, measurement of innovation, innovation in finance, empirical methods and modelling, experimental economics, development economics, network analysis, and climate economics. Just like in the last four years, the IMPRS Summer School will continue in the second and the third week of August to cover a number of specific topics related to how subjects behave under fundamental uncertainty.

The confirmed speakers are

- Georg Erdmann (TU Berlin),
- Oliver Falck (ifo Institute),
- Maryann Feldmann (North Carolina University),
- Sergiu Hart (Hebrew University of Jerusalem),
- Martin Hellwig (MPI for Collective Goods),
- David Hendry (University of Oxford),
- Bernd Irlenbusch (University of Cologne),
- Nicolas Jonard (University of Luxembourg),
- Bettina Peters (ZEW-Mannheim),
- Gerald Silverberg (UNU-MERIT),
- Adam Szirmai (UNU-MERIT), and
- Sidney Winter (Wharton School).

### ***Upcoming Lectures and Workshops***

- June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, 12:00 - 13:30, GSBC-BBS by Zizi Papacharissi (University of Illinois-Chicago, USA), **A Networked Self: Sociality, Publicity and Privacy on Social Network Sites**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, 14:00 - 15:30, JERSeminar by Massimiliano Nuccio (Università Bocconi, Milan, Italy), **Agglomeration patterns in Italy**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, 15:45 - 17:15, JERSeminar by Adolf Wagner (University of Leipzig, Germany), **Population Economics and Innovation**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2011, 16:30 - 18:00, Colloquium of the Department of Developmental Psychology by Alaina Brenick (GSBC), **The affects of cross-group friendships on attitudes toward two outgroups: A longitudinal analysis of native German adolescents' friendship patterns and their attitudes toward ethnic German and foreign immigrants**, Am Steiger 3/1, room 009.
- June, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, 12:00 - 13:30, GSBC-BBS by Oliver Falck (Ifo Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich), **The Shadows of the Past: Implicit Institutions and Entrepreneurship**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.

- June, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, 14:00 - 15:30, JERSeminar by Arvids Alexander Ziedonis (University of Oregon, USA), **Incentives or Resources? Commercialization of University Research by Start-Ups vs. Established Firms**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- June, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011, 16:30 - 18:00, Colloquium of the Department of Developmental Psychology by Sebastian Schulz (CADS), **Parent-Child Relations in Immigrant Families**, Am Steiger 3/1, room 009.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 18.00-19.30, Lecture by Alex Schuster (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland), **Financial Crisis in Ireland**, Carl-Zeiß-Straße 3, room 2.43
- June, 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, 12:00 - 13:30, GSBC-BBS by Yvonne McCarthy (Economic Analysis and Research Department, Central Bank of Ireland, Dublin), **Behavioural Characteristics and Financial Distress**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- June, 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, 14:00 - 15:30, JERSeminar by Heike Hennig-Schmidt (University of Bonn, Germany), **Decentralized mechanisms for the provision of public goods - An experimental study on the effects of communication in nine-person groups**, MPI seminar room V14, Max Planck Institute of Economics, Kahlaische Straße 10.
- June, 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, 15:45 - 17:15, JERSeminar by Rosemarie Ziedonis (University of Oregon, USA), **Job Hopping in the Shadow of Patent Enforcement**, MPI seminar room V14, Max Planck Institute of Economics, Kahlaische Straße 10.
- June, 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, 16:30 - 18:00, Colloquium of the Department of Developmental Psychology by Kathleen Otto (University of Leipzig, Germany), **Job Insecurity: Antecedents, Consequences and Underlying Mechanisms**, Am Steiger 3/1, room 009.
- July 1-5, 2011, 13th Jena Workshop on **Intergroup Processes - Ingroup Norms and Reactions to Deviance**, Schloss Oppurg (Thuringia).

The Social Psychology Department at the FSU is pleased to inform you about the upcoming 13th Jena Workshop on Intergroup Processes with a special focus on Ingroup Norms and Reactions to Deviance. Traditionally, we offer a few seats for one-day visitors interested in Intergroup Relations. More information about the meeting is available here: <http://www.sozialpsychologie.uni-jena.de/index.php?id=8&L=2&id=8&L=2&L=2>. Those who are interested in participating should contact Katharina Vogt ([k.vogt\[at\]uni-jena.de](mailto:k.vogt[at]uni-jena.de)).

- July, 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, 12:00 - 13:30, GSBC-BBS by Peter Schaber (Ethics Research Institute, University of Zurich, Switzerland), **Dignity - what is its meaning?**, Bachstr. 18, building K, room 102.
- July, 6<sup>th</sup> 2011, 16:30 - 18:00, JERSeminar by Mark Pingle (University of Nevada, USA), **Religious Choice: Some Implications of Decision Theory**, MPI seminar room V14, Max Planck Institute of Economics, Kahlaische Straße 10.
- July 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, Colloquium of the Department of Developmental Psychology by Claudia Haase (University of California, Berkeley), **From Genes to Adaptive Development: Self-Regulation as a Missing Link**, Am Steiger 3/1, room 009.

Please see <http://gk.wiwi.uni-jena.de/index.php?GSBC=1> to get up-to-date information about seminars and lectures.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Completed Dissertations**

- Nicolas Arnaud (CADS, under supervision of Rainer K. Silbereisen), Following the parents' footsteps: Distal and proximal antecedents of succession intentions among adolescent family business offspring.
- Alice Becker (EIC, under supervision of Oliver Kirchkamp), Distributive Preferences in Different Contexts – Experiments on Compensation, Accountability, and Fair Division.
- Petra Geisler (under supervision of Melanie C. Steffens), Die Rolle von Minderheitenstress bei der Entstehung von psychischer Belastung bei lesbischen Frauen.
- Charlotte Klempt (IMPRS Uncertainty, under supervision of Oliver Kirchkamp), The Role of Intentional Motives for Reciprocal Actions in Economic Decisions.
- Angela Münch (EIC, under supervision of Andreas Freytag), The interdependence between Biodiversity and Socio-Economic Variables on a local and regional level.
- Michael Spaeth (CADS, under supervision of Rainer K. Silbereisen), Parental knowledge - Prototypische Entwicklungsverläufe im frühen Jugendalter und ihre Auswirkungen auf jugendtypisches Problemverhalten.
- Michael Stützer (EIC, under supervision of Uwe Cantner), Human Capital and Social Capital in the Entrepreneurial Process.
- Bashkim Zahiti (under supervision of Matthias Ruffert), Minderheitenrechte in Kosovo (Unter Berücksichtigung der europäischen und völkerrechtlichen Anforderungen).

We congratulate them and wish them all the best for their future careers.

### **Contribution to the Workshop "Migration, Integration, Cooperation" at Villa Vigoni, Italy**

Rainer K. Silbereisen and his research team on migration were invited to participate at the workshop "Migration, Integration, Cooperation" at Villa Vigoni in Italy, May 21-24, 2011. The



purpose of this workshop was to bring together scholars on migration in Germany and Italy from various fields of expertise, e.g., law, economics, political sciences, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and ethics. Following this invitation, two of the GSBC-post doctoral fellows, Alaina Brenick and Katharina Stöbel, together with a colleague from the Developmental Psychology department, Peter Titzmann, attended the workshop.

Invited scholars met to discuss a multitude of aspects related to migration to Germany and Italy and, together, worked to develop a scientifically driven and politically relevant memorandum detailing the current state of migration affairs in a way that bridged educational and research considerations with foreign policy. As an outcome of this workshop, the memorandum was created in order to inform the preparations of a meeting between the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Annette Schavan, and the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Franco Frattini. This ministerial meeting is planned for autumn 2011 on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German-Italian Center for European Excellence, Villa Vigoni.

Katharina Stoessel presented a keynote address on the development of second-generation immigrant children during the transitions to kindergarten and primary school in Germany and on the role of maternal resources in explaining ethnic differences in children's psychosocial development (Stoessel, Titzmann, & Silbereisen, International

Journal of Developmental Science, in press). In addition, the workshop provided an extraordinary opportunity to meet other experts in the field of migration from quite different backgrounds, to hear about current research findings, and to discuss the implications of our research for policy. Apart from the workshop itself, we were highly impressed by the German-Italian institution, Villa Vigoni, and by its location at the Lago di Como.

### ***Conference presentations by the GSBC fellows***

#### ***Elena Semenova on Legislative Party Switching and Parliamentary Careers in Russian State Duma 1993 – 2009***

*BASEES Annual Conference, April 2-4, 2011, Cambridge, UK.*

In most Western Democracies political parties are the main career gatekeepers for parliamentary elites. As a consequence pre-parliamentary experience in a political party is considered as a prerequisite for the career in the national parliament. Given the central role of parties in the recruitment process of political personnel and for their political careers, it makes sense to expect legislators to stick to the party for which they won the election. However, legislators sometimes do not.

In this paper we focus on the question: How could party switching be explained and how does it affect the parliamentary careers of legislators?

We start from the basic assumption that ambitions just as political and personal conformism determine individual legislators' choices and changes of party affiliation. In the case of Russia, the frequent emergence of new parties and the continuous changes of the party system introduce elements of dynamism to the recruitment process of the political personnel. In this paper, we seek to identify the parliamentary switching strategy of Russian MPs by testing three hypotheses – party switching 1) as re-election chances, 2) as career factors, and 3) as issue conflicts. Moreover, we will build a model of the legislative party switching considering such factors as the impact of the electoral system, the form of the electoral nomination, the time and the political direction of party switching as well as the socio-demographic and professional characteristics of the MPs.

The paper can make use of individual data on parliamentary recruitment and careers collected in post-communist Russia.

#### ***Maja Schachner, Presentation on Perceptions of school climate and school adjustment of children with a migration background (together with F.J.R. van de Vijver & P. Noack)***

*Cross-Cultural Psychology Symposium, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Tilburg*

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Research in educational psychology in recent years has paid more and more attention to the school climate as a microcontext shaping pupils' interethnic relations (e.g. Gniewosz & Noack, 2008). The present study investigates the relationship between perceptions of relevant aspects of school climate (e.g. perceived acculturation expectations of fellow class mates and teachers and their interest in pupils' cultural background as well as diversity in the school curriculum) and a variety of school adjustment and psychological adaptation outcomes (e.g. academic and social aspects of the self-concept, school delinquency and general life satisfaction) of pupils with a migration background. Preliminary results will be presented on the basis of more than 1200 students from about 50 countries attending German secondary schools in culturally heterogeneous areas.

**Lars Vogel, Presentation on Issue-Congruence and Political Responsiveness in the German Dual Voting System**

*European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), April 13-17, 2011, St. Gallen, Switzerland*

The paper aims to analyze the relation between MPs and their voters in two different dimensions: collective and dyadic representation. Starting from the principal-agent-approach it argues that German national MPs refer at least to two principals: their party and their constituencies. Due to the logic of the German Dual voting system and recent changes in party-structure and electoral behavior the electoral districts has become increasingly important. The empirical analysis based on the Jena Parliamentary Survey and a population survey reveals that party remains the primary principal of German MPs but they are additionally referring to their constituencies, indicated by issue-congruencies between MPs and their electoral districts. The paper concludes by putting forward the argument that the district-orientation of MPs allow parties the integration of regional differences and in turn to develop differentiated political offers for the increasingly complex and individualized political competition. MPs regarding both constituency and party as principals are the necessary condition to allow parties the integration of the regionally differentiated demands and offers while simultaneously keeping a minimum of homogeneity in order to remain the decisive actors at the level of majoritarian decision making in parliament.

**Alaina Brenick, Presentation on Early understanding of intergroup conflict: Young Arab and Israeli children's evaluations of peer intergroup relations**

*UNA Global Biennial Conference on Building Peaceable Communities: The Power of Early Childhood, May, 12-14, 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

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The negative effects of ongoing war and conflict on children's psychological development have been well-documented in the (Elbedour, Bastien, & Center, 1997; Khamis, 2005). However, such research has long focused on the occurrence of poor mental health outcomes such as psychological disorders. Recently, developmentalists studying the children in war-torn areas have extended this field of research to assess the social interpersonal and intergroup effects of such environments. It has been shown that children in these environments develop extreme negative stereotypes about the outgroup from a very young age (Bar-Tal & Teichman, 2005) and express a greater acceptance of retaliation against others (Ardila-Rey, Killen & Brenick, 2009).

To extend this line of research, the present investigation focused on (1) children's stereotypes about others (a Jew/ an Arab), and (2) children's evaluations of peer situations involving exclusion, in which exclusion occurred for reasons relating to culture, language, and country. In addition, we assessed the influence of a children's media program designed to promote positive intergroup relations on these evaluations. 433 5-year-old children in Israel (Israeli-Jewish, n = 102; Israeli-Palestinian, n = 119), the Palestinian territories (Palestinian; n = 100), and Jordan (n = 112) in the Middle-East were individually interviewed to assess their evaluations of three peer intergroup exclusion scenarios involving being from a different country, having different cultural customs, or speaking a different language. In addition, a stereotype assessment was administered to measure children's stereotypes of a member of the outgroup ("What is a Jew/Arab?").

The findings revealed both positive and negative aspects about young children's intergroup evaluations, and stereotypes but, overall, the findings indicate that Sesame Workshop produced shows are developmentally powerful in that the themes and content are appropriately related to children's social worlds of peer relationships, friendship, autonomy, conflict resolution, and moral judgments. Moreover, our findings indicate that view-

ing the shows increases children's focus on friendship and prosocial reasoning, even between children from different cultural backgrounds, and ones in which there is a great deal of conflict and strife in the adult world.

***Alaina Brenick, Presentation on Sesame Street in the time of conflict: Using children's media as a tool to promote positive social and moral reasoning about intergroup relations***

*Invited talk to be presented at the European Research Center for Migration and Ethnic Relations (ERCOMER), Research Institute of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands, May 2011*

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The Middle-East has long been plagued by political conflict and violence, often involving civilian populations. Given the impoverished living environments and constant threat of danger, a wealth of research on children in the Middle-East, particularly Palestinian, has focused on the stressful outcomes of living in these conditions along with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptomatology and prevalence rates (Elbedour, Bastien, & Center, 1997; Khamis, 2005) without examining children's evaluations of peer intergroup interactions. Further, the bulk of research with Israeli-Jewish children has focused on their development of negative stereotypes about Arabs (Bar-Tal & Teichman, 2005) and few studies have attempted to examine the negative stereotypes Arab children hold (for exceptions Cole et al., 2003; Teichman & Zafrir, 2003). While the situation is wrought with intergroup conflict and violence, few studies have assessed how children from different cultural groups in this region evaluate intergroup exclusion, and when children give priority to cultural stereotypes or moral concepts when making these judgments. Thus, the aim of this project was to investigate Israeli-Jewish, Israeli-Palestinian, Jordanian, and Palestinian young children's moral judgments and evaluations about peer intergroup exclusions and their stereotypes about the other.

The primary goal of the conducted studies was to investigate children's stereotypes about others (a Jew/ an Arab), cultural knowledge, and children's evaluations of peer situations involving ambiguous intergroup situations or unambiguous intergroup exclusion, in which exclusion occurred for reasons relating to culture, language, and country. In addition, we assessed the influence of a children's media program designed to promote positive intergroup relations on these evaluations. Our findings revealed both positive and negative aspects about young children's intergroup evaluations, and stereotypes but, overall, the findings indicate that Sesame Workshop produced shows are developmentally powerful in that the themes and content are appropriately related to children's social worlds of peer relationships, friendship, autonomy, conflict resolution, and moral judgments.

***Maja Schachner, Presentation on Diversity friendly vs. assimilative school climate – how it affects immigrant children's socio-emotional adjustment in culturally diverse schools (together with F.J.R. van de Vijver & P. Noack)***

*UNA Global Biennial Conference on Building Peaceable Communities: The Power of Early Childhood, May, 12-14, 2011, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

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Research on the acculturation of immigrants highlights personal characteristics as well as characteristics of the wider social context as important conditions for successful integration in a new country (Arends-Tóth & Van de Vijver, 2006). For children in particular, parents, peers and teachers act as primary socialisation agents shaping this context. Indeed, it has been found that the school climate plays an important role in the formation of children's interethnic attitudes (e.g. Gniewosz & Noack, 2008). The present study in-

investigates the effect of personal, parental and school related factors (e.g. perceived acculturation expectations of fellow class mates and teachers and their interest in pupils' cultural background as well as diversity in the school curriculum) on pupil's orientation towards the ethnic and the mainstream culture as well as several psychological and behavioural outcomes (e.g. academic and social aspects of the self-concept, school delinquency and general life satisfaction). Over 1000 pre-adolescent pupils with a migration background who attended 90 class rooms in more than 20 ethnically diverse schools in Southern Germany participated in the study. Analyses have been carried out using structural equation modelling. Results suggest that school climate significantly predicts socio-emotional adjustment of immigrant children beyond the effect of personal and parental factors. However, different aspects of the school climate seem to have a differential effect on the outcomes: Whereas aspects of a diversity friendly climate appear to be more strongly linked to integration and the general psychological well-being of children at school and in general, a climate which emphasises assimilation appears to be more strongly linked to segregation as well as behavioural and psychological problems. Implications for educational policy will be discussed.

***Maja Schachner, Presentation on Multi-ethnic class rooms – fostering segregation or promoting integration? (together with A. Brenick, B. Heizmann, P. Noack & F.J.R. van de Vijver)***

*24th Annual Conference of the German Peace Psychology Association „Social Injustice and Conflict“, June 17-18, 2011, University of Marburg*

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Schools in culturally heterogeneous areas can provide valuable opportunities for inter-ethnic contact: Attitudes about other ethnic groups can change and friendships can form across ethnic boundaries. On the societal level, schools provide an opportunity to decrease ethnic divides and promote a better integration of immigrants. Research on inter-group contact has shown that the nature of the outcomes depends on certain characteristics of the contact situation (e.g. Allport, 1954; Pettigrew & Tropp, 2002). On the other hand, selection processes when it comes to school placements often increase segregation between ethnic groups, thereby decreasing actual opportunities for interethnic contact. The present research investigates actual opportunities for interethnic contact in the class room and other class room level characteristics as the context of the contact situation and how these relate to pupils' interethnic friendships and perceptions of discrimination. In particular, the effects of the ethnic composition of the classroom and the inclusiveness of the school climate (e.g., diversity in the school curriculum, acculturation expectations held in school) are studied; at individual level perceived cultural distance and ethnic hierarchy are used as predictors. At class room level it is expected that higher levels of diversity will lead to lower levels of perceived discrimination and more cross-ethnic friendships. At individual level, it is expected that immigrant children will more easily feel as a minority and perceive discrimination than German children and this will be even more so for pupils who perceive more cultural distance. Multilevel modelling is used and results will be presented on the basis of 1900 students attending 90 culturally heterogeneous class rooms. Implications for educational policy will be discussed.

***Chad Baum - Poster Presentation on The Diminishing Salience of Starvation: a theoretical perspective on the role of needs, wants and the self in the transformation of the food industry***

*IAREP / SABE / ICABEEP Conference, 12th - 16th July 2011, Exeter, UK.*

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Within the food industry, novel producer-consumer relationships such as organic production, local consumption and farm-direct stores are becoming an important alternative for consumers with concerns about mass production and its lower-cost, more standardized products. Generally missing from previous research attempts, however, has been an emphasis on what creates inter-individual differences in consumer motivation and consumption behavior above and beyond the most frequently cited product characteristics (price, taste and convenience). Moreover, the dynamic process by which new preferences and attitudes evolve is only rarely mentioned, limiting the ability of such research to truly explain the role of the consumer in the transformation of the food industry. In order to address this gap, this paper highlights the fragmentation of the retailing industry where each new retailing format, in seeking to satisfy the needs of consumers as they envision them, engages in innovation, both in terms of the product characteristics and the shopping experience itself. In this manner, I relate the characteristics embodied not only in products but moreover in the various retailing contexts to the underlying needs of consumers. Combining the psychological orientation of Self-Determination Theory (SDT) from Deci and Ryan (2000) with the motivation-theoretic framework of Learning to Consume Theory (LTC) from Witt (2001), this approach facilitates a better explanation of the motivations underlying consumption in the context of the broader transformation of the food industry. Namely, by incorporating the psychological needs of autonomy, competence, and relatedness from SDT, I emphasize how individual consumers attempt to attain hedonic pleasure while satiating physiological needs, but also pursue a more eudaimonic sense of well-being developed in contact with the growth of the self and the process of identity integration. As the immediate threat of starvation becomes less salient, I hypothesize that the actual process of consumption gains new significance and the distinction of not only how much, but rather how, in relation to the manifold values and aspirations of the self, becomes increasingly more important. By connecting needs and the experience of self to broader trends in both the retailing and food industries, it is my intention that this research will yield a greater awareness of the dynamic role played by motivations in terms of encouraging or deterring alternative food consumption, and sustainable consumption more broadly.

**Leonhard K. Lades on "Wanting", "Liking", and Impulsive Consumption of Identity-Related Goods**

*IAREP / SABE / ICABEEP Conference, 12th - 16th July 2011, Exeter, UK.*

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Based on the distinction between "wanting" and "liking" (Berridge, 1999) this theoretical paper presents a brain-based explanation for a specific type of impulsive consumer behavior. This impulsive consumer behavior is the result of cue-triggered "wanting" where the individual's motivation to consume an immediately available consumption good is heavily increased by the perception of a cue. Cues, however, can induce such heavy "wanting" elevations only when individuals are currently in a need deprivation state and when the cues are associated with goods that are known to be able to satisfy the currently deprived need. Moreover, although these cues change the motivation to consume, they do not change the degree of pleasure that the individual expects to derive from the consumption good. When, for example, an individual is hungry, the smell of baking cookies triggers strong "wanting" reactions, although the individual's expectation about how much he or she will like the cookies is not necessarily influenced by the cookies' smell. We suggest that a similar mechanism can also explain the impulsive consumption of products that are closely related to one's identity, such as fashionable clothes or jewelry (Dittmar and Bond, 2010). When individuals perceive identity-discrepancies, the perception of identity-relevant cues triggers strong "wanting" to consume, for example, fashionable clothes, although these cues do not change the degree of how much the individuals expect to like the clothes.

**Boris Heizmann on Social Policy, Economic Conflicts and Perceived Economic Threat**

*7th CRONEM Annual Conference "Global Migration and Multiculturalism: Religion, Society, Policy and Politics", University of Surrey, Guildford, June 28th-29th, 2011 and 106th Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, August 20th-23rd, 2011*

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With globalization in general and the repeated enlargements of the European Union in particular, there has heightened awareness towards immigrants' entering host country labor markets, which at times increases the perception that immigrants take away jobs. Concentrating on this attitudinal dimension, the present paper sets forth the argument that welfare states, as forces shaping labor market realities, can mitigate this antagonism through various means. Two mechanisms are in the focus of this study. On the one hand, government intervention can pursue a reduction of the risk of getting unemployed, and on the other, the economic consequences of a potential job loss can be approached. Which of these approaches is more promising with regard to reducing perceptions that immigrants pose a threat on labor markets?

In order to answer this research question, data from the first round of the European Social Survey is combined with figures generated from the European Labor Force Survey, Eurostat, and policy indices published by the OECD. Hierarchical linear models are calculated that include individual, regional and country-level characteristics, and several relevant sociological and social psychological concepts are accounted for. The results indicate that welfare states can make a decisive difference in terms perceptions of economic threat, both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, the findings challenge the conventional wisdom that prevention is always better than cure: Mitigating the symptoms of unemployment rather than proactively protecting the employees' status seems a more effective avenue for reducing perceived economic threat.

**Boris Heizmann on Immigrant Occupational Composition and the Earnings of Immigrants and Natives in Germany (together with Anne Busch and Elke Holst)**

*4th Conference of the European Survey Research Association (ESRA), Lausanne, July 18th-22nd, 2011 and 106th Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, August 20th-23rd, 2011*

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While the existence of an immigrant wage gap in Germany is a well-known fact, the contribution of immigrant occupational composition to this form of inequality has not yet been evaluated in Germany. Our research project aims to shed light on this research gap by investigating the effect of the share of immigrants within an occupation on wages of those with and without a migrant background.

Several sociological, psychological and economic concepts are relevant for this research question (quality sorting, cultural devaluation, group threat). We combine data from the German Socio Economic Panel study (SOEP) with calculations from the German Microcensus and conduct pooled regression analyses. After applying controls for several dimensions of human capital, firm- and occupation-specific characteristics and other relevant aspects, a significant and negative influence of the share of immigrants on wages persists. Overall, the inequality that results from migrant-specific segregation is stronger for women than for men, hinting to a double-disadvantage for women with a migration background.

***Hana Dolezalova, Presentation on The Individual and the Collective in Holistic Spirituality: Therapeutic Practices, Corporeality and Sociality***

*ESA Conference Geneva, September 7-10, 2011*

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This paper is based on a qualitative enquiry into the beliefs and practices found in Holistic (New Age) spirituality. I deal with the question of how New Age practitioners relate to their own selves, their bodies and to others, examining the role of individualism and collectivism in New Age's holistic spiritual milieu. Holistic spirituality is often described in sociological literature as an individualized, privatized or even narcissistic form of religiosity. Opposing accounts suggest that relating to others plays an important role in a holistic milieu, but it how this sociability is manifested in everyday life has not been described in detail. This study aims to fill in this gap and suggests how the „paradox“ of emphasizing one's 'self while demonstrating solidarity with others is possible in reality. While it is true that New Age practitioners pay great attention to their own selves, it is important how the self is conceived. Embodiment is taken into account, while bodywork plays a crucial role in New Age and body is an important means of enabling social interaction. I relate the findings of the study to a more general topic: transformation of the forms of sociality in contemporary individualized society. This ethnographic research took place within New Age centers in the Czech Republic and Germany. It utilized semi-structured interviews with long-term visitors of the centers and therapists and participatory observation was used to study practice in a holistic milieu. It also focused on spiritual techniques and the process of their embodiment by the practitioners.

***Recent Scholarly Publications of GSBC Members***

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Best Wishes,



Uwe Cantner (Director)

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