

Prizes for top research

To mark the 50th anniversary of the university's founding, the Universitätsgesellschaft Oldenburg (UGO) decided to double the number of awards for research and doctoral theses. German philologist Thomas Boyken and musicologist Mario Dunkel share the Award for Excellent Research in the category humanities, social and cultural sciences, while Business Information Systems expert Antje Wulff received the same prize in the category of natural sciences, mathematics and medicine. Both awards are endowed with 5,000 euros. In addition, both biologist Jingjing Xu and chemist Lars Mohrhusen received an Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis along with 2,000 euros in prize money.

Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis



The chemist Dr Lars Mohrhusen won the award for his doctoral thesis dealing with defects in titanium oxide (photo)catalysts, a topic which is of broader interest for the function of redox-active oxide catalysts. Mohrhusen studied chemistry at the University of Oldenburg, where he completed his bachelor's degree in 2014 and his master's in 2016. He went on to do his doctorate under Prof. Dr Katharina Al-Shamery in the Nanophotonics and Surface Chemistry group.



The biologist Dr Jingjing Xu received the award for her doctoral thesis, which represents a scientific breakthrough. She demonstrated that migratory birds use quantum mechanical effects to navigate across thousands of kilometres. Xu earned her bachelor's degree in 2012 at the Shandong Institute of Physical Education and her master's in 2015 at the University of the Chinese

Academy of Sciences in Beijing. She then completed her doctorate in Oldenburg, most recently under Prof. Dr Henrik Mouritsen.

Award for Excellent Research



Prof. Dr Mario Dunkel has been teaching and doing research at the Institute of Music since 2017, initially as a junior professor and since March 2023 as Professor of "Music Education". Dunkel received the award for wide-ranging achievements in various areas of music pedagogy research, which also address diversity and intersectional issues, as well as for his extensive international network. Dunkel studied at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta and the TU Dortmund, where he completed his PhD. He has also undertaken several research trips to the USA.



Prof. Dr Thomas Boyken has been teaching and conducting research at the Institute for German Studies since 2019, initially as a junior pro-

fessor and since July 2023 as Professor of "Children's and Youth Literature". He received the award for his innovative approach to the academic study of children's and youth literature as well as for his contribution to knowledge transfer in the region, particularly within the framework of the KIBUM Children's Book Fair. Boyken studied German philology and sports science in Oldenburg, where he also earned his PhD. After that he became a junior lecturer at the University of Tübingen.



Dr Antje Wulff was appointed Junior Professor of "Big Data in Medicine" at the Department of Health Services Research in 2022. She receives the award for her nationally and internationally acclaimed work and pioneering approaches in the field of medical data integration and analysis as well as for the development of clinical decision support systems. Wulff studied business informatics at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University in Stuttgart and at the TU Braunschweig, where she also earned her doctorate.