The Gutenberg Research College (GRC) of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz pursues the goal of supporting excellent research by granting fellowships to outstanding scholars. We exempt the GRC fellows from most of their administrative and teaching obligations to provide them with time to focus on their research projects under excellent research conditions. Since the founding of the GRC in 2007, we have supported 61 fellows from all academic fields.
Since 2014, Claus Arnold has been professor for medieval and modern church history at Johannes Gutenberg University. He is an expert on church history of the late nineteenth and the twentieth century and especially on the conflict between modernism and antimodernism within Roman Catholicism. As a GRC fellow he will continue his research on the linkage between theological antimodernism and political authoritarianism. He will put a special focus on the way Pope Pius X. and Catholic conservatives dealt with Alfred Loisy and his modernist interpretation of the Bible in the first decades of the twentieth century.

The cell biologist and chromosome researcher Peter Baumann has been appointed Alexander von Humboldt-Professor and GRC fellow in Mainz. He will continue his research on the architecture and dynamics of chromosome ends and the inheritance of genetic information as professor of molecular biology at Johannes Gutenberg University and as adjunct director at the Institute of Molecular Biology. His prior appointments were with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and Kansas University Medical Center, where he made fundamental contributions in the fields of aging, cancer and evolutionary biology. His appointment to the faculty of biology contributes to the re-orientation of research in the life sciences in Mainz.
Since the beginning of his career, Dieter Daniels has been at the forefront of media theory. In 1984, he founded the Videonale Bonn, the first international video festival in Germany. Later, he curated international exhibitions of video art in Switzerland, Germany and Japan, and he directed the video collection at the ZKM Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, before he was appointed professor for art history and media theory at HGB Leipzig, where he has been teaching since 1993. His writings cover a broad selection of topics including video, Fluxus, experimental music, net-art, John Cage and silence, as well as the history of technology and invention. In particular, his work on video and other audiovisual media are mandatory references for any student in the field.

Donald Bruce Dingwell is regarded as one of the leading volcanologists worldwide. He has become internationally renowned for the experimental investigation of physical properties of volcanic systems, in particular his research on silicate melts and glasses. In the past years he focused on the kinetic processes of volcanic systems and eruptions. Dingwell will – as a GRC fellow in cooperation with the Institute of Geosciences – investigate the release of halogens during and after volcanic eruptions. His outstanding work earned him several honors, in recent years for example the honorary doctorate of the University of Alberta and the University College London as well as the Federal Cross of Merit.
The well-known physicist Victor Flambaum is professor at the School of Physics at the University of New South Wales in Australia. His research encompasses different areas of theoretical physics – from particle and nuclear physics to cosmology. He is known for his successful collaboration with experimental groups and initiatives which led to many groundbreaking results. During the last few years he has already established contacts with different research groups at JGU. Over the course of the next three years he will work regularly at Helmholtz Institute Mainz (HIM) and the Institute of Physics of JGU. Together with his colleagues, he will analyze temporal and spatial variations of fundamental constants as well as continue the search for dark matter.

Parastou Forouhar, one of the most prominent voices in Iranian contemporary art, joins the Mainz Academy of Fine Arts as a GRC fellow. The internationally acclaimed artist is also known for her political commitment against repression and violence and as a mediator between cultures. The life and work of the artist are exemplary for the transcultural handling of oriental and occidental traditional languages of form. During the five-year funding phase, Forouhar will establish and lead an extraordinary artistic class at the Mainz Academy of Fine Arts, where she will make use of a wide variety of artistic media and introduce her specific transcultural view on the international contemporary art discourse to the students and audiences in Mainz.
The linguist and translation scholar Silvia Hansen-Schirra engages in research on a number of topics, such as corpus linguistics, computer-aided translation, as well as translation process and comprehensibility studies. She was the first translation scholar who integrated deep annotation and text processing in empirical and descriptive translation research and was among the first researchers to combine corpus-based analyses with cognitive experiments. In 2016, she has founded the Center for Translation & Cognition (TRA&CO), one of the world’s first neuro labs for translational research.

Isaac Kalimi is an outstanding expert on the Hebrew Bible and the Old Testament. His expertise on a broad range of theological and historical issues adds to the research profile of the Faculties of Theology at JGU. Before his appointment as a GRC fellow, he held academic posts at high-ranking theological institutions in Israel, the U.S., and several European countries. He mainly focuses on the period of the Second Temple which was built after the Babylonian exile in Jerusalem. This is where decisive cultural turns were taken with respect to the emergence of a literal tradition giving way to the Bible and for the creation of Judaism. He is best known for his influential interpretation of chronicles as integral parts of Jewish and Christian religious traditions.
Boris Kaus has been Professor of Geophysics and Geodynamics at JGU since 2011. He investigates the formation of geological systems and works on the identification of the physical processes that dominate the development of the systems. He translates geological phenomena into mathematical equations and is able to simulate millions of years in only a few days by numerical modelling. He has received several awards for his research, among others from the European Geosciences Union and the German Geophysical Society. In addition, he has already won several renowned ERC Grants. As a GRC fellow, he will deepen his research on physics of magmatic processes and develop new research areas at the interface of geophysics and seismology.

Peter Kiefer is professor at the Mainz School of Music where he leads the unique master’s course Sound Art Composition since 2009. His artistic presentations in renowned houses, at festivals, and in public spaces have won him national and international recognition as a sound artist. He has consistently searched for new fields of activity and application beyond the subject area of sound art and thereby was a major contributor to its further development. Kiefer’s groundbreaking exhibition of sound art and the resultant anthology Klangräume der Kunst presented a historical abstract and a systematization of his subject which have become a widely adopted milestone.
Jonathan Kipnis is professor of neuroscience at the University of Virginia. In his research, he strives for a better understanding of the complex interactions between the immune and nervous system. With the introduction of the concept of “brain lymphatics”, he has broken new ground for research in neuroimmunology. In Mainz, he will build up a research group at the University Medical Center and participate in the work of the Transregional Collaborative Research Center “Initiating/effector versus regulatory mechanisms in Multiple Sclerosis – progress towards tackling the disease”.

Martina Krämer is an internationally renowned expert in the field of cloud physics, especially with regard to the influence of ice clouds on the climate through radiation effects. She works both experimentally and with numerical models and has recently made a groundbreaking contribution to ice cloud research with a new classification of the formation of ice clouds. In her research in the field of atmospheric physics, she performs in situ measurements of ice crystals and water vapor with the help of airplanes as well as computer-based modelling of ice clouds. As a GRC fellow, Martina Krämer, in cooperation with the Institute for Atmospheric Physics in Mainz, will investigate the influence of ice clouds on the earth’s energy budget and thus enable a more precise assessment of their climate effect.
After several years as group leader of an Emmy Noether and ERC consolidator research group at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), the biophysical chemist Edward A. Lemke has taken up a professorship for synthetic biophysics at Johannes Gutenberg University. He has also become adjunct director at the Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB) at Mainz. Combining new research methods and expertise in both chemistry, biophysics and cell biology, he has established himself as one of the most innovative researchers in the field of intrinsically disordered proteins. He is speaker of the newly established Priority Programme on molecular mechanisms of phase separation of the DFG and will continue his research on the “dark proteome” with his colleagues in Mainz.

Thomas Metzinger’s hallmark is his innovative interdisciplinary approach to classical philosophical questions related to human consciousness and the self. As adjunct fellow at the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies (FIAS) and co-founder of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness, he established a remarkable cooperation with researchers from different areas of neuroscience. Far beyond disciplinary borders, Metzinger triggered discussions and keeps on questioning established opinions and methods. Internationally, Metzinger is regarded as one of the leading researchers in the philosophy of mind. As GRC fellow, he will further advance the linkage between analytical philosophy and empirical neuroscience in a series of interdisciplinary projects.
PROF. KLAUS MÜLLEN
Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research,
Mainz;
Institute of Physical Chemistry
JGU

Klaus Müllen, emeritus director of the Max Planck Institute of Polymer Research, stands among the most creative and influential contemporary chemists. His research interests range from the development of new polymer-forming reactions to the chemistry and physics of small molecules, graphenes, dendrimers and biosynthetic hybrids. He is famous for his pioneering research in the field of materials synthesis and for his identification and application of nanographenes. As a GRC fellow, Klaus Müllen will chair a research group at the Institute of Physical Chemistry at JGU.

PROF. ELISABETH OY-MARRA
Department of Art History and Musicology
JGU

Elisabeth Oy-Marra has been professor for art history of the early modern period at Johannes Gutenberg University since 2004. Her numerous research projects and publications on the arts and art theory in the early modern period, especially in Italy, have been widely received, and she has enriched her field of research by adding both cultural theory and methodical innovations to art history. In recent projects, she has traced the origins of academic art history in a more general history of science and she will continue this line of research in order to finish her new monograph “Techniken der Autopsie. Nachzeichnung, Kupferstich und Beschreibung und ihre Rolle für die Formation einer Wissenschaft der Kunst im Rom des späten 17. Jahrhunderts”.
Klaus Pietschmann is known as one of the leading German musicologists whose research ranges chronologically from the Middle Ages to the 20th century and who combines musicological with transdisciplinary cultural-historical approaches. Over the last 15 years, he has significantly contributed to the implementation of Digital Humanities in the field of musicology by developing innovative database solutions as well as one of the first hybrid editions in musicology. As a GRC fellow, he will focus in particular on the reciprocal relationship between music and sacral architecture in the early modern period and the further development of authority file-based source and repertoire research in the context of digital musicology.

The molecular biologist Krishnaraj Rajalingam investigates the mechanisms of reduced cellular activities in order to improve the understanding of cancer and immunity diseases and thus advance the development of new therapies for autoimmune disorders, neurological diseases, and cancer. Prior to his appointment to the DFG-funded Heisenberg Professorship at the Research Center for Immunotherapy (FZI) at JGU, he was head of an Emmy Noether Group at Goethe University Frankfurt and PLUS3-fellow of the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation.
Jochen Roeper is an internationally acknowledged neurophysiologist in the field of mesolimbic systems. His research at renowned institutes in Oxford, Marburg, and Frankfurt contributed to our understanding of neurological and neuro-psychiatric diseases decisively. Together with his colleagues at the Focus Program Translational Neurosciences (FTN), Roeper will conduct research on important brain functions and mechanisms of human diseases.

The particle physicist Matthias Schott chaired the ATLAS W/Z Boson Physics group at CERN in Geneva. He is now working on high precision measurements of the mass of W bosons as part of the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator project. Moreover, he is involved in the development of a new type of microstructure gas detector that is to be used in the ATLAS detector. In 2012, he received an Emmy Noether Grant to build up his own independent research group. Later in the same year, the Volkswagen Foundation granted him a prestigious Lichtenberg Professorship for outstanding young researchers.
Cornelia Schweppe professor for social work and coordinator of the DFG Research Training Group “Transnational Social Support” at JGU. In numerous cooperative projects with colleagues from Europe, the United States, and Asia she investigates cross-border forms of social support. In addition, she is the editor of the journal “Transnational Social Review,” which, within a few years only, has become one of the internationally leading journals in socio-pedagogical research. As GRC fellow, she will extend her cooperation activities and merge her previous focus areas to focus on “Transnational Ageing”.

Following her doctorate in Münster, Marion Silies conducted her postdoctoral research at Stanford University and headed the Emmy Noether- and ERC-funded junior research group “Visual Processing” at the European Neuroscience Institute in Göttingen before coming to Mainz in 2019 as Professor of Neurobiology. In Mainz, she will combine her experience in the fields of neuronal development and functional neurobiology and continue her research on the cellular mechanisms and neuronal networks of information processing in the brain, in particular the processing of visual information in drosophila.
The philosopher Eric Watkins is among the most prominent Kant experts worldwide. He has published a groundbreaking monograph on Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality and his research also includes the reception of Kant in the academic discussions of his time and in succeeding periods. His expertise and also his excellent international network will advance Kant research in Mainz and the whole Rhine-Main area. Watkins will be visiting Mainz on a regular basis and be part of major conferences as well as workshops on the philosophy of modern times with a focus on Kant.

Olga Zlatkin-Troitschanskaia is professor of business education at JGU. In the short period following her habilitation, she has established herself as one of the leading researchers in her discipline. She investigates an extraordinarily broad spectrum of subjects, ranging from educational professionalism over educational economics to international comparisons of university and professional training systems. Furthermore, Zlatkin-Troitschanskaia served as spokeswoman of the Gutenberg Academy for Young Researchers that supports JGU’s best young researchers and young artists in the development of their professional careers in the arts and sciences.
Since 1998, the theologian Wolfgang Zwickel has been researching and teaching as Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Archaeology at JGU. He has published numerous important works in historical topography and biblical archaeology, including a standard work on the Temple of Solomon. Most recently, he was the first German researcher to receive the Sy-Gitin Fellowship for a research stay at the W.F. Albright Institute in Jerusalem. He will use this research stay and his GRC funding to bring the long-awaited publications on the excavations in Kinneret, one of the largest and most important Early Iron Age settlement sites in Israel, to a successful conclusion.
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