



December 2021

Dear MMM members,

We are back with another update on recent developments within and around MMM. We hope that all of you are well and staying healthy! With this last MMM newsletter of 2021, we wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a smooth start to the New Year.

With kind regards,
Hanna Voudouri & Dennis Küster
(MMM Office)

Latest MMM Science News

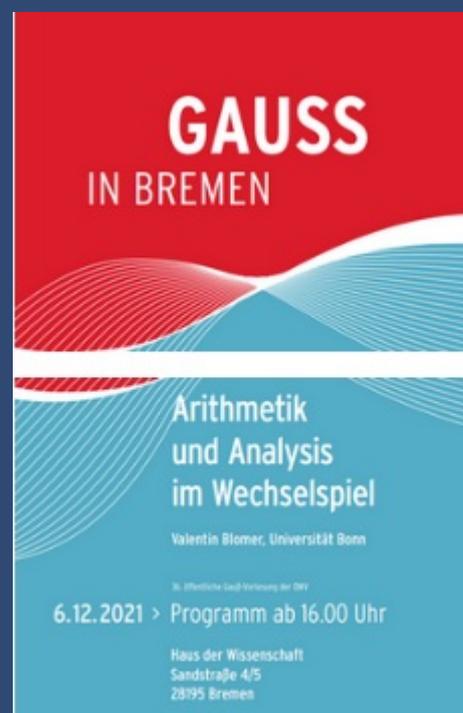
Jürgen Kühling and MMM member Benedikt Buchner have led the December edition of "**Datenschutz und Datensicherheit**" (DuD; data protection and data security) with a theme on "Datentreuhänder". We particularly congratulate the team (Benedikt Buchner, Anna Haber, Horst Hahn, Fabian Prasser, Harald Kusch, Ulrich Sax & Carsten Oliver Schmidt) to their new Open Access paper on "**Das Modell der Datentreuhand in der medizinischen Forschung**".



Uwe Hasenbrink and Andreas Hepp are editing a new book series on "Transforming Communications – Studies in Cross-Media Research". It is dedicated to cross-media communication research and related processes of datafication. Find the series here: palgrave.com/gp/series/15351

MMM speaker Tanja Schultz has been selected to serve as an **IEEE Signal Processing Society Distinguished Lecturer** for the term January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. We warmly congratulate her to this prestigious appointment!

After 15 years, the [Gauss Lecture returns to Bremen!](#) This festive event is organized by Nicole Megow and Anke Pohl on behalf of the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung e.V. (DMV), with an overview lecture on current developments in mathematics aimed at the interested public. The keynote Gauss Lecture will be given by number theorist Valentin Blomer from the University of Bonn on the topic of "Arithmetic and Analysis in Interplay." For a detailed program, please see: unihb.eu/gauss_vorlesung



Congratulations to Michael Beetz, Patrick Mania, Franklin Kenghagho Kenfack & Michael Neumann for their Best Paper Award on Cognitive Robotics @ IROS2021: www.iros2021.org/awards.

The MindTalks lecture series continues with its next edition! The first talk will be held on December 6, 2021, 16:30-18:00. For information on dates, presenters, titles and Zoom access, please visit the MindTalks website: www.bernstein.uni-bremen.de/mindtalks

New Research Projects in MMM

NAKO+ILSE: "Multimodal data fusion for the early detection of dementia". Tanja Schultz and Matthias Günther (Fraunhofer MEVIS) have been awarded project funding by the **U Bremen Research Alliance** in the framework of the "**AI Center for Health Care**". The aim of NAKO+ILSE project is to merge multimodal data from various studies to improve the prediction of the biological, immunological and cognitive age of individuals and to support the early detection of dementia.

Funding Opportunities (selected calls)

The next round of the MMM PI- and Postdoc-Seed Grant calls is expected for early 2022. For further information, please contact us via: mmm@uni-bremen.de

The BMBF has just released an interesting and timely call for proposals for projects for the topic: “[Nähe über Distanz – Mit interaktiven Technologien zwischenmenschliche Verbundenheit ermöglichen](#)” (deadline: February 15, 2022). The aim of the funding is to provide new concepts for innovative interactive technologies, as well as products and services based on them, that enable participation in the lives of close others across spatial distances and thus strengthen feelings of connectedness with them. With the help of new technology-supported forms of interaction, it is intended to facilitate the maintenance of meaningful social relationships, which in turn contributes to increasing individual resilience and quality of life.

Another new BMBF call targets: “[Zivile Sicherheit – Bedrohungen aus dem digitalen Raum](#)” (deadline March 25, 2022). The aim of this initiative is to sensitize the population and operators of critical infrastructures to possible attacks from the digital space, to strengthen them to cope with the attack in the event of damage, and to prepare them for the restart of systems.

The new DFG Priority Programme “[The Digital Image](#)” (SPP 2172; deadline March 15, 2022) invites proposals. This program has been designed to run for six years, and aims to address the central role of the image in the complex process of digitising knowledge, both in theory and in practice, by bringing together exemplary projects. The goal is to critically discuss and reflect on this topic as a profound, epistemological upheaval. Note that this SPP explicitly encourages a “decidedly transdisciplinary exchange” that is to be carried out “with special inclusion of the information sciences”.

The YERUN network of Young European Research Universities is [inviting submissions](#) of inspiring and innovative practices that contribute to raising awareness on Open Science (deadline December 14, 2021). Winners will receive an award of 5000 EUR for their institution/department.

The Virtual EASE & REMARO Fall School took place from November 8 – 12, 2021. We are excited that this has given doctoral students the chance to learn more about AI, robotics, and the challenging field of robot manipulation in everyday and underwater environments!

Dr. Hendrik Heuer won the **first place** of the **Weizenbaum-Studienpreis** for his thesis on “**Users & Machine Learning-Based Curation Systems**”, supervised by MMM member Andreas Breiter - congratulations! Hendrik's doctoral thesis deals with the technical and societal challenges of AI-based recommendation systems. Among other points, it recommends performing audits to ensure that ML-based systems act in the public's interest.



We warmly congratulate Dr. Hui Liu who successfully defended his thesis on “Biosignal Processing and Activity Modeling for Multimodal Human Activity Recognition” at the Cognitive Systems Lab of Tanja Schultz – all the best for your future!



Science Policy and News

The Collaborative Research Center "Global Dynamics of Social Policy", based in the Social Sciences at the University of Bremen, will continue to be **funded for another four years** until the end of 2025. In addition to the SOCIUM as the core institute, the ifib and other research institutes of the University of Bremen, Jacobs University Bremen, the University of Bielefeld and the University of Duisburg-Essen are involved in this CRC.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has announced **ten new Humboldt Professorships**, including six working on AI: Helger Hoos (RWTH Aachen), Stefanie Jegelka (TUM Munich), Sven Koenig (Ulm University), Vincent C. Müller (University Erlangen-Nürnberg), Suvrit Sra (TUM Munich), and Angela Yu (TU Darmstadt). These recent announcements are part of an **ongoing new program line for Artificial Intelligence**, which aims to establish 30 additional Humboldt Professorships for Artificial Intelligence until 2024.

The DFG has launched a new Electronic **Research Integrity Incident Reporting System** for reporting suspicions of research misconduct related to DFG-funded research/activities, misuse of DFG grant funds, and corruption/conflict of interest related to DFG-funded research/activities.

The need for graduates with technological skills is still growing rapidly. This is now also underlined by a **joint study by the Stifterverband and McKinsey**. By 2026, an estimate of more than 780,000 people with expertise in areas ranging from data analytics and AI to hardware/robotics development will be needed. The skills "data analytics and AI", "software development" and "IT architecture" are particularly in demand. Universities continue to play a central role in meeting this demand. The authors recommend to further expand technology-oriented study programs and training opportunities, to increase the interdisciplinarity of study programs, and to promote cross-sectional degree programs. The results are based on a survey among HR managers and executive managers of 377 companies and 123 public authorities in Germany.



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