



International Max Planck Research School of the Life Course (LIFE)

Speakers: Jacquelynne S. Eccles (University of Michigan), Ulman Lindenberger (MPI for Human Development), & John R. Nesselroade (University of Virginia)

Overview

The International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) LIFE was founded in 2002. LIFE includes the Max Planck Institute for Human Development (MPIB), the Free University Berlin (FU), the Humboldt-University Berlin (HU), the University of Michigan (UM) and the University of Virginia (UVa).

LIFE focuses on changes in human behavior over time, and connects ontogenetic, institutional, historical, and evolutionary perspectives. It highlights the interaction of individual and institutional changes at different timescales. Most of the predoctoral research fellows pursue their doctorates within psychology, educational science, developmental behavioral neuroscience, life-course sociology, or biology. LIFE gives fellows the opportunity for comparison and integration across disciplines and fields of study.

LIFE promotes international networking, teaching, and communication as an integral part of graduate training. It offers interdisciplinary and international perspectives and membership in a peer-based cohort with a sense of collective and long-term identity.



Spring Academy 2007, Berlin



Commencement Event 2007, Berlin

Berlin Faculty

Jens B. Asendorpf	Psychology (Personality), HU
Jürgen Baumert	Educational Science, MPIB
Hans Bertram	Sociology, HU
Jaap Denissen	Psychology (Personality), HU
Michael Eid	Psychology (Methods & Evaluation), FU
Peter Frensch	Psychology (General), HU
Gerd Gigerenzer	Psychology (Behavioral, Ecological), MPIB
Peter Hammerstein	Biology (Theoretical), HU
Arthur Jacobs	Psychology (General, Neurocognition), FU
Gerd Kempermann	Neuroscience, Center for Regenerative Therapies Dresden
Martin Kohli	Sociology, FU/EUI
Olaf Köller	Psychology (Educational), Institute for Educational Progress
Rainer H. Lehmann	Educational Science, HU
Ulman Lindenberger	Psychology (Developmental), MPIB
Shu-Chen Li	Psychology (Developmental), MPIB
Hans Merckens	Educational Science, FU
Herbert Scheithauer	Psychology (Developmental), FU
Florian Schmiedek	Psychology (Developmental), HU
Lael Schooler	Psychology (Behavioral, Ecological), MPIB
Ralf Schwarzer	Psychology (Health), FU
C. Katharina Spieß	Educational Science,
Clemens Tesch-Römer	Psychology/Gerontology, German Centre for Gerontology
Ulrich Trautwein	Educational Science, MPIB
Arno Villringer	Neuroscience, Berlin Neuroimaging Center
Gert G. Wagner	Economics, German Institute for Economic Research
Oliver Wilhelm	Psychology (Educational), HU

Program

The LIFE training program is characterized by four core components:

- (1) spring and fall academies;
- (2) seminar courses at the participating institutions;
- (3) research stay abroad at a cooperating institution;
- (4) collaborative supervision of research training.

The program also includes optional workshops and colloquium series.

Spring and Fall Academies

A central element of the LIFE program are two week-long academies each year in which fellows and faculty from each university participate. Academies consist of three components: faculty instruction, presentation of dissertation proposals with faculty advice, and collegial exchange between faculty and fellows. In general, LIFE fellows attend four consecutive academies.

Berlin Seminars

Each semester, LIFE Berlin offers a seminar on topics that are designed to give a broad coverage of research and theory in psychology, education, developmental neuroscience, biology, and economics/sociology of the life course. The seminars are held at the MPI for Human Development and are taught throughout the academic year by faculty from the three Berlin institutions and invited external lecturers.

Research Stay Abroad

LIFE Fellows have the opportunity to spend up to three months at one of the other cooperating institutions in order to engage in collaborative research and obtain supervision and feedback from LIFE faculty at the partner institutions.

Name of Fellow	Faculty Mentor Abroad	Time Period
Andreas Wilke (MPIB)	B. S. Low (UM)	May-Aug 03
Rui Mata (MPIB)	P. Reuter-Lorenz (UM)	May-July 03
Jaap Denissen (HU)	J. Eccles (UM)	March-May 04
Katherine L. Fiori (UM)	J. Smith (MPIB)	April-June 04
Jessica L. Garrett (UM)	J. Baumert, U. Trautwein (MPIB)	May-June 04
Andreas Wilke (MPIB)	D. Kruger (UM)	Aug 04
Guido Biele (MPIB)	R. Gonzalez (UM)	Febr-May 05
Robert Gaschler (HU)	D.B. Willingham, M. Kubovy, J. Nesselroade (UVa)	April-May 05
Nilam Ram (UVa)	S.-C. Li, J. Smith (MPIB)	May 05
Michaela Gummerum (MPIB)	J. DeLoache, J. Haidt (UVa)	June-July 05
Nilam Ram (UVa)	S.-C. Li, J. Smith (MPIB)	Aug 05
Judith Lehnart (HU)	J. Eccles (UM)	Sept-Oct 05
Robert Gaschler (HU)	D. Willingham, J. Nesselroade (UVa)	Oct-Nov 05
Nilam Ram (PennState)	U. Lindenberger (MPIB)	Jan-Aug 07
Jutta Mata (MPIB)	J. Eccles (UM)	Jan-March 07
Bettina v. Helversen (MPIB)	R. Gonzalez (UM)	Febr-March 07
Elliot Tucker-Drob (UVa)	U. Lindenberger (MPIB), Florian Schmiedek (HU)	May-July 07
Daniel C. Vasquez (HU)	J. Eccles, Kai Cortina (UM)	Oct-Dec 07
K. Paige Harden (UVa)	U. Trautwein (MPIB)	April-May 08
Sarah Galloway (UVa)	U. Trautwein (MPIB)	March-May 08

The International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) - a cooperation between Max Planck Institutes and universities - are conceived as centers of excellence in research training at the pre-doctoral level. Their particular focus is on international collaboration and networking. LIFE is the only IMPRS having an institutionalized cooperation with two U.S. institutions as equal partners fully participating in the program.



Max Planck Institute for
Human Development
Humboldt University
Free University



Ann Arbor
University of
Michigan
Charlottesville
University of
Virginia

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On-going Dissertations: Current Berlin Fellows and Their Dissertation Projects

Karen Bartling, MPI:	Maternal Affect Attunement and its Influence on the Development of the Infant's Sensitivity to Synchrony and Asynchrony in the Mother-Child Interaction
Michael Becker, MPI:	Development of Cognitive Abilities in the Context of Differential School Learning Environments
Tobias Bothe-Hutschenreuter, HU:	Accounting for Individual Differences in Financial Old-Age Provision Through Maximum Behavior, Typical Response, and Life Data
Annette Brose, MPI:	Intra-Individual Variability in Cognitive Performance: Relations to Events, Regulatory Processes and Mood in Younger and Older Adulthood
Agniezka Zofia Burzynska, MPI:	Adult Age Differences in Brain Structural Connectivity and their Cognitive Functional Implications
Daniel Caro Vasquez, HU:	Achievement Gaps Associated with SES in Hamburg Schools: How Do They Change as Students Get Older?
Gaschler, Robert, HU:	Cognitive Bases of Information Reduction in Skill Acquisition
Bettina von Helversen, MPI:	Models of Quantitative Estimation in Multiple Cue Judgment Tasks
Ina Herbrich, DZA:	Affect, Social Relationships, and Health in Later Life
Cornelia Gresch, MPI:	The Transition from Primary to Secondary School in Immigrant Families. The Decision-Making Process against the Background of Institutional Settings
Fanny Jimenez, HU:	Regulating Distance and Closeness in Relationships: The Case of Long-Distance Couples
Kathrin Jonkmann, MPI:	Social Dynamics in the Classroom
Dana Kotter-Grühn, MPI:	The Transformation of Life-Goals into Life-Longings: The Case of Involuntary Childlessness
Julia Krebs, MDC:	Hippocampal Neurogenesis across the Lifespan
Jutta Mata, FU:	Food for Thought: Adding Cognition to the Puzzle of Eating and Overweight
Peter Mohr, MPI:	Neural Foundations of Lifespan Changes in Financial Decision Making
Sofia Morais, MPI:	Ecological Rationality and Categorization Models
Irene Nagel, MPI:	Dopaminergic Neuromodulation in Cognitive Aging: Adult Age Differences in Neuronal Correlates of Working Memory and their Modulation by Genetic Factors
Wiebke Neberich, HU:	Distance Regulation in Couples across Adulthood
Tabea Reuter, FU:	Health Behavior Change across the Lifespan
Dirk Richter, MPI:	Professional Development of Beginning Mathematics Teachers in Germany
Dennis Rüniger, HU:	The Emergence of Conscious Awareness in Incidental-Learning Situations
Yee Lee Shing, MPI:	Lifespan Age Differences in Episodic Memory: Separating Strategic and Associative Components
Nils Straubinger, MPI:	External Representations in Probabilistic Reasoning across Age Groups
Yi-Miau Tsai, MPI:	Intraindividual Change in Student Motivation across Different Contexts
Markus Werkle-Bergner, MPI:	Binding Processes across the Lifespan: An Electroencephalographic Investigation
Julius Verrel, MPI:	Sensorimotor-Cognitive Interactions across the Lifespan
Imke Vollmar, MDC:	Psychosocial Influences on Adult Neurogenesis in the Dentate Gyrus
André Weinreich, HU:	Age Differences in Affective Evaluation: The Affective Priming Paradigm

Completed Dissertations: Alumni's Dissertation Topics and Current Positions

LIFE Alumni	Dissertation Title	Current Position	LIFE Alumni	Dissertation Title	Current Position
Guido Biele (MPIB/FU)	No Man is an Island: Cooperation Groups and Social Learning	Postdoc MPIB	Rui Mata (MPIB/FU)	The Aging Decision Maker: Cognitive Aging and the Use of Decision Strategies	Postdoc UM
Yvonne Brehmer (MPIB/HU)	Episodic Memory Plasticity across the Lifespan	Postdoc Karolinska Institutet Stockholm	Emily Messersmith (UM)	Longitudinal Correlates of Changing Educational Expectations During the Transition to Adulthood	Postdoc University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Jaap Denissen (HU)	Understanding and Being Understood: The Impact of Intelligence and Dispositional Valuations on Social Relationships	Junior Professor Humboldt-University	Andrea Müller (MPIB/FU)	Barriers to Reaching Proficiency in School-Related Language among Second Language Learners	German Youth Institute
Natalie Ebner (MPIB/FU)	Striving for Gains and Preventing Losses: Multi-Method Evidence on the Differences in Personal Goal Orientation in Early and Late Adulthood	Postdoc Yale University	Gabriel Nagy (MPIB/FU)	Berufliche Interessen, kognitive & fachbezogene Kompetenzen: Ihre Bedeutung für Studienfachwahl und Studienerfolg	Postdoc MPIB
Katherine L. Fiori (UM)	Social Relations and Health Among Older Adults: A Cross-Cultural and Pattern-Centered Approach	Postdoc Long Island University	Pablo Nepomnaschy (UM)	Stress and Female Reproduction in a Rural Mayan Population	Postdoc National Institute of Health
Jessica Garrett (UM)	Motivation in the Transition to Adulthood	Postdoc UM	Thorsten Pachur (MPIB/FU)	Ecological Rationality: Do Samples in Memory Reflect the World?	Assistant Professor Basel University
Michaela Gummerum (MPIB/FU)	The Development of Prosocial Behavior: Integrating Psychological, Economic, and Evolutionary Perspectives	Assistant Professor University of Plymouth	Lars Penke (HU)	Approaches to an Evolutionary Personality Psychology: The Case of Sociosexuality	Postdoc University of Edinburgh
Stefanie Gundert (MPIB/FU)	Befristete Beschäftigungsverhältnisse bei Berufsanfängern und älteren Arbeitnehmern	Postdoc Yale University	Nilam Ram (UVa)	Emphasizing Individuality in Developmental Models of Change	Assistant Professor Penn State University
Jung-Hwa Ha (UM)	Determinants and Consequences of Changing Social Support Following Late Life Widowhood	Research Associate University of Wisconsin	Christina Röcke (MPIB/FU)	Intraindividual Variability in Positive and Negative Affect: Age-Related and Individual Differences in Magnitude and Coupling with Cognitive Performance	Postdoc University of Zurich
Nicole Hess (HU)	Informational Warfare: Female Friendship and the Coalitional Manipulation of Reputation	Assistant Professor Washington State U	Sabine Schäfer (MPIB/FU)	Concurrent Cognitive and Sensorimotor Performance. A Comparison of Children and Young Adults	Research Scientist MPIB
Rainer Heuer (FU)	Politik in der Familie: Macht in Generationenbeziehungen des mittleren und höheren Alters anhand des Falls körperlicher Einbußen der Eltern	Research Scientist MPI for Demographic Research, Rostock	Karen Siedlecki (UM)	Episodic Memory and the Retrieval of Information across the Adult Lifespan	Postdoc Columbia University
Oliver Huxhold (MPIB/FU)	Processing Fluctuations in Postural Control: Relations to Adult Age and Fluctuations in Cognition	German Centre of Gerontology	Tih-Fen Ting (UM)	Human Reproductive Ecology in Revolutionary China	Assistant Professor U of Illinois at Springfield
Helen Krumme (FU)	Parent-Adult Child Relationships in Later Life: A Comparative Study on Migrant and Non-Migrant Families in Germany	Research Scientist Social Science Research Center Berlin	Rebecca Utz (UM)	Obesity in America, 1960-2000	Assistant Prof U of Utah
Christina Limbird (FU)	Phonological Processing, Verbal Abilities, and Second Language Literacy Development among Bilingual Turkish Children in Germany	School Psychologist, Berlin Brandenburg International School	Andreas Wilke (MPIB/FU)	Evolved Responses to an Uncertain World	Postdoc UCLA
Jamie Mangold (UVa)	The Effects of Prenatal Sodium Restriction on Plasticity and Development of Gustatory Brainstem Anatomy and Taste-Related Behavior	S.C. Johnson and Son	Nicole Zarrett (UM)	The Dynamic Relation between Out-of-School Activities and Adolescent Development	Postdoc Tufts University