



GIUB newsletter

January 2025

Dear members and friends of the Department,

with the GIUB newsletter we will inform you once every semester in a compact form about developments and events at our department. Any suggestions for the next issue are already welcome.

In December 2024 the department board decided to deactivate the department's twitter/X-account. The current situation on this social media platform, which is moving at an alarming pace to far right political positions, has made this step inevitable. Furthermore, our posts on twitter, often on topics that the operators and influencers of the platform deny (e.g., climate change), reached a decreasing number of people - in the end, less than 100 persons. The board unanimously agreed on the decision.

But there are good news: You can find us since January 2024 with the latest news on research on bluesky: our handle is @giubresearch.bsky.social. On this platform the "old scientific twitter" community has found a new and promising way of exchange. And of course you can find news on the department on instagram.

For future newsletters, we also look forward to receiving announcements from the individual working groups, as not all information on visitors, events new staff members etc. may reach us as public relations team.

Anna Schoch-Baumann and Carsten Butsch

Public Relations GIUB

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Staff

Welcome to the department

DR. MIGUEL ALVAREZ started his new position in the cartography section on October 1, 2024. He will take over Martin Gref's position in 2025, since Martin is going to retire this year.



© Miguel Alvarez

"I am strengthening the central administration of the department in the areas of cartography, media design and GIS. My previous professional stations were at ZFL and INRES as a field researcher and vegetation ecologist in various projects in East Africa. I gained experience in statistical programming, data visualization and geographic information systems. As a hobby, I am interested in drawing and various printing techniques, which gives me a connection to aesthetics in my current work."

FATEMEH BABAEI started her doctoral project "Estimating information content of tracer data for catchment transit time modeling" in the Hydrology working group of Prof. Dr. Julian Klaus on Oct. 1, 2024.

VINCENTE BRÊTAS and **DR. JOHANNA HÖHL** joined Prof. Jessica Budds' research group on "Development Geography and Environmental Governance" in October 2024.

EVERJOY CHIIMBA has worked as a research assistant in the EUMA project in the research group of Prof. Dr. Lothar Schrott since June 2024.

LISANN FREI substitutes Laura Ink during Laura's parental leave in the examination office.



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"I am delighted to be replacing my colleague Laura Ink in the Examination Office from Sept. 1, 2024. I previously worked in education and have decided to pursue a new career path. Although I miss "my" kids, I am enjoying my new career start at the University of Bonn. About me: I love drinking good tea, baking muffins and being by the sea."

DR. LINUS KALVELAGE substitutes the professorship in Economic Geography of Prof. Dr. Britta Klagge in the current winter semester as Prof. Dr. Klagge was granted a research semester without teaching obligations.



© Friederike Pauk / GIUB

"The professorship at GIUB offers me, as a young researcher, the opportunity to expand my teaching portfolio and further develop my teaching skills in exchange with experienced colleagues. As an excellent department with strong international involvement, GIUB is also an excellent location to discuss the issues that concern me: the geopolitics of the energy transition, the role of the oil industry in relation to renewable energies and opportunities for "green" industrialization in regions of the Global South."

DR. ANGELA LAST (University of Leicester, GB) started her research fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in June 2024 and will stay until November 2025. Her research focuses on the topic "Global connections in and beyond German geographical scholarship". Angela is associated with the research group "Cultural Geography" led by Prof. Dr. Kathrin Hörschelmann.

NYI LINN MAUNG has received a DAAD scholarship for her PhD in Prof. Lisa Schipper's research group in October 2024. The working title of Nyi's PhD thesis is "The Puzzle of Equity: A Nuanced Nexus of Institutions-Vulnerability-Adaptation in the midst of Climate Change".

PROF. DR. MATTHIAS NAUMANN has accepted the professorship for Urban and Regional Research (successor Prof. Dr. Wiegandt) and will take up the position on February 1, 2025. Apl.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nutz will substitute the professorship in the meantime.

LEAH PETERSEN has obtained a doctoral scholarship from the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. Leah Petersen is writing her dissertation on "Discrimination in the parental home - The dynamics between the gender identity of young trans*people and their parental living environment" in the Cultural Geography working group (Prof. Dr. Kathrin Hörschelmann).

HANNAH REINARTZ started working as the new scientific coordinator of the master program "Master of Disaster Management and Risk Reduction" in July 2024.

SANDRA SCHIEBER is the new laboratory assistant at the department and started on Dec. 1, 2024 on a 50% position.



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"I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a new team member at GIUB. My name is Sandra Schieber and I started working in the central laboratory on December 1. I am married, have a son and live with my family in Swisttal. I completed my training as a chemical laboratory assistant at Unilever in Heilbronn and gained 19 years of experience in chemical analysis e.g. ion chromatography. After four years in Canada and parental leave, I decided to return to my profession and am very pleased to support the Department of Geography by performing chemical and physical analyses. I am looking forward to meeting you!"

A warm welcome to all new staff members at GIUB!

More news from our staff

APL.-PROF. DR. CARSTEN BUTSCH has served as new custodian at the department since October, following Apl.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nutz' retirement from the central administration of the department. Luckily, Manfred will stay three more years at GIUB as a senior researcher starting in January 2025.

CAMILLA KURTH has retired from her position in the laboratory at the department. However, she has accepted a position with several hours per week to support the staff after the fire in the lab and to train Sandra Schieber.

EMILIA LÖSCHE has retired and thus left the library. We wish her all the best for her retirement!

PROF. DR. NADINE MARQUARDT has successfully negotiated to stay in Bonn and rejected a call to the University of Würzburg.

Guests at GIUB

CARLASSARA, LORENZO (University of Milan, Italy),

Research Group Remote Sensing

CUMBERS, DR. ANDREW (University of Glasgow, Scotland),

Research Group Economic Geography

DAUTRICHE, MARTIN (University of Salzburg, Austria),

Research Group Remote Sensing

FRAGKOU, PROF. DR. MARIA CHRISTINA (University of Chile, Chile),

Research Group Cultural Geography

GANNON, PROF. DR. JP, (Virginia Tech, USA),

Research Group Hydrology

GODSEY, PROF. DR. SARAH (Idaho State University, USA),

Research Group Hydrology

GOLINSKI, JAN (University of Warsaw, Poland),

Research Group Economic Geography

GRANDE, PROF. DR. EMILIO (California State University East Bay, USA),

Research Group Hydrology

GYURIS, ASS. PROF. FERENC (Eötvös Loránd Universität Budapest, Ungarn),

Research Group Didactics of Geography

LAST, DR. ANGELA (University of Leicester, GB),

Research Group Cultural Geography

MKUNA, DR. ELIAZA JONES (Mzumbe University, Tanzania),

ERASMUS+ worldwide cooperation

Research

New Research Projects

The research group **Ecohydrology and Water Resource Management** (**PROF. DR. MARIELE EVERS**) has received a BMBF-grant for the project “Co-Design of a hydrometeorological information system for sustainable water resources management in southern Africa (Co-HYDIM-SA)” as a sub-project of the WASA program on water security in southern Africa. The research

group of Prof. Dr. Evers also successfully applied for a grant for the project “Retention potential of permanent crop areas (renewable resources) on runoff formation processes to reduce flood risk and use of biomass in regional value chains (MisKaRe)” together with other partners (including INRES). The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (EFRE).

The **Cultural Geography research group (PROF. DR. KATHRIN HÖRSCHELMANN)** received funding from the Transdisciplinary Research Area “Individuals, Institutions and Societies” for the interdisciplinary collaborative research project “The mid- and long-term consequences of the Ahr valley flood from a social scientific point of view: a multimethod approach of data collection and an interdisciplinary analysis”. The research proposal was submitted by Susanne Bell together with Prof. Dr. Hörschelmann.

The **Hydrology research group (PROF. DR. JULIAN KLAUS)** received a grant for the project “Insights into Wildfire Effects on Streamflow Generation and Water Quality: A Comparative Analysis Pre- and Post-Fire using Tracer Data” from the Volkswagen Foundation. The project is carried out in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Catalina Segura from Oregon State University.

Prof. Dr. Fahimeh Mirchooli will visit the working group with a scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He will work on the “Identification of sources of surface water and suspended sediment using mixing models and spectrophotometric monitoring”.

Two more PhD fellows of the Hydrology research group are funded by the Melbourne-Bonn Joint PhD Project “Estimating information content of tracer data for catchment transit time modeling”.

The **Geography Didactics research group (PROF. DR. EVA NÖTHEN)** has been granted funds for a project as part of the “Collaborative Research Grants” together with colleagues from Emory University Atlanta. The project focuses on “Unearthing Atlanta's Past: Learning Urban History with Collaborative Digital Projects”.

More news on our research

• Paper Award

On Nov. 6, 2024, the International Paper Awards for outstanding publications by young scientists were awarded.

Awardees in **human geography**:

DR. ELISABETH KIRNDÖRFER (Cultural Geography): Challenging the boundaries of exclusive Europeanisation: How young refugees unsettle normative spaces of urban citizenship. ► <https://doi.org/10.1177/09697764231205223>

DOUWE VAN SCHIE (Development Geography): Valuing a values-based approach for assessing loss and damage.

► <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2289533>

Awardees in **physical geography**:

DR. ADRIAN ALMORADIE (Ecohydrology and Water Resources Management): Transboundary Collaborative Modeling: Consensual Identification and Ranking of Flood Adaptation Measures - A Case Study in the Mono River Basin, Benin, and Togo. ► <https://doi.org/10.3390/su151511728>

IKRAM ZANGANA (Geomorphology and Environmental Systems): Efficient geomorphological mapping based on geographic information systems and remote sensing data: an example from Jena, Germany.

► <https://doi.org/10.1080/17445647.2023.2172468>

• **PhD colloquium**

Since the winter semester 2023/2024, PhD students at the Department of Geography have met for a self-organized colloquium. They come together for low-threshold exchange opportunities with peers, present their current work for constructive feedback and develop ideas for joint training opportunities. In addition to self-guided workshop formats, e.g., on best scientific practice and AI, two expert-led workshops have already been co-organized with the central administration of the department: (1) on Sept. 24, 2024 on “Meet the editor” led by Prof. Dr. Andrew Cumbers and (2) on Nov. 12, 2024 on “How to handle literature” led by Antje Pellowski.

• **LOTHAR SCHROTT elected as scientific director of the Geoverbund ABC/J**



The ABC/J steering group has unanimously elected Prof. Dr. Lothar Schrott as the new scientific director of the regional Geoverbund ABC/J network.

► <https://www.geoverbund-abcj.de/en>

• **Conference "Palaeo-Hydrology - ancient disasters, modern applications" in Bonn in 2025**

For the international conference “Palaeo-Hydrology - ancient disasters, modern applications” taking place at the GIUB in June 2025, Prof. Jürgen Herget

was able to win the International Union for Quaternary Research INQUA and the German Research Foundation DFG as financial supporters of the event.

• Science Pitch on Nov. 6, 2024

Ten young scientists presented their current research projects in a very short three-minute presentation as part of the annual science pitch:

LEAH PETERSEN: Discrimination in the parental home – The dynamics between the gender identity of young trans* people and their parental living environment

ELLA WOOD: Investigating the Hydrological Significance of Rock Glaciers in the Northern Tien Shan

DR. JOHANNA HÖHL: Resource governance and energy transition in Latin America

MELANIE STAMMLER: A bird's flight view on potential permafrost degradation: drones, satellites and rock glaciers

RAVN HAID: Grüner Wasserstoff in Kenia: Chancen und Herausforderungen im Kontext geopolitischer Spannungen

DR. RAINER BELL and **DR. ANNA SCHOCH-BAUMANN:** Moisture Monitoring on the Müsch Landslide (Ahr valley) using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)

VICENTE BRÊTAS: The global mobilities of local sustainable policy: Regulatory frameworks, urban agendas and the City Climate Finance Gap Fund

LUTZ KLEIN: Wildfire Effects on Streamflow and water quality

MARK TUSCHEN: From Toilet Paper to Water Retention - The MisKaRe Project

ALBERT ELIKPLIM AGBENORHEVI: Predicting Global Change impacts on streamflow dynamics. A case study of Pra River Basin, Ghana.

Publications

We will be happy to draw your attention to our latest publications in the next newsletter. Please let us know about your latest publications and fill out the form on our website.

Study and Teaching

• First-year students in the winter semester 2024/25

Many degree programs in geography struggle with declining student numbers, but not so the geography programs in Bonn. The department remains attractive for new students at all levels.

B.Sc. Geography: **162**

BA Begleitfach Geography (accompanying subject): **20**

Bachelor teaching degree: **46**

M.Sc. Geography: **81**

M.Ed. Geography: **11**

M.Sc. Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security
(joint program with UNU-EHS): **24**

M.Sc. Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology (joint program with
the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional and Engineering Sciences): **27**

Master of Disaster Management and Risk Reduction
(KaVoMa, further education): **34**

• Mittwochs im GIUB

In the last „...mittwochs im GIUB“-event in 2024, students will give insights into their Master’s excursions and share their experiences. Always a festive occasion to come together just before the holiday season starts. The participants of excursions to South Africa (led by PD Dr. A. Follmann) and Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg (Apl.-Prof. Dr. C. Butsch) organized the event in the Alfred-Philippson Lecture Hall on Dec. 18.

Upcoming events of the „...mittwochs im GIUB“-series in the winter semester can be found on our website:

► <https://www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/de/nachrichten/neues-mittwochs-im-giub-programm-fuer-das-wintersemester-2024-25-erschiene>

If you would like to organize one of the „...mittwochs im GIUB“-lectures in the summer semester, please get in touch with Dr. Anna Schoch-Baumann (schoch@uni-bonn.de), who coordinates the lecture series.

• Geo-Medial

Geo-Medial provides new digital formats to improve teaching. Students and lecturers alike can find a wide range of productions on the Geo-Medial portal on our website and on YouTube, including reports, lectures, documentaries, podcasts, virtual excursions and many more. The aim of the Geo-Medial portal is to develop translocal learning spaces through the use of digital media and thus create virtual mobility and alternative opportunities for encounters in the context of university teaching.

▶ <https://www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/de/einrichtungen/bibliothek/geo-medial>

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/@giub>

• Teaching Award



© Thomas Roggenkamp

Dr. Thomas Roggenkamp received the University of Bonn Teaching Award in the 2023/24 academic year. This was presented at a ceremony at the Unifest in July 2024.

• 10th anniversary Joint Master "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security"



UNEP
Taught jointly by
the United Nations University's Institute for Environment
and Human Security
and University of Bonn since 2013

**Master of Science in Geography
of Environmental Risks and
Human Security**

"This Joint Master has been very beneficial to my current job where I advise cities on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. My background in environmental risk and nature-based solutions, together with the interdisciplinary understanding of the climate risks cities experience and advice them with resilience!"
Aoi Akiwasa
Advisor/Project Manager, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationalen Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn, Germany

"Disaster reports in Indonesia don't really have an educational background specifically in disaster. I got many of my current projects because of my knowledge gained from the Joint Master!"
Fikri Roggenk
Junior Researcher at National Agency for Research and Innovation, Jakarta, Indonesia

In May, the Department of Geography (GIUB) together with the Institute for Environment and Human Security (EHS) at the United Nations University held an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Joint Master's degree in Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security. The event was co-sponsored by the regional Geoverbund ABC/J network, and welcomed 80 guests from our two universities and other institutions in and around Bonn, as well as current Joint Master's students and alumni.

- **Guidelines for gender sensitivity and protection against violence for excursion**

The Group on gender sensitivity and protection against violence developed guidelines for courses with overnight stays. These were adopted by the executive board and can be found in the GIUB intranet. Basically, lecturers need to announce how they will secure that students have at least two contact persons with different gender identities, they can contact at all times during the courses. More detailed information can be found at the GIUB's intranet.

News

- **Reappraisal of the colonial past: Discussions about the Troll info station (Apr. 17 and Jul. 10, 2024)**



© Anna Schoch-Baumann / GIUB

At the beginning of the summer semester 2024 our department got engaged in the reappraisal of a so far less considered facet of the department's history: the colonial past. The process was initiated by the student working group KritGeo (critical geography), who called for a decolonization of the Department of Geography with a protest event. Following this, discussion

events and workshops took place in a participatory process, involving all interested students and members of GIUB as well as external experts.

This process of coming to terms with the GIUB info station in general and the presentation of the Troll bust in particular will continue. In the winter semester, students will be specifically involved in courses, while a working group consisting of interested persons from the Department of Geography is working on further ideas. The results will be presented, discussed and voted on at the beginning of the summer semester 2025.

Upcoming Events



BGG-Lectures

In January 2025, the Geographical Society of Bonn (BGG) invites you to two lectures on the topic of "Climate-Land/Water-Human Interaction" in the Alfred Philippson Lecture Hall.

• **Jan. 15, 2025, 5:15 pm**

Klimawandelanpassung als Herausforderung für die Planung (in German)

Prof. Dr. Stefan Greiving (Technical University Dortmund)

Climate change adaptation is enshrined in law as a separate mandate for action for regions and municipalities at the level of spatial planning and urban land-use planning. There is now a wealth of practical experience in this area, which Prof. Greiving will be reported on in his lecture.

• **Jan. 22, 2025, 5:15 pm**

Landnutzung – von unbeabsichtigten Klimawirkungen zum Einsatz als Klimaschutzmaßnahme (in German)

Prof. Dr. Julia Pongratz (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)

Forestry and agriculture have contributed to one third of historical CO₂ emissions, but also affect climate locally and regionally by changing water and energy flows. The lecture will illustrate the different roles of land use in the past and future and consider the different effects on local and global climate simultaneously.

• **Feb. 5, 2025**

Half-day of teaching

On the half-day of teaching, the lecturers at the department deal intensively with various teaching topics. Workshops are held on topics that are currently of particular interest at the department. The results from the workshops are presented in a final plenary session.

Workshop topics were discussed at the lecturers' meeting in Dec. 2024.

In the afternoon, the „Wissenschaftsladen“ will offer a workshop on „service learning“ this specific form of teaching aims at cooperations with stakeholders from outside university in teaching, e.g. in practicals. The workshop aims at discussing problems that can arise in these partnerships but also highlight the benefits for students, partners – and lecturers.

• **Feb. 8, 2025, 10:00 am**

Science rally around Poppelsdorf

Students between the ages of 13 and 18 are offered an exciting hands-on program at 10 stations on the Campus Poppelsdorf. The Department of Geography will participate with its own station on different topic from human and physical geography as well as geomatics.

► <https://www.uni-bonn.de/de/studium/studienorientierung-und-uni-bonn-entdecken/junge-uni/veranstaltungen-und-wettbewerbe/wissenschaftsrallyes/poppelsdorf>

Save
the
date!

• **Jul. 15/16, 2025**

Department anniversary

2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Geography. This will be celebrated in July 2025 with an interesting program focusing on geography at the University of Bonn in the course of time.

GIUB Summer Party

As part of the department's anniversary, the traditional summer party and graduation ceremony will take place on **July 16** in the afternoon. The summer party is jointly organized with the student council. Everyone, including students, alumni, staff, families and friends, are invited!

Save
the
date!

• Sept. 13-17, 2027

German Congress of Geography Bonn (DKG) 2027

The concrete planning for the German Congress of Geography 2027 has begun: The dates have been set and we are moving on quickly! The conference will mainly take place on the Campus Poppelsdorf. The opening reception will be held in the Bonn Opera House. The Brückenforum Bonn has already been rented for the conference party. Stay tuned and Save the Date!

The annual conference of the German Society for Geomorphology (DGGM) will be part of the DKG in Bonn.

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Newsletter registration

GIUB staff receive newsletter automatically via internal mailing lists
► <https://listen.uni-bonn.de/wws/subscribe/giub-newsletter>