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## Upcoming Events

<b>Fri, 31 Jan</b> 11:15	<b>NC<sup>3</sup> Seminar Series</b> Viktoria Siewert (Behavioural Biology, University of Münster) <i>Seminar Room VHF-210, Department of Animal Behaviour, Bielefeld University</i> <a href="#">» More details</a>
<b>Fri, 31 Jan</b> 14:00	<b>Individualisation Lecture</b> Brent W. Roberts (Personality Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) <i>Lecture Hall H9, Universitätsstr. 25, Bielefeld University</i> <a href="#">» More details</a>
<b>Tue, 25 Mar</b> 09:30	<b>Individualisation Symposium</b> Integrating human and animal research <i>ZiF – Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Methoden 1, Bielefeld University</i> <a href="#">» More details</a>

## Open Calls & Deadlines

### Individualisation Symposium 2025

25 March 2025

The Joint Institute for Individualisation in a Changing Environment (JICE), the collaborative research association InChangE and the Transregional Collaborative Research Centre CRC/TRR 212 NC<sup>3</sup> cordially invite all interested persons to the fourth issue of the interdisciplinary Individualisation Symposium at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University on Tuesday, 25 March 2025.

The event brings together researchers from various disciplines of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to facilitate the discourse on current findings and new perspectives in individualisation research across disciplinary boundaries.

This year's symposium is dedicated to *integrating human and animal research* – with a particular focus on *transitional periods and turning points across the lifespan*.

#### Plenary Talks

Ingela Alger (Evolutionary Economics, Université Toulouse Capitole)  
Michael H. Goldstein (Developmental Psychobiology, Cornell University)  
Barbara Natterson-Horowitz (Cardiology & Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University & UCLA)

#### Active participation

There will be the opportunity to present and discuss one's own scientific contribution to exploring causes, mechanisms and consequences of individualisation as a talk or a poster at the symposium.

#### Abstract submission deadline

23 February 2025

[» More details](#)

### Individualisation Symposium – Travel Grants

To support participation of early and mid-career researchers (master's students to postdocs) at the Individualisation Symposium, the JICE offers travel grants of up to 1,000 €.

#### Application deadline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the total funding volume has been expended.

[» More details](#)

### JICE Visiting Fellowships

The JICE offers *Visiting Fellowships* to outstanding scientists from all over the world for enabling them to engage in exchange and to collaborate within the interdisciplinary research environment of the JICE. The *Visiting Fellowships* will be granted for research stays of up to three months, during which the *Visiting Fellows* contribute to advancing individualisation research.

[» More details](#)

# Latest News

## ‘The debate on animal experiments is anything but differentiated’

29 January 2025

In a recent publication, JICE members Prof Dr Helene Richter, Prof Dr Melanie Dammhahn and Prof Dr Sylvia Kaiser from the University of Münster and Prof Dr Barbara Caspers from Bielefeld University call for a more nuanced view of animal experiments. In two interviews, they describe which challenges scientists face, why animal experiments are necessary and how a more differentiated assessment of research with and on animals could look like.

- » [Interview with Prof Dr Barbara Caspers by Bielefeld University \[de\]](#)
- » [Interview with Prof Dr Helene Richter and Prof Dr Melanie Dammhahn by the University of Münster \[de\]](#)
- » [Original publication in Trends in Ecology & Evolution \(TREE\)](#)

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## ‘We want to use AI to improve communication in medical treatment’

14 January 2025

The Volkswagen Foundation is funding the new research project 'Personalization TrAlning in Medicine (PerTRAIN) – Integrating State-of-the-Art Personalized Knowledge and Technologies into Medical Education' by JICE member Prof Dr Mitja Back with nearly 1.5 million euros. As part of the initiative ‘Change! Research Groups', the foundation brings researchers together with non-scientific partners to identify causes of societal problems and find practical solutions.

In cooperation with Prof Dr Bernhard Marschall from the University Hospital Münster and Dr Ulrich Burgbacher from the it company tapdo technologies, the funded project aims to develop a training programme for personalised communication with the help of AI-generated language models and integrate it into medical education. This aspect is currently insufficiently addressed in this context, although the ability of doctors to recognise different patient personalities, to reflect on them and to communicate adequately with them is crucial for sustainable treatment.

- » [Interview with Prof Dr Mitja Back by the University of Münster \[de\]](#)
- » [Press release by the Volkswagen Foundation \[de\]](#)

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## Research Prize of the University of Münster goes to Udo Dannlowski

10 January 2025

At the traditional New Year's reception of the University of Münster, the physician and JICE member Prof Dr Dr Udo Dannlowski received the Research Prize 2024 for his excellent, internationally recognised research. The prize is awarded every two years and is worth 30,000 euros, with which the Rectorate supports the research of the winner.

Udo Dannlowski is Director of the Institute for Translational Psychiatry at the University of Münster and the Section for Transitional Psychiatry at the Department of Mental Health at the University Hospital Münster. His research interests include functional and structural imaging as well as affective disorders such as depression. The jury emphasised his innovative research in the field of machine learning, which has reshaped psychiatric research, as well as his publications in renowned international journals, which demonstrate the high relevance of his scientific work for the research field of mental disorders. Additionally, he acts as a role model and mentor for many early career researchers.

- » [Press release by the University of Münster \[de\]](#)
- » [Video: Research Prize 2024 \[de\]](#)

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## Fish study shows infection alters sleep

4 November 2024

It’s a well-known fact that if you don’t get enough sleep, you’re more likely to get sick. And it has also been observed that people sleep differently when they’re infected. Led by JICE members, a team from the Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity at the University of Münster has now investigated how a parasite infection affects the immune system and sleep in three-spined sticklebacks infected with their natural parasite, the tapeworm. One conclusion was that infected fish sleep longer after infection than their uninfected counterparts. However, the team only observed this difference one month after infection. In the first few days, there were virtually no differences. The results should help to deepen our understanding of the interactions between macroparasite infections, sleep and the immune response.

- » [Press release by the University of Münster](#)
- » [Original publication in Scientific Reports](#)

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## Plant chemicals shape animal social lives

21 October 2024

A study published in the *Journal of Animal Ecology* by researchers from Bielefeld University reveals that certain plant compounds, from non-food plants that then affect the social behavior and lifespan of the turnip sawfly (*Athalia rosae*). Led by Dr Pragya Singh, a postdoctoral researcher in the Collaborative Research Center Transregio 212 in the Chemical Ecology group, the team investigated how the consumption of specific non-nutritional plant-derived chemicals, known as clerodanoids, alters social networks within sawfly populations while simultaneously shortening the insects’ lifespan. These findings provide valuable insights into plant-animal interactions and social networks in ecology.

- » [Press release by Bielefeld University](#)
  - » [Original publication in the Journal of Animal Ecology](#)
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# Social interactions may accelerate evolution

10 October 2024

How do animal species develop evolutionarily? Researchers usually predict this by studying a species' genes and the environment in which it lives. However, new research highlights a key factor that is often overlooked: social interactions, in which the genes of other individuals play an important role in shaping the environment an animal experiences. Researchers from the Collaborative Research Center Transregio 212 and the British Universities of Aberdeen and Exeter collaborated on the study, which was published in *Evolution Letters*.

» [Press release by Bielefeld University \[de\]](#)  
» [Original publication in \*Evolution Letters\*](#)

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## InChangE Summer School 2024

16–19 September 2024

Rapid environmental changes are visible everywhere: physically in the context of climate change, socially in the context of changing living conditions, and as societal changes in the context of life histories. These changes present a challenge in that individuals must continually respond to the changing environment.

The third issue of the InChangE Summer School took an interdisciplinary perspective from natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to address how individuals deal with such changing environmental conditions and what consequences these changes have for individualisation. Together with invited speakers, the participants had the opportunity to present their research, to attend a workshop and to discuss their thoughts and ideas addressing changing environments.

### Many thanks to all participants and invited speakers:

Barbara Caspers (*Behavioural Ecology, Bielefeld University*)  
Patricia Meyer (*Lukas Bischof Higher Education*)  
Chiara Pierobon (*European Studies, University of Washington*)  
Andreas Sudmann (*Media Studies, University of Bonn*)

» [More details](#)

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## New Publications

Bauhus MB, Mews S, Kurtz J, Brinker A, Peuß R, Anaya-Rojas JM (2024): Tapeworm infection affects sleep-like behavior in three-spined sticklebacks. *Scientific Reports* 14, 23395. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-73992-7>

Brandler T, Chakarov N (2024): Mitochondrial and apicoplast genome copy abundances of haemosporidian parasites are explained by host species and parasitic lineage. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 12, 1305418. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2024.1305418>

Brüggemann L, Singh P, Müller C (2025): Life stage- and sex-specific sensitivity to nutritional stress in a holometabolous insect. *Ecology and Evolution* 15, e70764. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.70764>

Damas-Moreira I, Szabo B, Drosopoulos G, Stober C, Lisičić D, Caspers BA (2024): Smarter in the city? Lizards from urban and semi-natural habitats do not differ in a cognitive task in two syntopic species. *Current Zoology* 70, 361–370. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cz/zoae010>

Erixon F, Eccard JA, Huneke R, Dammhahn M (2024): A behavioral syndrome of competitiveness in a non-social rodent. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 78, 98. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-024-03510-2>

Farkhari F, Scharbert J, Kroencke L, Schwarzer C, Koch JF, ..., Back MD (2025): Right-wing authoritarianism and perceptions that minoritized groups pose a threat: The moderating roles of individual- and country-level religiosity and marginalization. *British Journal of Social Psychology* 64, e12830. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjso.12830>

Frankenberg SR, Lucas S, Feigin CY, Doronina L, Steffen R, ..., Pask AJ (2025): Unearthing the secrets of Australia's most enigmatic and cryptic mammal, the marsupial mole. *Science Advances* 11, eado4140. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.ado4140>

Fischer K, Chakarov N (2024): Genetic intrapopulation sizes in blood parasites: a pilot quantification of the bottleneck in louse fly vectors. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 12, 1319829. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2024.1319829>

Gilles M, Zefania S, Mijoro TJ, Cuthill IC, Székely T, Caspers, BA (2024): Can chicks smell their parents? No evidence of olfactory parent recognition in a shorebird. *Animal Behaviour* 217, 133–143. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2024.08.007>

Grunenberg E, Stachl C, Breil SM, Schäpers P, Back MD (2024): Predicting and explaining assessment center judgments: A cross-validated behavioral approach to performance judgments in interpersonal assessment center exercises. *Human Resource Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hrm.22252>

Gutiérrez-López R, Ferraguti M, Bodawatta KH, Chagas CRF, Chakarov N, ..., Dunn JC (2024) The Wildlife Malaria Research network (WIMANET): Meeting report on the 1st WIMANET workshop. *International Journal for Parasitology and Wildlife* 25, 100989. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijppaw.2024.100989>

Hench K, Vendrami DLJ, Forcada J, Hoffman JI (2024): Refinement of the Antarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*) reference genome increases continuity and completeness. *G3 Genes|Genomes|Genetics*, jkae179. <https://doi.org/10.1093/g3journal/jkae179>

Hoffman JI, Vendrami DLJ, Hench K, Chen RS, Stoffel MA, ..., Dasmahapatra KK (2024): Genomic and fitness consequences of a near-extinction event in the northern elephant seal. *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-02533-2>

Kuper N, Andresen PK, Beck ED, Costantini G, Hamaker EL, ..., Zimmermann J (2024): From persons to general principles: Methodological decisions for idiographic and nomothetic research. *European Journal of Personality*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08902070241278020>

Kuper N, Ernesti L, Modersitzki N, Phan LV, Rauthmann JF (2024): Distinctions without differences? Effects of instruction sets for situation characteristic ratings. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1015-5759/a000867>

Lamartinière EB, Tremble K, Dentinger BTM, Dasmahapatra KK, Hoffman JI (2024): Runs of homozygosity reveal contrasting histories of inbreeding across global lineages of the edible porcini mushroom, *Boletus edulis*. *Molecular Ecology* 33, e17470. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.17470>

Langthaler PB, Gladow KP, Krüger O, Beck J (2024): A novel method for nonparametric statistical inference for niche overlap in multiple species. *Biometrical Journal* 66, e202400013. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bimj.202400013>

Nagel R, Pohle K, Jordán L, Tuponja I, Stainfield C, ..., Hoffman JI (2024): Life-history stage influences immune investment and oxidative stress in response to environmental heterogeneity in Antarctic fur seals. *Communications Biology* 7, 788. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-024-06499-6>

Pereira H, Chakarov N, Caspers BA, Gilles M, Jones W, ..., Krüger O, Hoffman JI (2024): The gut microbiota of three avian species living in sympatry. *BMC Ecology and Evolution* 24, 144. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12862-024-02329-9>

Pereira H, Chakarov N, Hoffman JI, Rinaud T, Ottensmann M, ..., Caspers BA, ..., Krüger O (2024): Early-life factors shaping the gut microbiota of Common buzzard nestlings. *Animal Microbiome* 6, 27. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42523-024-00313-8>

Pereira H, Hoffman JI, Krüger O, Czirják GÁ, Rinaud T, ..., Caspers BA, ..., Kaiser S, Chakarov N (2024): The gut microbiota-immune-brain axis in a wild vertebrate: dynamic interactions and health impacts. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 15, 1413976. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2024.1413976>

Peters M, Ratz T, Muellmann S, Voelcker-Rehage C, Lippke S, Pischke, CR (2024): Which social–ecological factors play a role in older adults’ participation in a blended physical activity intervention? Results of a multi-layered feedback analysis. *Journal of Public Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10389-024-02322-y>

Pietsch N, Chen CY, Kupsch S, Bacmeister L, Geertz B, Herrera-Rivero M, ..., Carrier L (2024): Chronic activation of tubulin tyrosination improves heart function. *Circulation Research* 135, 910–932. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.124.324387>

R R, Prüser T, Schulz NKE, Mayer PMF, Ogueta M, Stanewsky R, Kurtz J(2024): Deciphering a beetle clock: Individual and sex-dependent variation in daily activity patterns. *Journal of Biological Rhythms* 39, 484–501. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07487304241263619>

Richter SH, Caspers BA, Dammhahn M, Kaiser S (2024): Animal research revisited – the case of behavioural studies. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2024.11.014>

Riyahi S, Liebermann-Lilie ND, Jacobs A, Korsten P, Mayer U, Schmoll T (2024): Transcriptomic changes in the posterior pallium of male zebra finches associated with social niche conformance. *BMC Genomics* 25, 694. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-024-10573-y>

Sasidharan R, Grond S, Champion S, Eilers E, Müller C (2024): Intraspecific plant chemodiversity at the individual and plot levels influences flower visitor groups with consequences for germination success. *Functional Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.14673>

Schmid HL, Nowak AC, Oeljeklaus L, McCall T, Hornberg C, Caspers BA, Zerbe S (2024): Greenspaces of psychiatric clinics and patient perceptions: A mixed-methods exploration. *People and Nature* 6, 1379–1712. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10671>

Schneider S, Spormann SS, Morf CC, Back MD, Mokros A, Jauk E (2025): The Hypersensitive Narcissism Scale: Updated and extended construct validation in community samples using a newly constructed German version. *Psychological Assessment* 37, 17–32. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001354>

Singh P, Schweiger R, Müller C (2024): Niche realisation processes in insects: the impact of global change and relevance of individualisation. *Entomologia Generalis* 44, 1377–1391. <https://doi.org/10.1127/entomologia/2024/2753>

Ziaja D, Müller C (2025): Intraspecific and intra-individual chemodiversity and phenotypic integration of terpenes across plant parts and development stages in an aromatic plant. *Plant Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/plb.13763>

## About JICE

The Joint Institute for Individualisation in a Changing Environment (JICE) is an interdisciplinary research centre founded by Bielefeld University and the University of Münster. It unites researchers investigating individualisation processes in changing environments and promotes interdisciplinary research bridging natural sciences, social sciences and humanities with the aim to develop a comprehensive understanding across disciplines and species.

The JICE builds on the [Transregional Collaborative Research Centre CRC/TRR 212 NC<sup>3</sup>](#), in which biologists and philosophers have been working on a new synthesis of individualisation since 2018. In addition, the [collaborative research association InChangeE](#), funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia as part of the programme “Profilbildung 2020”, is based at the JICE – investigating causes, mechanisms and consequences of individualisation by linking various disciplines such as biology, philosophy, sociology, economics, psychology, geoinformatics, psychiatry and health sciences.



More information and current news about the JICE can be found online:



If you would like to share information or announcements via the newsletter or have any further questions, please get in touch with us: [contact@jice.info](mailto:contact@jice.info)

With the newsletter, we would like to keep you posted about news and events concerning the JICE. If you do not wish to receive it any longer, please send us an e-mail or unsubscribe from the mailing list using the following link: <https://listserv.uni-muenster.de/mailman/listinfo/jice-info>