

## Diploma and Master's Theses<sup>\*</sup>

### **Getting Started**

Students who are interested in developmental psychology are welcome to work on their diploma theses at the Department of Developmental Psychology / Center for Applied Developmental Science (DP/CADS). Students may come to us without prior affiliation to the DP/CADS, or they may already be working in a research project at the DP/CADS - they are always welcome.

### **Choosing a Topic and Writing a Proposal**

In a diploma thesis, students show that they are able to work on a research question related to human development across the life span using scientific methods. Students may choose a topic based on their own ideas or inspired by ongoing research at the DP/CADS and refine it through discussions with their potential advisor(s). As a next step in the process, students work on a diploma thesis proposal, which is reviewed several times by their advisor(s) and revised accordingly by the students.

### **Ongoing Support**

Diploma students are advised by senior scientists (often Head of the Department and research associates at the DP/CADS) who provide continuous feedback and support. We also lay particular emphasis on sound methodological support, which includes help with statistical questions. Students usually present their work twice at our weekly research colloquium where they receive constructive feedback from other colloquium participants – diploma students, doctoral students, assistant and full professors at the DP/CADS. Furthermore, diploma students can use all literature at the DP/CADS.

### **Promoting Competencies**

We aim to promote expert as well as general competencies in our diploma students. This includes all skills necessary to conduct own independent research, but also personal skills including communication skills and social competencies. We lay particular emphasis on encouraging independence and responsibility in our students.

### **International and Interdisciplinary Exchange**

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<sup>\*</sup> In the following we refer to diploma theses and diploma students. All information also apply to master's theses and master students.

The DP/CADS are involved in a variety of interdisciplinary and international cooperation projects. Students who are interested hence have many opportunities to gain experiences and broaden their horizon. For example, they may apply to the exchange program with Pennsylvania State University (International Study- and Training Partnership sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service). Furthermore, various projects at the DP/CADS are part of large interdisciplinary and international research consortia and also offer student assistant positions: (1) DFG SFB 580 Research Consortium "Social developments after structural change" with sociologists and economists from Jena and Halle, (2) DFG Priority Program "Panel Analysis of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics" with psychologists and sociologists at different German universities (e.g., Mannheim, Bremen, München, Bern, Bamberg), and (3) BMBF Research Consortium "Migration and Societal Integration" with psychologists and sociologists at universities in Germany (Bielefeld, Chemnitz, Leipzig, Mannheim) and Israel (Haifa, Tel Aviv). Finally, DP/CADS regularly invite visiting scholars and work together with researchers at various institutions including Pennsylvania State University, Tufts University, City University London, University of California, Irvine, and the University of Turin.

### **Finishing the Thesis and Starting Your Career**

Before finishing their thesis, students receive particularly dense support. After graduation, they can count on continued support regarding their future career course. We support students who are interested in presenting findings from their diploma thesis at conferences and/or publish them. Furthermore, interested graduates are encouraged to apply for a Ph.D. training position at the DP/CADS or other research institutions. We also maintain many relations to various employers outside of university and can get students into contact with them and write recommendations. Finally, we happily support students in writing applications, for example for scholarships.

## Our Current Diploma Students

**Sebastian Bonitz.** Born 1985. Studies psychology (diploma) at the university Jena. Research interests: diagnostic test procedures, interindividual differences in achievement motivation and intelligence in primary school, effects of rating in achievement motivation of children.

**Anika Fäsche.** Born 1983. Studies psychology (diploma) at the university Jena. Research stages: Pennsylvania State University, USA. Research interests: Consequences of pubertal timing in young adulthood, Promotion of positive development and prevention of problem behaviour in childhood and youth, community-based programs for prevention and intervention.

**Christina Grünbaum.** Born 1984. Studies psychology (diploma) at the University of Jena. Research stages: Pennsylvania State University, USA. Research interests: Risk factors for problem behavior in childhood and adolescence, influences on normative and positive development, prevention of problem behavior and promotion of positive development. Research group on promotion of positive development and prevention of problem behaviors.

**Monique Landberg.** Born 1984. Studies psychology (diploma) at the University of Jena. Research stages: University of Bern, Switzerland. Research interests: Individual and social resources for coping with social change: Development and psychosocial effects.

**Susann Noatnick.** Born 1983. Studies psychology (diploma) at the University of Jena. Research stages: Pennsylvania State University, USA. Research interests: Acculturation and development, delinquency, agency.

## Some of our Former Diploma Students

**Houda Algandouzi.** Diploma thesis: Evaluation of the life-skills program TimeWise in middle-tier schools in Thuringia. Now project manager Ashoka Youth Venture Berlin.

**Sabine Büttig.** Diploma thesis: Consequences of differences in pubertal timing in girls – A follow-up study. Now Dr. phil., psychological psychotherapist in training, clinical center Am Weissenhof, Weinsberg.

**Karoline Fabel.** Diploma thesis: Ethnical composition of friendship networks of and their role in psychological and sociocultural adaptation of ethnic German adolescents. Now psychological psychotherapist in training, Academy for Psychotherapy and Intervention Research at the University of Potsdam.

**Doreen Frischmuth.** Diploma thesis: Developmental pathways of adolescents of divorced families. Now psychologist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Hildburghausen.

**Cornelia Fröhlich.** Diploma thesis: Health-related control beliefs in cancer patients in middle and old age. Now Dr. phil., school psychologist, Baden-Württemberg.

**Claudia M. Haase.** Diploma thesis: Urgent goal striving in the transition from school to work. Now Dr. phil., research associate at the DP/CADS.

**Jana Hädicke.** Diploma thesis: Alcohol use in adolescence: Psychosocial correlates and affective influences on risk decision-making. Now at the Innova Sozialwerk, Altenburg.

**Alzbeta Jandova.** Diploma thesis: Evaluation of a life-competence program: Addiction prevention in special schools. Now research associate at the Technical University Dresden.

**Katrin Klinzing.** Diploma thesis: Evaluation of the universal effectiveness of the life-skills program IPSY on the problem behaviors of delinquency, social problems, and depression.

**Susanne Knappe.** Diploma thesis: Health-related control beliefs and well-being in internistic patients in comparison to cancer patients and healthy seniors. Now research associate at the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University of Dresden.

**Astrid Körner.** Diploma thesis: Individual and social resources for coping with social change: Development and psychosocial effects. Differential effects of coping with work-related demands in the context of unemployment and job insecurity. Now research associate at the DP/CADS.

**Andrea Michel.** Diploma thesis: Language use in adolescent ethnic Germans. Now research associate at the DP/CADS.

**Julia Nixdorf-Hänchen.** Diploma thesis: Influences on life plans of cancer patients in middle and old age. Now psychologist, General hospital Hochstadt am Main.

**Jenny Oelsner.** Diploma thesis: Self-esteem trajectories in adolescence – Differential processes of the development of self-esteem in varied school-types of the German school system. Now research associate at the Department of Criminology at the University of Jena.

**Silvia Pröhl.** Diploma thesis. Association between pubertal timing and alcohol use in boys and girls in early adolescence. Now psychological psychotherapist in training, Institute for Therapy Research (IFT), Munich.

**Maria Puschbeck.** Diploma thesis: TimeWise in Thuringian middle-tier schools: Moderated effectiveness of the life-skills program in resource-poor vs. resource-rich contexts.

**Tobias Raabe.** Diploma thesis: Leisure activities and delinquency in ethnic and native Germans adolescents. Now research associate at the Department of Research synthesis, intervention, and evaluation at the University of Jena.

**Birgit Rauer.** Diploma thesis: Wish for changing weight – Predictors, correlates, and consequences in adolescent girls. Now psychologist, AWO Hospital Jerichow.

**Katrin Riedl.** Diploma thesis: Third party punishment in nonhuman primates.

**Victoria Wenzel,** Diploma thesis: Comparison of the effects of the prevention program IPSY between middle-tier and higher-tier schools in Thuringia. Now research associate at DP/CADS, Prevention group.

**Julia Wolff.** Diploma thesis: Mood and mood variability. Influences of age and personality. Now doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

May 2009