Dear colleagues, dear students,

End of semester I am reporting current news of SFU research:

Please find a summary of contents relevant for SFU research that was gathered together in our meeting of SFU General Assembly (represented by SFU Linz, SFU Paris, SFU Ljubljana, SFU Berlin and SFU Milano) on March 29th, 2014. On March 25th, 2014 our research meeting took place.

A summary on publication productivity of scientific members of SFU from 2010 to 2013 should inform you about development in this field since point of reaccreditation.

A selection of research funding programmes should provide current information about possibilities in third party funding. I am kindly asking for feedback colleagues who have experienced while processing third party fundings: As we all know, funding applications do take a lot of valuable time into account – whereas exchanging experience might optimize and support the whole process.

Beside all of that we have some news concerning the SFU Research Bulletin / SFU Forschungsbulletin: DOI registration is done. We are now preparing for another medium of publication at the SFU: The “Zeitschrift für freie psychoanalytische Forschung und Individualpsychologie” (“Free Journal of Psychoanalytic and Research and Individual Psychology”) opens up as an Open-Access-Online-Journal of the specific method of Individual Psychology.

New in this edition – we would like to introduce our „Speaker’s Corner“, which shall provide a platform of scientific freedom of expression and discussion. Articles cover authors personal opinion – we would like to invite you to be responsive (response please first at my address) and share personal thoughts and ideas. The opening article is provided by Dr. Gerald Virtbauer.

I wish you a pleasant summer!

Brigitte Sindelar
Vice-Rector of Research

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Meeting Report: SFU General Assembly 29.3.2014

On 29.3.2014 SFU General Assembly was held. The meeting was moderated by Günther Ogris, chairman of the SFU university council, whose contribution led to an efficiency and great effort for the whole meeting.

One of our Agenda points was the strategic planning and coordination of scientific research on our different university locations. Therefore summarized, please find the following scheme of the strategic Science Plan:

![Diagram of strategic science plan]

It has been decided that with beginning winter term 2014/2015 each university location should nominate a research delegate. Tasks of the research delegate will be to coordinate research activities on the specific local SFU as well as open a network in between all SFU locations together with all other nominees of this field. Ongoing exchange between SFU locations should be one of the main focuses of this work.

Beside that it was decided that scientific members of all locations should operate in the function of peer reviewers for the Scientific Bulletin starting with winter term 2014/15. Within the following
weeks all SFU locations will be invited for both – nominating their research delegates as well as report researchers’ availability in acting as peer reviewers. This open ups next newsletter’s topic:

Research Meeting Summer Term 2014 on 25.03.2014

The Usage of Qualification Papers as a Research Resource

On Server H an excel sheet is provided which gives an overview on all done qualification papers (Abschlussarbeiten_Übersicht_Kerndatei) and includes following information:

– Name of Student
– Title of Thesis
– Assignment of Thesis to Current Programme (Bakk. PTW German and English, BSc. Psychology, Mag. PTW German and English, MSc. Psychology, PhD. PTW German and English)
– Link of Synopsis (including supervisor of thesis)
– Thesis Deadline
– Assignment of Thesis to Key Topic
Supervisors of theses can now control which theses refers to which key topics that approximately have already been under research for similar papers and additional get the information of supervisors who are also working in this field of investigation and advise related projects.

The problem was discussed that research projects, which include qualification theses, are conceptualized before handing over the synopsis which might lead to a loss in synergies. Therefore it is advised to check theses database in the state of conceptualization.

Report about Current Research Projects

Univ.Doz. Dr. Brigitte Sindelar

*Psychische Störungen bei Kindern und Jugendlichen: Eine psychotherapiewissenschaftliche Analyse pathogenetischer Modulationen und innerpsychischer Dynamiken in Theorie und Empirie*

(Mental disorders in childhood and adolescence: A psychotherapeutic scientific analysis of pathogenetic modulation and inner-mental dynamics in theory and evidence-base.)

Containing four qualification papers:

Gabriele Holzhofer/ Master-PTW: Am Anfang war die Angst: Angst als störungsübergreifender Parameter bei psychischen Störungen im Kindes- und Jugendlichenalter – eine quantitative empirische Studie


Julia Plecko / Master-PTW: Überforderung in der Erziehung für Lehrer und Eltern als Risikofaktor für psychische Störungen bei Kindern

Maria Trimmel /Bakk-PTW: Die Schule als Entwicklungsrisiko für die seelische Gesundheit von Kindern und Lehrern. Eine Meta-Analyse

*Dr. Karl Golling informs:*

*A psychotherapeutic movie-data-base*

- Dr. Golling connected about 1500 terms of psychotherapy science with about 4000 movie scenes out of 150 movies.
- In these movie scenes descriptive terms appear in matching moments. These terms can be activated in wikipedia, youtube or the like or can be looked up in integrated encyclopedias and reference books.
- By using the search tool movie scenes matching with psychotherapeutic terms can be found
- Subtitles are available for many scenes
- Future planning is to link scenes with diagnostic terms of ICD 10
- This data base is available for students at the computer lab at SFU
SoftFreud4U PI (system for documentation of psychotherapeutic work)

Karl Golling developed a software for research and administration for psychotherapists and psychotherapy trainees. This software is meant to familiarize psychotherapists with research work within everyday treatment practice
- This software is linking scheduling with notes, comments, memos, administration of invoices, guidelines of different psychotherapeutic modalities and many more.
- Questionnaire data can be computerised and easily converted into excel files.
- ICD 10, OPD, etc. are integrated
- Data are stored locally
- This software can be activated by code. Monthly costs: € 15.

Applied psychological mechanisms of governments and major companies in displaying catastrophes, media display of governmental fraud

A small group of students of SFU International Department has been meeting at Dr. Golling’s office from June 2013. They are investigating these topics.

Mag. Dr. Kathrin Mörtl informs about her current research projects

Qualitative research about child-care and child abuse in institutions
In cooperation with the University of Ulm (Child and Youth Psychiatry), as part of a broader multicenter study in Germany
- Expert Interviews
- Focus groups with employees
- Prevention
- Students can be involved in the data analysis (for BA and MA thesis) in this ongoing project

Project is research funded

Research about inclusion: Learning-assistants for children with special needs
In cooperation with the University of Ulm (Child and Youth Psychiatry)

Children with mental and physical challenges can visit regular schools with a so called „Learning-assistant“
- Who are the learning assistants, what are the tasks and which further education is needed
- Interviews with participating actors (learning assistants, teachers, organization staff, children, parents, etc.)

Project is research funded
Planned project for burn-out prevention

In cooperation with the University of Ulm (Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy) as part of a broader multi-center study in Germany

− Evaluation of an intervention of the MAN truck company. 250 employees received six week psychoeducative training on the topic burnout. Now, seven years later, the effects of this training are being evaluated.

Project is research funded

Kathrin Mörtl offers inclusion of students and colleagues who are interested to participate. Teaching and Research: Kathrin Mörtl suggests creating data pools in the future to include multiple workgroups to analyse the same collected data. Here, the question of networking inside SFU is addressed again. Also ethical considerations need to be discussed for future projects.

Dr. in Zopf-Jörchel informs about her current projects in work:

- ICClear, course for Clear Communication
- In assistance to Univ.-Prof. Dr. Eva Dreher: BISOP; preparation of a journal article, Concept – evaluation; four Bsc. theses in psychology are involved
- In cooperation with the field research project in Malawi (guided by Dr. Christine Korischek) Bsc. theses in Psychology will be supervised (note: a paper about the project is included in the actual edition of the SFU Research Bulletin)
- Inter-relation environment/individual: How do individuals shape their home to feel home
- Biographical Ruptures and their Repair: a contribution to the IAP BOOK SERIES: “Advances in Culture Psychology: Constructing Human Development” is in preparation

Univ.Prof. Mag. DDr. Rieken:

Bernd Rieken runs research on the epidemiology of disasters and catastrophes whereas he orientates his work on psychoanalytic-ethnological and interdisciplinary methods. Exemplarily the avalanche catastrophe of Galtür, the mine disaster of Lassing, the nuclear accident of Fukushima, the 9/11 catastrophe or the storm surges of Halling can be named.

Bernd Rieken announces a session for September 2014:

“Erzählen über Katastrophen” (“Narratives of catastrophes”)


Univ.Prof. Dr. Tschuschke

Volker Tschuschke will be the head of the PTW-Master programme at SFU Berlin. He reports about an investigation of 250 patients whose psychotherapeutic sessions were recorded to give a scientific
approach on diversity of psychotherapeutic methodology and impact factors on successful psychotherapy.

Development of Publication Productivity within SFU Research Members

To provide research activities for scientific community publications get listed alphabetically by authors on our research webpage (http://forschung.sfu.ac.at/index.php/publikationen/):

Presentation of publication productivity shown by publication years beginning with 2010 (Only reported publications are taken into account):
Amount of Publications 2010: 56

Amount of Publications 2011: 86
Amount of Publications 2012: 67

Amount of Publications 2013: 60
An expectation for 2014 in the number of publications can be announced, this should be understood as a forecast after collegial sharing of ideas and discussion. A necessity which shall be reached looking forward to the reaccreditation in spring 2015!
Student Research Assistants

As announced in the last newsletter, the rector’s office has granted the assignment of students assisting research projects to improve the University’s output in research. Therefore I also want to mention the compliance of the chancellor, which was of high importance for the project: Students from now on can be employed as student research-assistants in research projects for a certain period of time up to 12 hours a week. Therefore, a motion has to be filed to the head of the department, in which the respective research project as well as the duration of the occupation are mentioned.

In terms of the Vice-Rectorate in research, currently two scientific research assistants are employed. One of them is working as an editorial assistant for the SFU-Research-Bulletin, in which a change of responsibilities took place: The former assistant, Mag. Armin Klaps, is involved in other activities of the University, especially concerning the „MA-40“-Project. The work as an editorial assistant is now attended by Dominik Stefan Mihalits, Bsc., who is studying both psychotherapy and psychology, after proposal by Univ. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Benetka. He soon showed effectiveness in his work by implementing a DOI-arrangement for the articles published in the research-bulletin. The next number of the research-bulletin could be published in English as well, thanks to his excellent handling of the language. There is still the possibility, however, to hand in articles in German. Dominik Mihalits will continue keeping the DOI-Numbers up to date and looking after the research-bulletin’s homepage.

Christoph Bendas, Bsc., who is studying psychology and psychotherapy as well, also is an assistant researcher since June: His field of activities comprises keeping the list of publications on the SFU’s research-website up to date, and including new publications. He therefore will send requests concerning the announcement of new publications to the scientific staff on all locations in steady intervals on my order. Furthermore, Christoph Bendas will be strongly involved in the research project „The impact of visible signs of psychotherapist’s religious confession on psychotherapeutic treatment“, that fortunately showed a strong rate of return, both in electronic and written questionnaires. Currently he is mainly engaged in the second phase of the research project: which means he is working on data processing for analysis.

Both of them assisted essentially in translating this newsletter.

News in SFU-Forschungsbulletin/SFU Research Bulletin

DOI

The efficient work of editorial assistant Dominik Mihalits made it possible to include the SFU Research Bulletin into DOI-Systems.

Information concerning DOI:
Digital Objects can be found in the internet under the address they have been saved with via the respective URL (Uniform Resource Locator). However, finding an object via URL requires the permanent preservation of the address. If a page is recalled, switched to another server, or a server is restructured, the online publication disappears in the world wide web (also see Error 404).

The Doi-System is in usage since 1998. Doi creates a system that identifies an object itself, and not the place where it has been laid off. For making the access to the identified objects possible, the International DOI Foundation (IDF) as host of the DOI-System is offering a system that allocates the current location of the document to the DOI. If the location (that means the URL) of a DOI changes, this has no influence on the DOI. Only the allocation in the DOI-System has to be changed. When addressing a document via DOI, there it gets forwarded via the URL the object can be currently reached at. If the object is situated on several locations, there is an overview of the appendant URLs.

According to the DOI-Foundation, following information is saved: „Our logs collect and store only domain names or IP addresses, dates and times of visits, and the pages visited.“

Example:

DOI 10.1000/182

http://dx.doi.org/10.1000/182

see: http://www.doi.org/
At the moment, there are several Places for the DOI-Registration, each of them extremely varying in the amount of costs:

- Airiti, Inc.
- China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI)
- CrossRef
- DataCite
- Entertainment Identifier Registry (EIDR)
- The Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC)
- Japan Link Center (JaLC)
- Multilingual European DOI Registration Agency (mEDRA)
- Publications Office of the European Union (OP)

The best relation between price and effort is offered by ZB MED: For 150 Euro a year, the SFU has access to up to 500 DOI-Numbers. The SFU has already made an assignment with ZB MED. So please take advantage of this option by handing in scientific publications!

Information concerning ZB MED:

The ZB-Med Leibniz-Information-Centre for „Science of Living“ in Köln together with the national library in Bonn, is the central specialised library for medicine, the health system, as well as the Nutrition-, Agricultural- and Environmental sciences in Germany. It was founded in 1973 and with 1.6 millions of books it is the world's biggest in the area of information sciences. The ZB-MED belongs to the Leibniz-Research association Science 2.0.

More information: http://www.zbmed.de/
Here is an overview about the information a DOI-Number consists of, split up into the single parts:

**Which information does SFU provide by using DOI?**

![Diagram showing the structure of a DOI number]

- **10.15135/13.1.1.4-15**
  - **Year of Edition (ongoing)**
  - **Number of Edition in the current year**
  - **Number of pages in the Edition**
  - **Year of Publication 2013**

Embedded in the contract there also is the allocation of DOI-Numbers for the Journal KAIROS (Slovenian Scientific Journal), and the „Journal for free psychoanalytical and individual-psychological research”, which currently is in preparation, and will represent an open access paper for the psychotherapeutic modality of Individual Psychology at SFU. The first number will be published in the winter term 2014/15 and enlarge the SFU’s presence of publication with a modality-specific journal.
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Next edition (2014/2) is under preparation and expected in August 2014
A Novum in studying Psychotherapie - Research-Points

Studying at the SFU means taking advantage of an education that draws a link between theory and practical experience, so that students can profit of both scientific and practical knowledge. This represents the mission statement of Psychotherapy at the SFU - Psychotherapy in Theory and Practice.

Concerning this goal, Dr. Kathrin Moertl has suggested a strategy to intensify the contact with scientific research for PTW-students in the Conference of the Psychotherapy-Department. As all members of the conference agreed on necessity to intensify this linkage between science and practical work for our students implementation of “research points” was brought through in team work of Jutta Fiegl, Omar Gelo and Brigitte Sindelar, assisted by Alojzija Terbuc. Students that started their studies with September 2013/2014 therefore have to collect so-called „Research-Points“. Those points can be gained through taking part in interviews, filling out questionnaires, taking part in experiments or even at physiological measures.

Invitations for taking part at those different kinds of research are posted in the Forum (http://forum.sfu.ac.at/viewtopic.php?f=300&t=8435) and can be found as announcements on the University as well. Projects have to be ethically approved by the SFU’s ethical commission. Only projects that were proved and classified as suitable can be used to gain the research points.

The number of research points a student gets depends on the amount of time spent with the research: 30 min=0,5 Point, 1 hour=1 Point. The total number of research points students can gain for taking part at a research is up to the respective head of the study.

All in all, students in the bachelors program (B1 to B6) have to collect 12 research-points, students in the master’s program (M1 to M4) have to collect 8 of them. 7 of the 12 research-points that are necessary to gain during the bachelor's program and 5 of the 8 research points for the master's program can be achieved by filling out Assistant Prof. Dr. Fiegls and Univ. Doz. Dr. Gelo’s Questionnaire. It is part of a long-term-study concerning the psychotherapy training at the University.

Research projects that want to include distributions of students and giving them the opportunity to collecting research points can be offered both by the department of psychology and the department of psychotherapy (After the approval of the SFU’s Ethical Commission, the project can be announced at the SFU including the signatures of Ethical Commissions’members and the Ethical Commissions stamp).

With this initiative, our students can intensify their contact with research, and research projects get additional support.
Survey concerning the degree of information about Research-Projects at the SFU

In the next few days you will receive a mail leading you to a short questionnaire. The questions concern your usage of communicating-media in terms of research at the SFU. The questionnaire is anonymous, but you can also sign it with your name at the end of it if you wish to do so. With this questionnaire, I want to evaluate how my activities for improving the flow of information concerning research at the SFU have been successful so far. The number of questionnaires that I get back will also show me the research-staff’s degree of interest in improving communication in matters of research.

As a reminder: Announcement of Publications

I allow myself to remind you that announcing your new publications is obligatory! I kindly ask you to keep up informing me about publications on a steady basis. Please send your publication announcements to my assistant Christoph Bendas (christoph.bendas@sfu.ac.at). The title „Announcement of publication“ in the header of the mail is making our work a lot easier. I ask you to create your references regarding APA Sixth, the current international format for scientific publications. The most comfortable way, as well for the person announcing the publication as for the person keeping the list „up to date“, is using the entry mask, that is included in every Microsoft Word Version up from Word 2007. After saving a file by using the command „Creating Reference List“ the research list is automatically sent if you send the document. This way, the list can be kept accurate without unnecessary effort (in Newsletter Number 4 I posted a „how-to-do“-instruction guided by screenshots-http://forschung.sfu.ac.at/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Newsletter-Forschung-Nummer-4-Dezember-20131.pdf).

Christoph Bendas will constantly send reminders about new publications from September/October 2014 on. He will also post further enquiry if information is missing.

As a reminder: Announcement of Research-Projects

I would also like to raise awareness to the fact that the new research-projects have to be announced as well! I ask you to mail me your new projects with the header of the mail saying: „Announcement of Research-Project“. It is important, that you also tell me about research that currently is in the state of planning. Only this way we can avoid double-tracking and useless work on the same or very
similar projects but use synergies. On the research-website, however, only those projects can be found that are already in a state of conduction or planned to start soon.

The inclusion of a research project on the research website requires the following points:

- Title of the project
- Description of the Project
- Head of the project
- Team working on the project (alphabetically)
- Cooperation Partners (alphabetically)
- Status of the project
- Start of the project
- End of the project
- Contact-Mail

GÖG Meeting: Practice oriented psychotherapeutic science.


Pre-Information: All materials from experts workshop held on 27th November 2012 are accessible online in conference proceedings. It contains speakers’ talks at the meeting in adapted version. A contribution to the difficulties in discussing psychotherapeutic science should be given by adding all materials to conference proceedings. SFU is presented by Diana Braakmann: “Vom klinischen Erkenntnisinteresse zur Konzeptualisierung realistischer Forschungsschritte” (“From clinical knowledge interests to conceptualization of realistic steps of scientific approach”)

http://www.goeg.at/cxdata/media/download/berichte/psychotherapieforschung_wissenschaftliche_beratung_und_vernetzung.pdf

http://www.goeg.at/cxdata/media/download/berichte/psychotherapieforschung_wissenschaftliche_beratung_und_vernetzung_anhang.pdf
Autumn 2014 Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Health Austria GmbH) will organise a meeting for psychotherapeutic science: Please find the advertising text of GÖG-webpage presented here:

„Diese GÖG-Tagung will ein Forum bieten für alle Psychotherapieforschungs- und Ausbildungsinstitutionen sowie für interessierte Forscher/innen in Österreich, um sich auszutauschen und zu vernetzen. Inhalt sind österreichische und internationale Vorträge über Projekte mit aktuellen Methodenansätzen sowie Workshops mit verschiedenen Themenschwerpunkten der Psychotherapieforschung.


SFU has signed in three workshops – we will see whether all or how many of our proposals will be accepted:

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<td><strong>Zur psychotherapeutischen Profession ohne Umwege</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Entwicklung der Auszubildenden während eines berufskalifizierenden Studiums - Psychotherapieausbildung als Entwicklungsprozess</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leitung: Ass.-Prof. Dr. Jutta Fiegl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dieser Workshop widmet sich Fragen zur Psychotherapieausbildung hinsichtlich Eignungskriterien und Persönlichkeitsentwicklung und beleuchtet das Thema sowohl mit qualitativen als auch quantitativen Ergebnissen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In diesem Workshop werden in fünf Vorträgen zur Psychotherapieausbildung folgende Themen referiert:</td>
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<td>1) Ass.-Prof. Dr. Jutta Fiegl und Univ.Doz. Dr. Brigitte Sindelar: Zur psychotherapeutischen Profession ohne Umwege – Entwicklung der Auszubildenden während eines berufskalifizierenden Studiums</td>
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<td>4) Irina Zamfirescu BA pth, Dr. Kathrin Mörtl: Zum Reifebegriff in der Psychotherapieausbildung. Eine qualitative Erhebung aus Expertinnensicht.</td>
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<td>5) Dr. Erzsebeth Toth, Birgitta Schiller und Dr. Kathrin Mörtl: „Ich werde PsychotherapeutIn“. Eine qualitative Erhebung zu Einstellung, Eignung und Erfahrungsprozess in der Psychotherapieausbildung aus Studierendensicht.</td>
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**Workshop B**

**Die Rolle der therapeutischen Beziehung, der Supervision und des Feedbacks in der Psychotherapieausbildung**

Beziehung, Supervision und Feedback in der Psychotherapieausbildung

Leitung: Univ.-Doz. Omar C.G. Gelo

Obwohl die psychotherapeutische Ausbildung eine unverzichtbare Rolle spielt, ist sie noch nicht Gegenstand einer systematischen Reflexion in der Forschung gewesen. Dieser Workshop sammelt drei Beiträge, die den psychotherapeutischen Ausbildungsprozess aus verschiedenen Perspektiven systematisch reflektieren.

1) Univ.-Doz. Omar C.G. Gelo; Mag.a Chiara Dinoi; Elitsa Tilkidzhieva BA pth; Martin Link BA pth

Zeitverlauf der therapeutischen Allianz und deren Zusammenhang mit dem Outcome der psychotherapeutischen Behandlung: Eine vergleichende Studie mit PsychotherapeutInnen unter Supervision

2) Ass.-Prof.in Dr.in Jutta Fiegl und Univ.Doz.in Dr.in Brigitte Sindelar

Über den Tellerrand geschaut: Die Begegnung mit verschiedenen Methoden der Psychotherapie als Ausbildungselement

3) Univ.-Prof. Dr. Thomas Stephenson

Feedback: wer füttert wen womit und wozu? Hochschuldidaktische Aspekte einer „neuen Feedbackkultur“

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Beitrag zum Schwerpunkt | Prozessforschung
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**Workshop C**

**Die Kunst der psychotherapeutischen Beziehung zu Erwachsenen, Kindern und Jugendlichen**

Leitung: Univ.Doz." Dr." Brigitte Sindelar

Übereinstimmung findet sich in Wirksamkeitsstudien hinsichtlich der prioren Bedeutung der psychotherapeutischen Beziehung für den Behandlungserfolg. Dieser Workshop widmet sich der psychotherapeutischen Beziehung, die den psychotherapeutischen Prozess als intersubjektives Geschehen gestaltet.
In diesem Workshop werden in drei Vorträgen zum intersubjektiven Prozess der Psychotherapie folgende Themen referiert:

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| 1) | Univ. Doz. Omar C.G. Gelo; Dr. Tiago Bento; Elitsa Tilkidzhieva BA pth  
Interpersonelle Distanz und therapeutisches Outcome in der Behandlung der Depression |
| 2) | Mag. Katharina Kronsteiner und Univ. Doz. Dr. Brigitte Sindelar  
Wenn der Prozess misslingt: Ergebnisse einer empirischen Studie zu Therapieabbrüchen |
| 3) | Univ. Doz. Dr. Brigitte Sindelar  
Psychotherapie im Triangel: Besonderheiten der psychotherapeutischen Beziehungskompetenz in der Behandlung von Kindern und Jugendlichen |

Information for External Fundings

Databases for science and research promotion:

Grants  [http://www.grants.at/](http://www.grants.at/)

Online database for scholarships and research promotion: grants.at is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF)

Der Förderkompass [http://www.foerderkompass.at/](http://www.foerderkompass.at/)

Der Förderkompass is a service of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvi).

National Forschungsförderungsfonds

**Jubiläumsfonds der Stadt Wien für die Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften**

The Jubiläumsfonds promotes research projects, which are initiated by Viennese scientists, are done by Viennese science institutes, related to Vienna, present and move on with actual scientific development and give new impulses for innovative science projects in Austria. Promotion focuses are on a basis of two years. Focuses 2014/2015 will be announced soon as well as application date. Type of funding: Project funding. Financial volume: At least two projects with a maximum of 80,000 Euros each get promoted.


Since 1966 the Jubiläumsfonds of Austrian National Bank (OeNB) provides financial resources for research projects of top quality in Austria. Research projects from disciplines of economic sciences,
medical sciences with clinical implications as well as projects in social sciences and humanities get promoted. For social sciences and humanities there is no special research focus.

Actual dates:

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<th>Date for submission</th>
<th>Board’s decision meeting</th>
<th>Earliest begin of project</th>
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Speaker’s Corner

Dr. Gerald Virtbauer: It’s time to wake up

Addendum to Characteristics of Buddhist psychology (SFU Research Bulletin 2[1], April 2014, pp. 1–9) following the Buddhism Congress 29 May–1 Jun 2014 at SFU Vienna


Recent statistics (please contact me for references, gerald.virtbauer@sfu.ac.at) report that 25% of British adults meditate, 50% are interested in learning meditation as a means to cope with stress and improve their health, and 75% of the general practitioners (GPs) think that meditation is positive for people with mental health problems. In the US, Canada, and the UK the integration of Buddhism-derived interventions (BDIs) into the health systems started 30 years ago. High-quality research with exponentially growing publication numbers in critical international journals (esp. in the last 15 years) has changed the role of Buddhist thought in Western culture. This is the reason for the current high numbers of Western people interested in meditation. Mindfulness is employed not only in the treatment of mental and physical conditions (e.g., the National Institute of Care Excellence [NICE] recommends mindfulness-based cognitive therapy [MBCT] as a means for relapse prevention in the treatment of severe depression), but reaches out to many other societal institutions – for example, elder care and the school system. Other European countries follow this trend — for example, an important current research project is www.resource-project.org in Germany.

Hardly anything of these movements has reached Austrian academia so far, except for a few ambitious initiatives of individuals. The main reason for this unfortunate delay is the lack of inclusion of meditation and mindfulness research into academic psychology and psychotherapy science. Innovation and up-to-date research, including high-quality Austrian contributions to the current discourses in international journals, as well as projects that envisage the application of mindfulness in society cannot grow without institutional inclusion of this topic. This is a big disadvantage for all students that are interested in these current discourses and would like to be involved in research projects that address this critical area of current transcultural psychological and psychotherapeutic science. In this short comment I can only mention two of the reasons why the importance of meditation and mindfulness in research and teaching should considerably increase at the SFU (I refer to the situation in Vienna):
Present relevance in research and teaching: The probably most evident reason has already been mentioned — to come up to date with the international mindfulness developments and in this way create new resources for networking and collaborations. As a meditation teacher I think that the number of interested people in Austria is growing in a similar fashion to other Western countries. Although numbers such as the British ones above are currently unrealistic, the interest in society in the dialogue between Buddhism and psychology/psychotherapy will steadily continue to grow in the next years.

Job opportunities for graduates: There are many areas in which East-West psychology and psychotherapy plays an important role, including such fields as transcultural coaching and counselling, health psychology, and general well-being and wellness. If there is no academic training for psychologists and psychotherapists that professionally prepares them to guide people in questions related to meditation and mindfulness the danger is high that people that do not have the necessary psychological and/or clinical academic background maintain jobs in these areas. To prevent such a situation mindfulness would have to be a more visible part of the research and teaching culture, which based on my lecturer experience in psychotherapy to date I think is also what most students, who are often very well informed about the international mindfulness developments, wish.

G. Virtbauer
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Forecast

The date for research meeting of the winter term 2014/2015 will be announced in September.