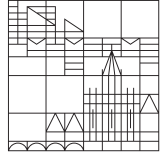


Universität  
Konstanz



# Unfolded: Towards a Culture of Creativity

The University of Konstanz in the Excellence Initiative





## Our Philosophy

Culture of Creativity means to provide all university members inspiring working and living conditions in a communicative and international environment, thus creating space for innovative ideas.



## Towards a Culture of Creativity

Innovative ideas are born in a communicative environment and in exchange with all disciplines. With this in mind, the institutional strategy “Modell Konstanz – Towards a Culture of Creativity” provides for the optimal promotion of cutting-edge research, young researchers, teaching and learning, work and quality of life as well as internationality.

“Culture of Creativity” also means expanding institutional creativity through research initiatives, infrastructure, network and transfer

platforms. New research fields unfold in a combination of bottom-up and top-down processes. In the ‘Zukunftskolleg’, international young researchers meet in an interdisciplinary environment. Measures for gender equality and family also facilitate gender-sensitive and family-friendly working conditions and promote the spirit of partnership at the University of Konstanz. Science communication, marketing and fundraising provide a variety of contacts with the public and for the establishment of an alumni culture.



## Service Environment

- Academic Staff Development for staff and career development for researchers of all qualification levels
- Research Support for advice and support in applying for research projects
- Quality Management for the development of strategic objectives, execution of evaluations and implementation of a structured monitoring procedure
- Communication, Information, Media Centre (KIM) for the creation and development of contemporary specialised services in the areas of information access and transfer, as well as the use of media in teaching and research
- Welcome Center to support international researchers while preparing for their stay, as well as during their stay in Konstanz
- Dual Career Strategy to support dual careers





## Milestones and Achievements

- Funded since 2007
- Enhancement of the profile areas Cultural Studies, Decision Sciences, Chemical Biology and Ecology, Nano Science and Materials Science
- Initiation and promotion of interdisciplinary collaborative research projects and central laboratory units
- Transfer platforms support applied research with industry partners and spin-off initiatives
- Fundraising to support teaching and research
- Development of new space for growth and innovation
- The Code of Practice on Gender Equality and the Code of Practice for Young Researchers ensure consistent standards
- Targeted use of measures of the Excellence Initiative for research-oriented teaching and improved study conditions
- Best practice models in the areas of staff development and family-friendliness
- Stronger international networking through collaborative projects, exchange programmes and double degree programmes





# Konstanz Research School Chemical Biology

We are preparing the next generation of scientists for one of the major challenges of the future:

Explaining the processes of life in chemical terms.



## **Konstanz Research School Chemical Biology**

Processes of life start small, at the level of atoms and molecules. This is where physiological processes are controlled. Genetic information can be checked, cells can be programmed, diseases can be averted before they even arise. What qualities and tasks do the individual proteins have? What happens exactly during protein folding – and what are the consequences of mistakes during this process? How can the impact of psychological and environmental influences on our genetic makeup be chemically described? To answer such questions related to the smallest building blocks of life is the goal of

the Konstanz Research School Chemical Biology. Research here is located at the interface of biology, chemistry and computer science in order to elucidate the mechanisms of complex cellular networks. With synthetic chemistry, cellular biochemistry, biomedicine, biophysics, and biological and chemical computer science, the graduate programme offers its doctoral researchers five interdisciplinary research areas. International partners from academia and industry facilitate close scientific exchanges and provide a variety of methods on an internationally competitive level.



## Milestones and Achievements

- Funded since 2007
- 190 doctoral projects
- 250 publications (from doctoral researchers)
- 175 “joint publications” of the PIs
- 75 Alumni in the areas: Postdocs (40%), Biotech Industry (40%), Consulting and Self-Employed (20%)
- 50 supervising PIs
- Joint PhD programme with NTU Singapore
- DAAD scholarships for 2015-2020 for international students
- Research building “Center for Chemical Biology” (CCB) with shared equipment centres
- Embedding the research school in the Collaborative Research Center 969 “Cellular Principles of Proteostasis”
- Extensive training programme encompassing scientific courses and transferable skills







# Graduate School of Decision Sciences

Only when we know how decisions on an individual and collective level take place can we understand the economic and political developments within society.



## **Graduate School of Decision Sciences (GSDS)**

All processes within our society are based on decisions – whether they are individual or collective decisions. Understanding how these decisions are made will provide the tools with which we can address the root causes of social science issues.

The GSDS offers an open and communicative academic environment for doctoral researchers who deal with issues of decision making and their application to important social science problems.

It combines the perspectives of the various social science disciplines for a comprehensive understanding of human decision behaviour and its economic and political consequences.

The GSDS primarily focuses on economics, political science and psychology, but also encompasses the complementary disciplines computer science, sociology and statistics. The GSDS is structured around four interdisciplinary research areas: (A) Behavioural Decision Making, (B) Intertemporal Choice and Markets, (C) Political Decisions and Institutions and (D) Information Processing and Statistical Analysis.



## Milestones and Achievements

- Funded since November 2012
- The Graduate School of Decision Sciences (GSDS) currently has 123 members: 35 Principle Investigators (professors); 19 Junior Investigators (junior professors and post-doctoral candidates), 48 enrolled doctoral researchers and 21 associate doctoral researchers.
- Our Doctoral Programme in Decision Sciences offers an ideal training and research environment for doctoral researchers concerned with questions about decision making and its application to important social science problems.
- 70 research papers of doctoral researchers have been published in journals or as working papers.
- The Master's programmes in Political Economy and in Social Science Data Analysis, established in the framework of the GSDS, offer a fast-track option to enter the GSDS Doctoral Programme.
- Fast-track options to the GSDS Doctoral Programme are also offered by the Master's programmes of the participating disciplines.
- Our integrated career training prepares candidates for the academic job market.
- Research on gender and diversity issues is an important focus of the GSDS.
- Our training programme, as well as our open and communicative environment, provide ideal conditions to guide doctoral researchers to academic excellence.



The background of the slide is a blurred image of a document with German text and a keyboard. The text is out of focus but legible enough to provide context. The keyboard is visible in the lower right corner, with keys of various shades of gray. The overall tone is professional and academic.

# Center of Excellence: Cultural Foundations of Social Integration

Cultural foundations of social integration shed light on  
key dynamics and organisational principles of society.





## **Center of Excellence:** **Cultural Foundations of Social Integration**

How do patterns of order arise in society? How are they upset? The researchers of the Center of Excellence study processes of integration and disintegration at all levels of society from antiquity to the present. The unique aspect of this research is that integration is not seen as a rule from which disintegration deviates. Both dynamics are of the same origin and equal for access to social problems. In times of increasing globalisation, it is important to also understand decentred processes.

The researchers of the Center of Excellence work on international projects focusing on four research fields: “Identification and the Politics of Identity”, “Practices of Knowledge and Non-Knowledge”, “The Cultural Modelling of Hierarchy and Violence” and “The Cultural Dynamics of Religion”. The multifaceted facilities of the Center of Excellence are designed to foster focused research, but also provide an opportunity for intensive exchange – between the participating humanities and social science disciplines and between established researchers, young researchers and students.



## Milestones and Achievements

- Funded since 2006
- Institute for Advanced Study with international fellows programme founded in 2006
- Creation of new professorships and enrichment of the curriculum
- Ethnology / Cultural Anthropology as a new research area
- Development of innovative support programmes for young researchers
- Intensive participation in public debates on integration
- Theme-centred collaborative research by the departments involved in the Center of Excellence
- Foundation of the scientific publisher “Konstanz University Press”



– [exzellenz.uni.kn](https://exzellenz.uni.kn)



– [gsds.uni.kn](https://gsds.uni.kn)



– [chembiol.uni.kn](https://chembiol.uni.kn)



– [exzellenzcluster.uni.kn](https://exzellenzcluster.uni.kn)