

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

An exciting and busy time lies behind us. The articles in this issue of the International Newsletter are only excerpts of what happened at Frankfurt UAS in the second half of the year: The Center for Applied European Studies recently hosted a symposium on racism, where renowned experts shared their views on the current situation in Europe. Read about the captivating discussion on the following pages. We furthermore report on a Summer School in Vietnam and a recently started research project which deals with the further development of measurement instrumentations in order to improve the geodetic reference frame. As usual we also present the work of some of our research institutes and centers. I hope you enjoy reading, and I wish you a happy New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Frank E. P. Dievernich

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Summer School in Da Nang, Vietnam

The research project “emplement!”, funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), started with an international Summer School in Da Nang, Vietnam. The event took place from September 23 to October 4, 2019, and was co-organized by Frankfurt UAS and Da Nang University of Architecture. Since the project promotes the implementation of locally adapted strategies for sustainable and resilient urban regions, the workshop explored the Cu De River Valley near Da Nang to identify possibilities for sustainable tourism, agriculture, built environment and open space development. 42 students from Vietnam and Germany worked together on three different valley zones and their interrelations: fishing and aquaculture at the river mouth, agricultural activities half-way upriver, and two ethnic minority villages at the foot of the wooded mountains. The activities included data generation based on fieldwork and interviews, analysis of the current state of the villages and existing infrastructure, formulation of development goals, conceptualization of ideas, and detailing of selected measures. The summer school was concluded with a public presentation and discussion with representatives from the city of Da Nang as well as the communities of the valley. Please find further information on www.frankfurt-university.de/global-urbanization.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Scientists From Over 20 Countries Met at International Contemporary Educational Research Congress



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Prof. Dr. Koch, Prof. Dr. Klärle and Prof. Dr. Franzen with Angela Dorn, Hessian Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, and other honored guests of the congress

Following previous conferences in Poland and Turkey, Frankfurt UAS hosted the 5th International Contemporary Educational Research Congress from July 25 to 27, 2019. As president of the organizing committee and academic member of Frankfurt UAS, Prof. Dr. Susanne Koch welcomed the Hessian Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Angela Dorn, and scientists from over 20 countries such as South Africa, Japan, Singapore, Turkey, Spain, Israel, Russia, and Portugal at the opening ceremony. Vice President Prof. Dr. Martina Klärle and Vice Dean Prof. Dr. Dietmar Franzen subsequently also addressed the international participants of the congress. The conference's first day concluded with a congress dinner on

campus; the participants then attended more than one hundred presentations and workshops during the following two days. "All presentations pointed out that a good theoretical education in combination with a high practical relevance is the most important success factor for a future-oriented education of students regardless of their field of specialization." summarized Prof. Koch the congress.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Investigating Social Interventions

The Center of Competence for Social Intervention Research (KomSI) aims to develop social intervention research methodically and theoretically. KomSI investigates social challenges such as poverty, the situation of unemployed, marginalized, and homeless people as well as migrants and refugees, violence, criminal activity, and radicalization as well as the respective interventions of social work. Central to KomSI's research activities is the initiation of practical dialogue with various stakeholders and the joint reflection on modes of research on social work. Currently, an international network for the research of social interventions comprising researchers

from eight countries is being established. In November 2019, KomSi held its annual conference on the topic „Research on Social Interventions - Intervening Social Research“, which was explicitly addressed to practitioners and at which innovative possibilities of intervention research were jointly discussed with 140 researchers and practice partners from Germany and abroad. Further information on the KomSI can be found at www.frankfurt-university.de/KomSI.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Symposium on Racism and Anti-semitism: Everyday-life in Europe?



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On November 22, 2019, the Frankfurt UAS Center for Applied European Studies (CAES) hosted a scientific symposium on racism and anti-semitism in Europe in the Ludwig-Erhard Hall at Frankfurt’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry. More than 250 guests took the opportunity to listen to the lectures and panel discussion. By involving leading experts from the fields of politics and science, the symposium aimed at analyzing the status quo of racism and anti-semitism in today’s Europe, in the process also allowing the audience to question the experts. The experts themselves focused on misanthropy and

human rights with respect to racism and anti-semitism, right-wing extremism as well as anti-semitism on the internet. Risks for fundamental human rights and for democracy were identified and solutions regarding the responsibility that society and politicians should bear approached. More information can be found on CAES’ website: www.europe-center.de.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Strengthening Contacts with Toronto



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Frankfurt’s city partnership with Toronto, Canada, has been in existence for 30 years. For the last 20 years, Frankfurt UAS, too, has maintained a lively exchange between its Faculty of

Architecture • Civil Engineering • Geomatics and Toronto-based Ryerson University, which enrolls over 45,000 students. Using the occasion of signing the renewal of the town twinning, the mayor of Frankfurt, Peter Feldmann, and a business and science delegation visited Frankfurt’s twin city from September 14 to 17, 2019. Frankfurt UAS Vice President Prof. Dr. Martina Klärle was accompanied by the mayor when visiting Ryerson University Vice President John MacRitchie in this context in order to strengthen the connection between the universities. Frankfurt UAS currently maintains partnerships with around 200 universities in Europe and overseas.

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From left to right: Vice President John MacRitchie of Ryerson University, Vice President Prof. Dr. Martina Klärle of Frankfurt UAS, Peter Feldmann, Mayor of Frankfurt

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Where on Earth Am I Right Now?



This is one of the most important questions not only for a sailor in the middle of an ocean or a pilot above the clouds, for instance, but also in our daily routine. It is the inherent question with respect to technologies like navigation, autonomous driving, or logistics and transportation. Moreover, warning systems for global hazards like earthquakes and tsunamis as well as the monitoring of the sea-level rise are unthinkable without georeferencing. A high-precision global geodetic reference frame constitutes the fundamental basis to answer this important question. The EURAMET project GeoMetre focuses on developing innovative measurement instrumentations and novel analysis strategies for improving this reference frame. The project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. The Laboratory for Industrial Metrology at Frankfurt UAS is one of 16 European research institutions participating in the GeoMetre project, and will develop mathematical models for analysing in-process measurements at geodetic multi-technique sites. Find further information on www.ptb.de/empir2019/geometre/.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

First Contact Point in the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main Region: Post-War Modernist Housing Research Lab at Frankfurt UAS

The Post-War Modernist Housing Research Lab deals with housing estates built between 1945 and 1975 as a significant cultural, social, economic, architectural, and urban resource. It aims at developing and promoting comprehensive strategies for their future development and preservation. At present it is particularly urgent to gain a better understanding of those structures, as their owners are often seeking to modify and densify them. Up until today the post-war stock is of major significance. In growing metropolitan areas such as the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main region, it offers urgently needed, high-quality, affordable housing in relatively central locations. Its generously landscaped outdoor spaces as well as the functional layout of apartments are highly valued by the residents. Nonetheless, much of this stock has to be adapted to today's standards and requirements, such as energy efficiency, accessibility, infrastructure, and amenities. The Post-War Modernist Housing Research Lab aspires to be the first contact point in the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main region for anyone concerned with post-war housing and urbanism in practice and research, no matter whether being a member of the public administration, a housing association, or an ordinary citizen. It collaborates with international research experts on post-



war housing in order to learn from experiences made in other countries and involves international students from Frankfurt UAS in its research approaches.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Applied Research on Gender in Hesse

The Gender and Women Research Center of the Universities of Applied Sciences (gFFZ), a research center dedicated to the promotion of research on gender and women's studies at the universities of applied sciences in Hesse, currently conducts a project called "GenderFoLI: Skill-enhancement courses on gender for teachers in engineering sciences at the universities of applied sciences and universities". This project is concerned with the implementation of gender-specific knowledge in the mostly male-dominated engineering and computer sciences. In this context, the project team designed specific training courses for lecturers in order to educate them on gender-specific and gender-sensitive skills. The objective is to initiate the self-reflection on the professional culture

of researchers within those disciplines, to overcome their male-centeredness, and to attract more women and prevent their drop-out from the studies. The main objectives of the gFFZ are to support research on gender and women in all the disciplines present at the Hessian UAS: while a focus on gender is mostly found in the disciplines related to health, social work etc. – broadly, the social sciences –, the gFFZ also supports scholars from the economic disciplines, engineering, architecture, and computer sciences, who employ a gendered approach in their research.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

New Report on Social Enterprises and Their Ecosystem Published

Following the European Commission definition, social enterprises (SE) are characterized by showing economic activity, an orientation towards the common good, limits on profit distribution, and high participation opportunities for stakeholders. In cooperation with Dr. Gorgi Krlev and Dr. Georg Mildenerberger from the Centre for Social Investment (CSI) at Heidelberg University, Frankfurt UAS Professor Nicole Göler von Ravensburg carried out an assessment for Germany as part of the European Commission's „Social Enterprises and their ecosystem in Europe“ project, predominantly relying on data from the „Civil Society in Figures“ (ZiviZ) Survey of the Donors' association for the promotion of humanities and

sciences in Germany. The findings are as follows: A broad spectrum of organizations in Germany fulfils all or most of these defining features and can also be characterized as being innovative. Actually, Germany has one of the largest „populations“ of SE in Europe, while subjecting them to one of the weakest ecosystems for SE start-ups. Much needs to be learned to improve the framework conditions at national level. For the report see <https://ogy.de/SE-study-2019>.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

EU Field Trip of Frankfurt UAS PhD Students to Brussels



As part of the BMBF-funded StEP (Strategic Development of European (Research) Partnerships) project, which aims at strengthening EU-funded research activities at Frankfurt UAS, a group of PhD students visited Brussels, Belgium, from November 11 to 13, 2019, in order to get familiar with the funding programs and structures at EU-Level. During the field trip, which was organized and accompanied by PhD student support coordinator Dr. Dominik Wolf with friendly support by the Representation of the State of Hesse to the European Union, the participants met various relevant experts from, for example, the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi) ▶

and the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU. Discussion points were, amongst others, aspects of the EU research (funding) policy and the current state and possible research-related effects of the impending "Brexit". A highlight of the trip was a visit to the European Parliament, where host MEP Prof. Dr. Sven Simon

enabled the group's visit of a meeting of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO).

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NEWS AND EVENTS

New Report on Research and Innovation at Frankfurt UAS

The new bilingual research report of Frankfurt UAS was published in October. You can read our report online here www.frankfurt-university.de/de/forschung/forschungsberichte/

See which exciting and innovative research projects are being carried out by our professors and staff. In addition, our centers and institutes and our main research areas are presented.

IMPRINT

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