

COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOLS 2015





REPORT 2015

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BACKGROUND OF THE COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOLS PROJECT

As differences in academic calendars, more restrictive timetables and continuing tuition fee obligations to home institutions present serious obstacles to longer stays abroad, summer schools become evermore attractive to international students. Our three-week summer programs, which are taught in English and earn transferable credits, aim to address this situation. Santander Consumer Bank AG agreed to support the University of Cologne's summer school concept in 2012. In February 2016, this alliance with the University of Cologne has been consolidated for at least three more years.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

The University of Cologne is a research university with a global perspective. Since we believe that academic excellence can only be achieved through collaboration and the exchange of knowledge on all academic levels, we are working continuously to expand our network of international partner institutions. Short-term programs such as summer schools are an ideal way to achieve these objectives within the University of Cologne's internationalization process:

By organizing summer schools at the University of Cologne or at partner universities abroad, we increase the international mobility of students and young researchers, especially in the light of more restrictive scheduling at European universities since recent changes to the Bologna system, differing academic calendars and obligations to continue paying tuition fees to home institutions. We are thus offering students and researchers the opportunity to obtain the skills that are essential in a globalized academic and professional world. Nowadays it is necessary for young people to have extensive knowledge beyond their own discipline in order to be able to compete with millions of others on the international market. Language and soft skills such as intercultural competence play a very important role in this.

Short-term program cooperation has a positive effect in establishing and intensifying relationships between partner institutions. Partners get to know each other and the profiles of their universities better. A broad range of summer schools aim to attract students from partner universities, encouraging them to apply for various programs. Short-term programs thus contribute to improving the university's international reputation.

COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: SUSTAINABLE CITIES

The first meeting pertaining to an environmental studies summer school took place way back in 2012. Every year the main summer school project is organized by the International Office in collaboration with one of the units of the University of Cologne, so the International Master of Environmental Sciences program has been a potential summer school partner from the very beginning.

Target Group

This year's call for proposals addressed master's students from any discipline with a strong interest in environmental issues. After receiving the highest number of applications since the start of the project, the number of participants was increased from twenty-five to thirty.



ADVERTISING FOR THE SUMMER SCHOOL BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

As has been the case previously, this year's summer school was advertised on the Cologne Summer School website and via an informative flyer that was sent to all of the University of Cologne's partner institutions in the following countries: African countries, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Furthermore, we significantly increased interest in the Cologne Summer Schools program with the Cologne Summer Schools Facebook page. The page went online on February 17, 2015 and reached 240 Likes within five days.



ADVERTISING FOR THE SUMMER SCHOOL BY SANTANDER UNIVERSITIES

Santander Branch Offices Sent Calls for Proposals to the Following Universities:

Country	Invited universities
China	<i>Peking University</i>
	<i>RenMin University</i>
	<i>Tsinghua University</i>
	<i>Fudan University</i>
Mexico	<i>Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México</i>
	<i>Universidad Panamericana</i>
	<i>Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey</i>
	<i>Universidad Anáhuac México Norte</i>
Poland	<i>Universidad La Salle</i>
	<i>Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznań)</i>
	<i>University of Łódź</i>
	<i>Mikołaj Kopernik University (Toruń)</i>
Singapore	<i>University of Wrocław</i>
	<i>Univeristy of Szczecin</i>
	<i>National University of Singapore</i>
Spain	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid</i>
	<i>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid</i>
	<i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid</i>
	<i>Universidad Pontificia de Comillas</i>
	<i>Universidad de Sevilla</i>
	<i>Universidad de Granada</i>
	<i>Universidad de Valladolid</i>
	<i>Universidad de Salamanca</i>
<i>Universidad de Valencia</i>	
	<i>Universidad Pompeu Fabra</i>



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE

ESOL Examinations

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International*

This is to certify that

PALOMA

has been awarded

Grade C

in the

First Certificate in English

Council of Europe Level B2

APPLICATION- AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Timeline

December 2014: Call for proposals

31st March 2015: Application deadline – Amount of applications: 135

15th April 2015: Feedback sent to the applicants

Formal Requirements

Each partner university had been invited to nominate up to three students who could send the following application documents:

- Nomination letter issued by the home university
- CV
- Transcript of records for the previous two semesters
- Statement of purpose (no longer than a single A4 page)
- Proof of sufficient knowledge of English (an Internet TOEFL score of 90 or more, an IELTS score of 6.0 or more, a minimum grade of a B on the Cambridge First Certificate, or a minimum score of 750 on the TOEIC).

Selection Criteria

- Grade point average of the university course
- Grade point average of the English proficiency certificate
- Quality of the letter of motivation

Aside from the qualification of the individuals, consideration was given to creating equality in terms of partner university (country of origin) and gender of the applicants.

Structure of the Program and Granting of ECTS Credits

For a total of 45 hours a week, students who took part in all of the obligatory lectures, seminars, excursions and group work, including an oral presentation, were granted six ECTS credits. The certificate was awarded at a ceremony on the last day.



COURSES AND LECTURES

Urban Green Spaces

Urban flora and fauna is a major issue in sustainability and environmental studies, not least since several studies have shown the positive effects of urban green spaces on the physical and mental health of city inhabitants. The Environmental Studies: Sustainable Cities summer school therefore also included an Urban Green Spaces unit.

Prof. Dannenberg from the University of Cologne's Geography Institute delivered lectures on the topic, while external speakers introduced the summer school students to their various fields of work and projects.

With their walking boots laced up, the students were shown around three different urban gardening projects in Cologne: CampusGarten, Gartenbahnhof Ehrenfeld and Neuland; the Ville Forest and its 50,000 Trees initiative; the Kleingartenverein Brühl e.V.; the Helios site in Cologne Ehrenfeld; before exploring Cologne's urban green belt system.

Public Transportation

With cities continuing to grow in size, transport networks and their effects on environmental pollution become increasingly important issues.

Creating ecological awareness, not least among city planners and citizens, and implementing environmental friendly solutions, is of utmost importance. Public transport systems represent a substantial part of the solution, which is why it was one

of the three main topics of the Environmental Studies: Sustainable Cities summer school.

Students were introduced to the diverse set of issues facing public transportation both within Cologne and nationwide by way of lectures and field trips.

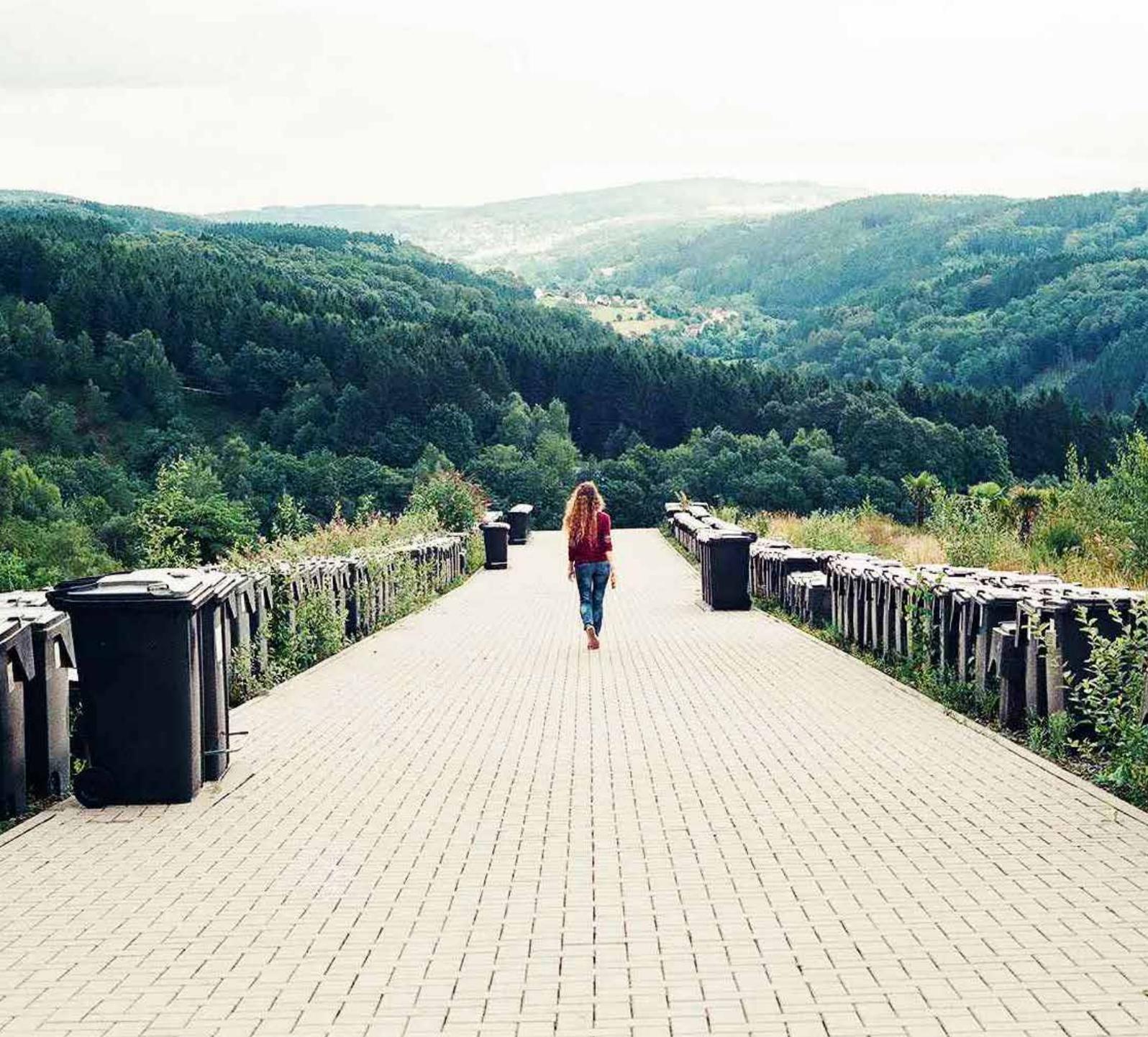
Prof. Junker delivered an interdisciplinary lecture on sustainable cities, while Dr. Inga Schlichting, Sustainability Consultant at Deutsche Bahn, introduced the company and its strategies. In order for the students to gain a broad picture of the range of challenges and approaches in the area of public transport, there were also field trips to Cologne Bonn Airport, Rhenus Logistics and the KVB (Cologne public transport operator).

Waste Management

An inevitable result of growing populations in rapidly expanding cities is an increase in waste material. Cities are now confronted with huge amounts of refuse which must be removed from residential spaces and processed. But how can this be done efficiently? How can waste and valuable materials be separated easily and the latter recycled? Can cities possibly use waste to produce other resources such as energy? These were the questions that students tried to answer in the Waste Management unit. Dr. Sandra Wagner from MARGA Business Simulations introduced the students to the general principles of waste management, while Bernd Kiefer, a City of Cologne lawyer, presented Cologne's municipal solid waste management approach.

The students gained firsthand experience of various types of efficient waste management on field trips to AVG, a waste processing facility; Steinert, a manufacturer of waste processing equipment; and Metabolon, a former landfill site.

The program included lectures, workshops and project-based work relating to one of the topics. A paper was to be handed in one week before the end of the program and each group held a presentation on the final day.



TRAINING: INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES

One of the major strengths of the Cologne Summer Schools is the cultural and academic diversity of the participating groups. In 2015, for the first time, an intercultural training element was included on the first two mornings of the summer course. This year's summer school group was made up of thirty students from thirteen different countries, most of whom had never been to Germany before.

Studying in such a diverse group with colleagues from all over the world is both a great opportunity and a great challenge. How will communication work? Do German people have a different way of communicating than say French or Japanese people? Is "time" understood in the same way by different cultures? How can culture shock be avoided? The Intercultural Training Part I seminar tried to provide answers to these and other related questions and familiarize students with specific concepts such as cultural standards, stereotypes and dimensions of culture. While learning to understand and appreciate cultural difference, students improve their ability to communicate effectively in a global context.

As well as the day-to-day communication with people from different cultural backgrounds, the university represents a special setting for intercultural communication. Uncertainties, irritations and misunderstandings sometimes arise when people engage in group work, discussions and the exchange of ideas.

Intercultural Training Part II therefore focussed on assumptions, rules and expectations in German academic culture (for example in terms of academic argumentation or social interaction with professors and colleagues) as well as learning and working in international teams. The goal of this workshop was to show how cultural diversity can be used for effective and successful cooperation.

WELCOME CEREMONY





| Prof. Dr. Gudrun Gersmann |
Prorector for International Relations
University of Cologne



| Pedro de Elejabeitia |
Managing Director at
Santander Consumer Bank AG



A welcome ceremony on the first day of the summer school took place in the Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (ZMMK).

At the beginning of the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Gudrun Gersmann, Prorector for International Relations at the University of Cologne; Pedro de Elejabeitia, Managing Director of Santander Consumer Bank; Prof. Dr. Kirk W. Junker, Chair U.S. Law and Head of International Master of Environmental Sciences at the University of Cologne; Angelika Spizig, former Vice-Mayor of the City of Cologne; and Christiane Biehl, Vice-Head of the International Office at the University of Cologne all held speeches welcoming the participants.

Afterwards, the participants received their official summer school T-shirt and briefly introduced themselves to the audience.

During a delicious dinner the participants got to know their fellow students they were going to spend the next three weeks with a little better. The welcome ceremony was also a great opportunity for lecturers and students to come into contact prior to the start of the summer school in a relaxed atmosphere.



| Prof. Dr. Kirk W. Junker |
*Head of International Master of Environmental Sciences
University of Cologne*





| Angela Spizig |
Former Vice Mayor of the City of Cologne



| Prof. Dr. Shamita Kumar |
Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, India

CITY TOUR COLOGNE





On the Tuesday of the first week the group was taken on a guided tour through the old city center, meeting the guide in front of the iconic cathedral. They learnt of the history of its construction and the problems in maintaining such a large and complex gothic building. Then, at the Romano-Germanic Museum, they were shown a mosaic that had formed the floor of a dining room in a Roman house more than 2000 years ago. A few hundred meters further they stopped at the fountain of the legendary Heinkelmannchen. These little house gnomes are said to have worked in secret at night for the inhabitants of Cologne but disappeared forever after being discovered by a curious women.

After seeing the remains of a Roman aqueduct and Cologne city hall, the guide took them to the traditional perfume manufacturer Farina. They then went to one of the city's most famous squares, Alter Markt, the old market, where two figures on the tower of the city hall caught their attention. One is sticking his tongue out, the other one opposite is baring his backside to the square. The exact meaning of the first figure is unknown, but the second is believed to be a sign of discontent and ridicule expressed by the inhabitants towards the city council. Both certainly suggest that the citizens of Cologne don't take life too seriously.

To make sure Lady Luck smiled on the rest of the summer school, some students rubbed the nose of the life-size statue of a character called Tünnes, who together with his partner in crime Schäl is one of the main protagonists in the popular local puppet theater. They then walked down to the Rhine and learned some interesting facts about the old houses close to the river and the flood protection mechanisms. After taking a look across the river at some of Cologne's modern buildings, the group ended up back at one of its oldest: the cathedral.





EXCURSION TO CASTLE BRÜHL AND THE CITY OF BONN





On the second weekend of the summer school, a part of the group headed to Brühl to see a UNESCO World Heritage site: Brühl Palace and its beautiful gardens. The guide took them through the palace, explaining the functions of the various rooms, the lifestyle and etiquette of the aristocracy who had lived and visited the palace, as well as sharing some secret knowledge on how women communicated with men by means of their fans alone.

After walking through the gardens with its lovely flowers, trees and ponds, breaking for coffee and crashing the photos of a wedding group who were taking advantage of the beautiful backdrop, the group travelled on to the city of Bonn. Here they visited the birthplace of the famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven, which is now a museum housing his last piano, his hearing aid devices, as well as some bizarre artifacts such as a curl of his hair. Although it was very stormy, they then had a pleasant afternoon exploring the center of Bonn.





EXCURSION TO RHEINGAU VALLEY





The summer school also included a weekend trip to the Rheingau region full of cultural experiences. The students spent two days exploring the famous UNESCO World Heritage site along the Rhine by train, boat and foot.

The Upper Middle Rhine Valley was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2002: the wine region is one of the most important in Germany and indeed the world, and the area boasts great cultural and ecological diversity.

On the first day of the excursion, Friday July 17, 2015, the group travelled by train from Cologne to St. Goarshausen. Here the Köln-Düsseldorfer Goethe cruise ship was waiting to take them onwards to the famous town of Rudesheim am Rhein.

However, before boarding the ship the group surprised one student, who was celebrating his 22nd birthday that day, with a multilingual performance of "Happy Birthday", a birthday cake and some delicious German Haribo gummy bears.

The cruise down the Rhine was yet another first for the birthday boy and the group as a whole. Not only was it relaxing, but it also offered the students another perspective on the Rheingau, with its terraced vineyards, numerous historical sites, with ruins and buildings such as castles and fortresses, as well as the Rhine itself and its function as an important transport route. As the students in the summer school group came from such diverse cultural backgrounds, some struggled to understand its importance and usage.

The Goethe, which was built in 1913, is one of the most traditional tourist boats in operation on the Rhine and the only one with a paddle wheel. It can carry up to 500 passengers on two floors, and its three parlors and uncovered deck reflect the style and flair of the roaring 20s.

One nice feature of the cruise was the introduction of some of the historical sites the boat passed between St. Goarshausen and Rudesheim by a guide, including the Loreley Statue, the Niederwald Monument and the Mäuseturm (Mouse Tower).

After reaching the town of Rudesheim, the students made their way to their accommodation at Hotel Krone and Pension Post, both near the river, their bases for several field trips and activities over the following two days. The Rheingau is the birthplace of the famous Riesling grape, which accounts for 84 percent of vineyard planting in the region. The first excursion - and one of the highlights of the whole Rheingau trip according to the student evaluations - was a wine tasting session at Castle Breuer. Following in the spirit of the famous Goethe quote, "Life is too short to drink bad wine," the owner Heinrich Breuer presented three of his family's most famous and best-selling wines in a beautiful old vaulted wine cellar. The tasting began with a dry Riesling and then a semi-dry one, but the highlight of the presentation was a very expensive dessert wine, a so-called Beerenauslese.

With their appetites whetted by this culinary delight, the group of international students then enjoyed a traditional German





dinner at the Jakobusklause restaurant, with dishes such as Rösti and Schnitzel rounding off the wonderful summer evening. After the train ride, boat trip and exploration of the town of Rudesheim by foot of the previous day, the second day began with a whole new perspective on the town and the Rheingau as a whole, with a cable car ride that took the group from the town center up to the Niederwald Monument. Within a few minutes the hustle and bustle of city life was left behind, the cable car passing vineyards and offering peaceful views of the Rhine as well as the Rhine-Nahe valley. The view from the top of the hill was even more spectacular, reaching as far as the city of Mainz, capital of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

The Niederwald Monument is one of the most famous in Germany. Erected between 1877 and 1883, it symbolizes the re-establishment of the German Empire at the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871. Standing at an impressive 38 meters tall and weighing 32 tons, the monument is topped by a statue of Germania facing towards the rest of Germany in the east. Germania, the personification of the German nation during this period, is raising the German imperial crown in her right hand, while resting her left hand on a lowered sword. After admiring the Niederwald Monument, temple and park, the group hiked back down to the town through the beautiful vineyards. Here the summer school students met up with Mr. Dusch, who took them on a tour of Rudesheim. They began at the town square, before passing churches, the oldest house in the town, the museum of mechanical musical instruments as well as through the Drosselgasse. At only 2 meters in width and 144 meters in length, this world famous alley is lined with rustic taverns, shops and lots of music.

The weekend trip was rounded off with some free time, the students enjoying their last few hours in Rudesheim strolling around the town, going for lunch or enjoying the sun on the banks of the Rhine, before meeting up in the late afternoon for the train journey back to Cologne.





EXCURSIONS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION





Entering the Security Area at the Köln Bonn Airport

With relevance to all three cross-curricular topics of Public Transportation, Urban Green Spaces and Waste Management, the summer school students visited the security area of Cologne Bonn Airport. Head of Public Affairs, Benjamin Heese, welcomed the group at the airport's visitor room, which features a set of business-class airplane seats.

Transporting approximately ten million passengers a year, Cologne Bonn Airport is one of the most important in Germany. Although it specializes in low cost flights, it also transports about 750,000 tons of freight traffic a year. Including all of the companies with whom it cooperates, Cologne Bonn Airport is responsible for a total of around 13,500 jobs.

The key economic role it plays brings with it lots of responsibility and criticism in terms of environmental and noise pollution. Cologne Bonn Airport has consequently initiated several concepts aimed at solving these problems. Its plans include a model for active noise reduction through operational changes such as runway restrictions and the rerouting of planes, as well as by financial means, such as more favorable take-off and landing fees for modern aircrafts and the extension of day and night charges. Positive results have already been documented in several sets of statistics published by the airport.

Moreover, the airport bought the 5,000 ha nature reserve Wahner Heide, home to some 680 rare and protected animals and plants, in 1996, so far investing € 8 million in the preservation of the landscape.

One of the highlights of the bus tour through the airport's security area was seeing the ZERO-G, ESA's (European Space Agency) zero-gravity simulation aircraft. This is used to carry out numerous scientific experiments under zero-gravity conditions, for example documenting the accelerated growth of a plant in a zero-gravity environment.

The trip to Cologne Bonn Airport gave the summer school students a unique insight into the various operational areas of an airport.



From the Vessel of Rhenus Logistics to the Cologne Tram of KVB

Another day dedicated to the topic of Public Transportation was spent visiting Rhenus Logistics and the KVB (Cologne public transport company).

First, the summer school students traveled to Duisburg where they were welcomed by Dr. Stephan Convent, Head of Corporate Development at Rhenus Logistics.

The company was founded in 1912 and has 26,000 employees. Its four core business segments: contract logistics, freight logistics, port logistics and public transport, generate a combined revenue of € 4 billion per year. The city of Duisburg in the Ruhr area, home to Europe's largest inland port (37 km of shoreline) and with immediate proximity to the river Rhine, offers the perfect location for the company's logistical operations. The same reasons have also made Duisburg the logistical center of Europe's largest steel industry.

Following Dr. Convent's introductory talk, the students were taken aboard some of the Rhenus ships and shown around the company's container port. The group was introduced to the ship refueling process and the logistic operation of the port, with its thousands of containers filled with materials ranging from liquids such as wine, to metals and minerals such as coal, was illustrated.

Rhenus Logistics's fleet of 78 boats, the largest of which has the capacity to carry an astounding 10,000 tons, transports a total of 150 million tons of goods on the Rhine every year.



Kölner Verkehrsbetriebe - KVB

The KVB -Kölner Verkehrsbetriebe- is the city of Cologne's public transport operator and therefore also the service provider which the summer school students used to get around the city during their stay. Their fleet includes more than 300 trams, 300 busses and hundreds of bicycles, operating on eleven city tram lines and 57 bus routes and serving approximately 950 stops.

During our visit to the KVB headquarters in Cologne Ehrenfeld, Lydia Marschall-Schmitz, Staff Manager of the Department of Environment Protection and Industrial Safety, gave a presentation on the company and the European Union's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The KVB was one of the first public transport companies to receive the EMAS certificate in 1998.

The European Commission developed the certificate for companies and organizations of any size to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental awareness and performance. As a result, EMAS certifies companies (4,000 organizations and approximately 7,500 sites), ranging from small and medium sized businesses to multinational enterprises as well as public authorities, who voluntarily apply to the scheme.

Companies such as the KVB set individual environmental goals and are audited during annual visits by internal and external authorities. Every EMAS certified company is obliged to publish an annual environmental report on the current state of their environmental goals in the light of these audits. After presenting the KVB's 2013 report, Mrs. Marschall-Schmitz took the group on a tour of the company.

The highlight of the tour was visiting the KVB's huge monitoring room. Here, the whole network of the Cologne public transportation system is displayed on 48 huge screens and monitored 24/7.

The KVB is a great example of a public transport operator that actively tackles its responsibilities in contributing to the sustainability of the city of Cologne and the visit certainly made an impression on the students.



EXCURSIONS URBAN GREEN SPACES







Helios Terrain in Ehrenfeld: Citizens' Participation in the Transformation of Public Space

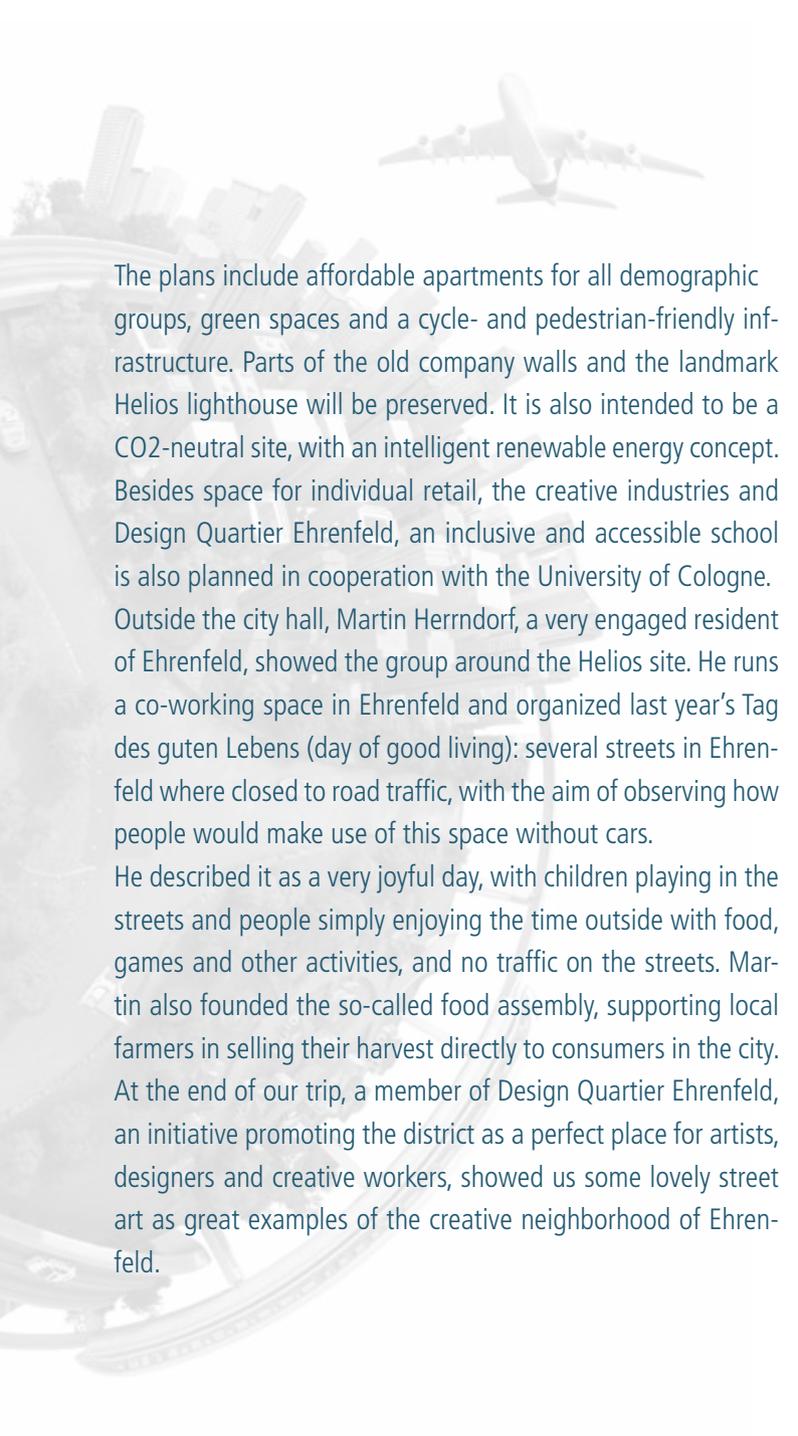
The group was introduced to another example of citizen power in the second week when they visited the Helios grounds in Cologne Ehrenfeld.

The vice mayor of the district of Ehrenfeld, Ralf Klemm, gave them an introduction to the site at the district city hall. Until 1930, Helios had been an electrical engineering company right at the heart of this industrial and working-class district. After the company closed down, the premises lay unused for a long time. In 2008, an investor bought the Helios site with the intention of covering most of it with a shopping mall. When the proposal was published in 2010, it was met with local opposition: a protest initiative was founded and successfully stopped the construction of the mall.

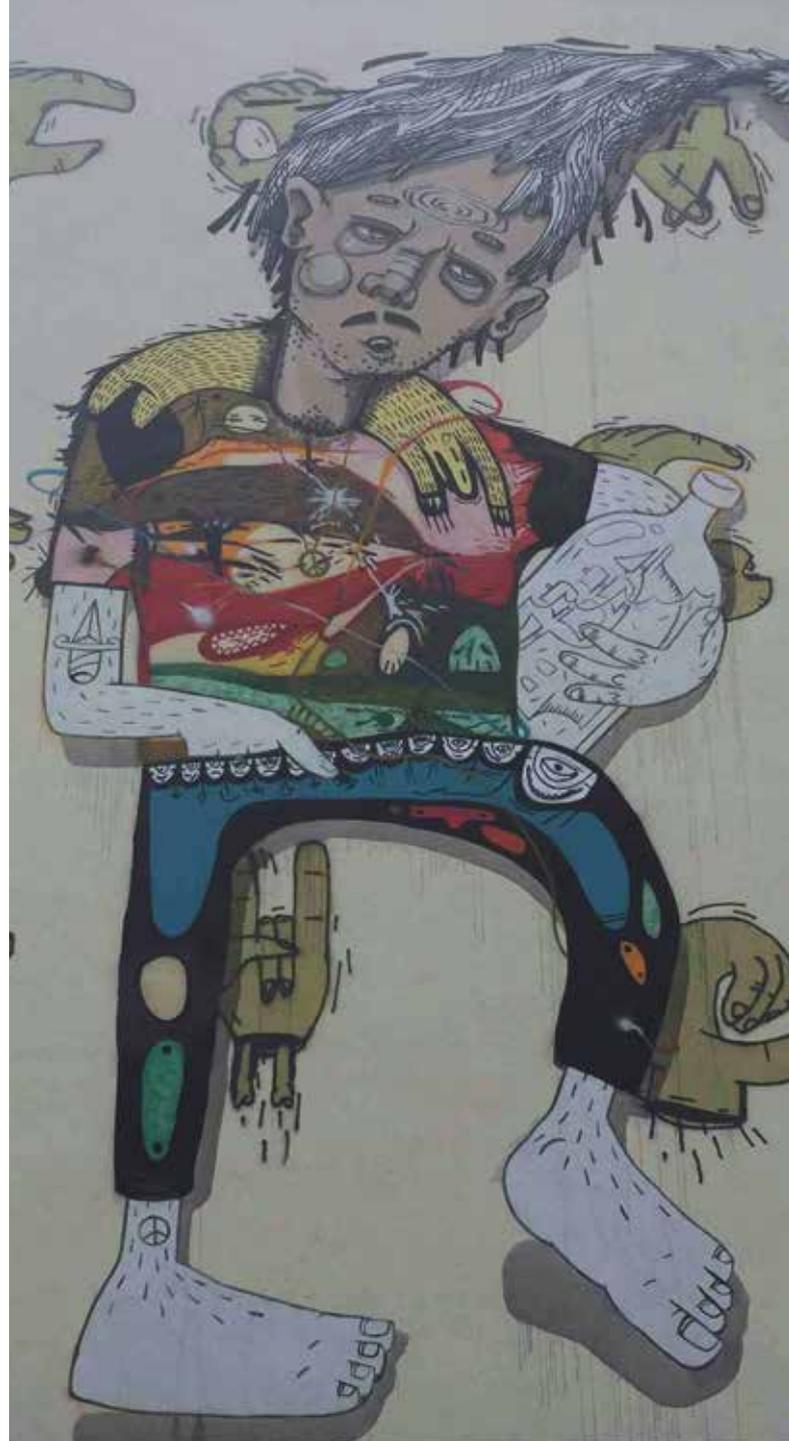
Ralf Klemm gave several reasons for this success: firstly, the socio-political make up of the area, with a large immigrant population, coupled with a young community of students and artists, means it is quite left-leaning and residents here are thought to be very politically engaged. Secondly, they found a sensible and special way of working with politicians and investors: citizens organized workshops to write a collective catalog of their hopes and aims for the site, held discussions with all the parties involved and assigned an independent architectural office to mediate.

Now the plans for the future of the grounds have changed. The Helios site will become a multipurpose area, offering living and working space as well as possibilities for leisure activities.





The plans include affordable apartments for all demographic groups, green spaces and a cycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Parts of the old company walls and the landmark Helios lighthouse will be preserved. It is also intended to be a CO2-neutral site, with an intelligent renewable energy concept. Besides space for individual retail, the creative industries and Design Quartier Ehrenfeld, an inclusive and accessible school is also planned in cooperation with the University of Cologne. Outside the city hall, Martin Herndorf, a very engaged resident of Ehrenfeld, showed the group around the Helios site. He runs a co-working space in Ehrenfeld and organized last year's Tag des guten Lebens (day of good living): several streets in Ehrenfeld were closed to road traffic, with the aim of observing how people would make use of this space without cars. He described it as a very joyful day, with children playing in the streets and people simply enjoying the time outside with food, games and other activities, and no traffic on the streets. Martin also founded the so-called food assembly, supporting local farmers in selling their harvest directly to consumers in the city. At the end of our trip, a member of Design Quartier Ehrenfeld, an initiative promoting the district as a perfect place for artists, designers and creative workers, showed us some lovely street art as great examples of the creative neighborhood of Ehrenfeld.



50,000 Trees @ The Ville Forest

Can economic interests and the conservation of nature go hand in hand? This was the question we asked during our field trip to the Ville forest in Brühl. Although it is a relatively young forest, planted 80 years ago in a former coal mining area, it has great biodiversity and offers a habitat for many rare species, especially various types of dragonflies. The trees of the forest are complemented by lakes and meadows, which also provide visitors with a sanctuary away from the busy streets of the city of Brühl.

Some years ago, Phantasialand, a well-known theme park that plays an important role in the local economy, announced plans to expand, and the Ville forest was expected to make way. Dr. Doris Linzmeier, who was the guide through the forest, was appalled after reading about this in the local newspaper and was determined to stop the destruction of the forest dead in its tracks. She began an initiative called 50,000 Trees with other like-minded citizens, producing flyers to inform the inhabitants of Brühl of the danger to the forest and exhibiting art among the trees to raise visitors' awareness. The initiative was also involved in several discussions and negotiations with the politicians responsible at local and state level.

The initiative believes conserving this area of nature is paramount, while the opposition argues that an expansion of the theme park, as a major employer, would create even more jobs in the region. The decision on the future of the Ville forest is now in the hands of the Minister of the Environment of the federal state North Rhine-Westphalia.

After a walk through the forest, the Kleingartenverein Brühl e.V., a community of allotment gardeners in Brühl, invited the group for a wonderful picnic at their club house before showing them around their gardens and all the beautiful vegetables, fruits and flowers they grow.

Sadly, Dr. Linzmeier's answer to the initially asked question was negative: economic and ecological interests rarely go hand in hand. Nevertheless, this example underlines the fact that citizens have the power to protect their environment against economic interest - or at the very least to raise awareness. The whole group felt encouraged to follow in Dr. Linzmeier's footsteps and become more engaged in environmental issues in their home countries and communities.







Green Belt System Cologne

The world's urban agglomerations have continued to grow at a rapid pace over recent years. For the first time in history, more humans live in urban areas than in rural regions. This trend is likely to continue as world population grows. The sustainable development of urban agglomerations must therefore be regarded as one of the key challenges of our time.

What makes a city more sustainable and enhances the quality of life of its citizens? Most people would probably point to efficient waste and water management or the development of new transport and energy concepts. But what about urban green spaces? This field is often forgotten and is usually not prioritised.

During a long walk through Cologne's Green Belt System, the summer school participants gained practical experience of the city's urban green spaces after having learned much of the advantages and the theories behind it in the morning's lesson.

During the field trip, University of Cologne scientists Anja Meutsch and Stefan Grønnerud spoke about various concepts and basic ideas around urban green spaces, while students presented examples of how other big cities around the world handle this issue. Mr. Bouwman, Head of Cologne's Forestry Administration, gave an introduction to the city's forest laboratory, Klimawald, where the city investigates questions relating to climate change and urban green spaces.



Urban Gardening Projects

Another day of the Urban Green Spaces unit saw the group visit three different urban gardening projects in three different parts of Cologne: Lindenthal, Bayenthal and Ehrenfeld.

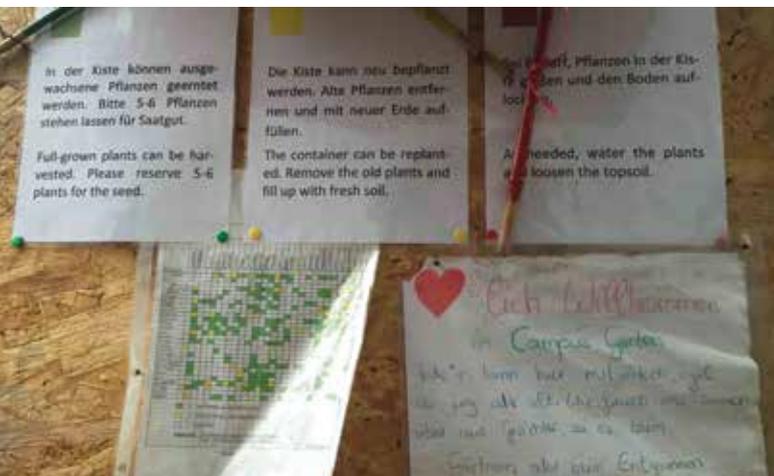
The presentations held by young volunteer urban gardeners highlighted the challenges these projects face: rapid changes in urban spaces create multiple conflicts in terms of use, conservation, and the development of urban green spaces. They also spoke about what motivated them to be members of community gardens in these public spaces within the city of Cologne and about their experiences in their development and governance.

While scientists interpret urban gardening as a form of protest against neo-liberal urbanisation or even as an explicit political movement, the striking reason for those who invest their time in planting, watering and harvesting collectively rather than doing the same in a private allotment garden seemed to be a different one: social interaction providing a leisure activity in the open air as well as a crop of food of known origin.

A final group discussion concluded on the relevance of the topic of urban gardening/farming for human-environmental research and nature-society relations.

Once the educational part of the day at the different community garden projects was complete, the students, lecturers, organisational team and members of the Kölner Neuland e.V. gardening project had a great time baking pizza together. The group kneaded and rolled out the dough, before a variety of different toppings were added liberally. The pizza was then baked in an authentic stone oven. Those who were fortunate enough to be the first to eat their pizza, were also the first to learn a lesson on how many toppings get lost in the oven if they are piled too high. We were accompanied in this special meal by the summer school's mascot and kitchen assistant Rosi. Many funny photos were taken and after everyone had had their fill, a spontaneous evening of traditional dance began, with students and organisers presenting traditional dances from their countries or local cultures.







EXCURSIONS WASTE MANAGEMENT





Steinert - How Waste Can Be Sorted

Load the waste sorting machine with a container full of waste, and a few minutes later you'll find it thoroughly sorted into metals, PET plastic and other materials. It really seemed that easy during our field trip to the Steinert Elektromagnetbau test center, but the technology behind it is much more complex. Steinert builds sorting equipment that separates mixed materials, such as waste or mining products.

The huge waste sorting facility at the test center gave the group the chance to see how it works for themselves. At the beginning, a container full of mixed household waste, with metals, bottles, wrappings etc., was loaded into the machine. The waste was then transported on belts from one machine to the next, each one picking out a different type of waste. A magnet, for example, extracts all the magnetic parts in the waste and later a blowing machine separates heavy fragments from light-weight ones. One very important task that the machine carries out is extracting PET bottles, a type of plastic that can easily be recycled to produce wrapping foils, bags and fleece clothing. Since tons of waste are produced all over the world every day, have machines that sort it and prepare it for recycling it is of utmost importance. Most of the participants had never seen machines like these in action and were very impressed. Steinert gave them a great insight into the operations involved in mechanical waste sorting.







Metabolon

As part of the Waste Management module, the summer school group visited Metabolon in Lindlar, near Cologne. After arriving aboard the University of Cologne bus, the group was given an introductory presentation and tour of the Metabolon site.

The premises, built on a former landfill site (household waste and composting plant matter), encompass 45 ha, including several laboratories, workshops and showrooms. The landfill site, which had a disposal volume of 10 million m³, was shut down in 2004 and the Metabolon project was based on the idea of transforming it into a place of education, knowledge transfer, economic development, value creation and, last but not least, tourism and local recreation. In order to achieve these goals, Metabolon incorporates a school lab, several research areas and laboratories focusing on renewable energies as well as a competence center, an information and play path, leisure activities, such as mountain biking, as well as a series of concerts.

The guided tour of the Metabolon site began with a walk over a landfill bridge, which simulates what it feels like to walk over the surface of a landfill. Next up were two research laboratories, where students explained some of their current experiments in the field of renewable energies. One of the laboratories, for instance, was set up to research energy production from organic waste. Then the group moved on to the wall of waste, an art installation that demonstrates the profile of a landfill site, exposing all kinds of waste, such as juice cartons, computer keyboards, and cell phones. Finally we reached one of the highlights of the visit to Metabolon, the climb up 388 steps to the top of the 350-meter-tall landfill.

Besides the stunning view, the peak of the former landfill offers lots of different play equipment. So those who were not too exhausted from the hike up the hill jumped around on trampolines or ran around on a rubber floor. Unfortunately, the 110-meter-long double slide was closed due to rain, so was not possible to take the fastest way back down.

The field trip to Metabolon was very impressive. The combination of such different ideas and the communication of the issues around waste and waste management in the form of education as well as fun and play makes it attractive not only to experts and professionals but also private visitors, families and children. This is Metabolon's great strength and makes it a very unique and inspirational project.

AVG

Orange suits! The summer school students were able to prove that on our field trip to AVG Cologne. AVG is a large scale waste processing plant in the north of Cologne. It processes many kinds of waste such as household and biological waste as well as industry waste. Valuable materials such as wood, paper, metals and plastics are processed and recycled at external processing plants. The residual waste is burned in an incineration plant, providing enough energy for the local Ford factory, which is located in the neighborhood, and one quarter of households in Cologne.

After a short presentation on the company, the tour of the plant began, putting on the necessary safety gear: orange high visibility vests and yellow helmets. Then the group was shown the reception area, where the trucks deliver the waste collected from the city's bins. Waste from private companies is also delivered by road and rail. To observe the next stage of the process, the group took an elevator 25 meters up into the air. A huge claw in a gigantic hall grabs and transports up to twelve tons of waste to the forwarding belts which transport it to the next processing point.

A few meters below one could look directly into the fire and felt the heat of the incineration plant's furnace, burning the residual waste and producing energy. In the control room the students could experience how data from the plant is displayed on several screens and observed by a couple of employees. Then the group walked into a very noisy hall containing the gas filtration plant, where the exhaust gas from the incinerator is cleaned and filtered in five steps. According to AVG, the air leaving the plant at the end is cleaner than the air outside the building.

AVG had been a great opportunity to see a comprehensive waste management process: from the trucks delivering waste to exhaust gas processing. For all the students, but especially the waste management students, seeing such a large waste processing facility in action was a unique and impressive experience.



FAREWELL DINNER

On the penultimate day of the Cologne Summer School on Environmental Studies: Sustainable Cities, the University of Cologne invited all 29 students to a farewell dinner at the traditional brewery restaurant Haus Unkelbach. The dinner proved a great conclusion to a successful and eventful summer school, with the students and the whole team coming together in the rustic atmosphere of a typical Cologne brewery.

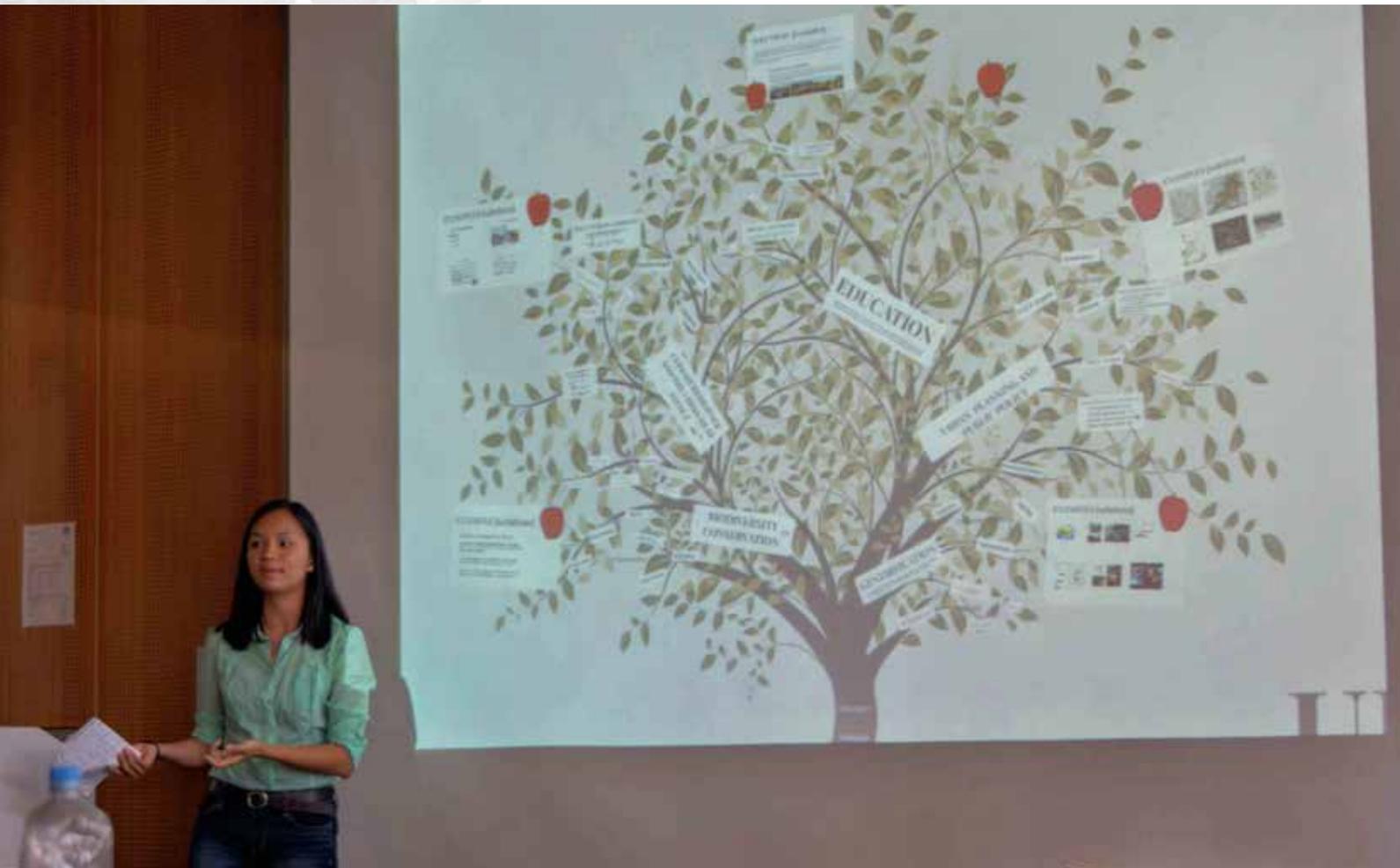




PRESENTATION OF PROJECT WORKS



On the final day, students presented the project essays they had worked on in groups over the previous three weeks. Every single student had the opportunity to take part in the presentation. All of the groups were given in-depth feedback on their paper, which they had handed in one week earlier, and their oral presentation. In keeping with the rest of the summer school experience, Professor Junker's feedback was very special: as well as evaluating the contents of the papers and presentations in terms of their academic value, he also emphasized the importance of working and thinking outside of academic conventions where necessary and fruitful to the topic of Environmental Studies.



CERTIFICATE AWARD CEREMONY



All good things must come to an end - the summer school was no different. The certificate award ceremony turned out to be a very emotional occasion. The students received their well-deserved certificates from Professor Dr. Junker and Victoria Busch, while the members of the organizational and academic teams were given beautiful flowers as a thank you for all of their hard work. Afterwards, group photos were taken with all the participants, the organizational team and the academic team. It was an emotional farewell, but all of us were sure we will visit each other and meet again someday.





EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM

Ratings

The participants evaluated the program by means of an online questionnaire.

The program was rated on a scale from 0 ("not at all" or "very bad") to 5 ("very much" or "very good").

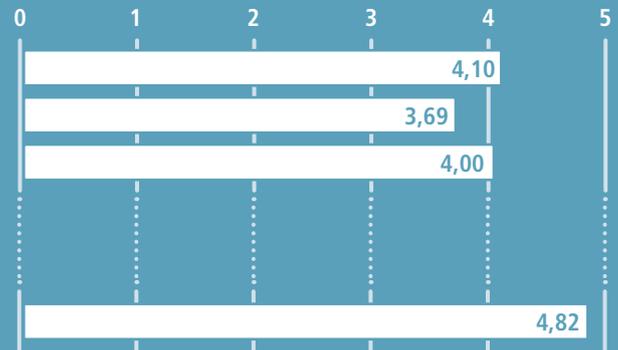
The results showed that the participants were satisfied with the program as a whole and felt they had come to a good place where they had been taken care of. The evaluation looked in detail at the whole program, breaking it down into the contents of the three topics, the intercultural training that took place on the first two days, the field trips, the cultural program and the organizational support prior to and during the summer school.

Academic Program in General

Please rate the academic program of the summer school in general.

To what extent was the academic program of the summer school useful for studies?

To what extent did the academic program meet the expectations you had before?



Supporting Program

Please rate the non-academic supporting program in general.

Please Rate the Cologne Summer School on Enviromental Studies 2015 in Total



COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL KÖLNALUMNI WELTWEIT

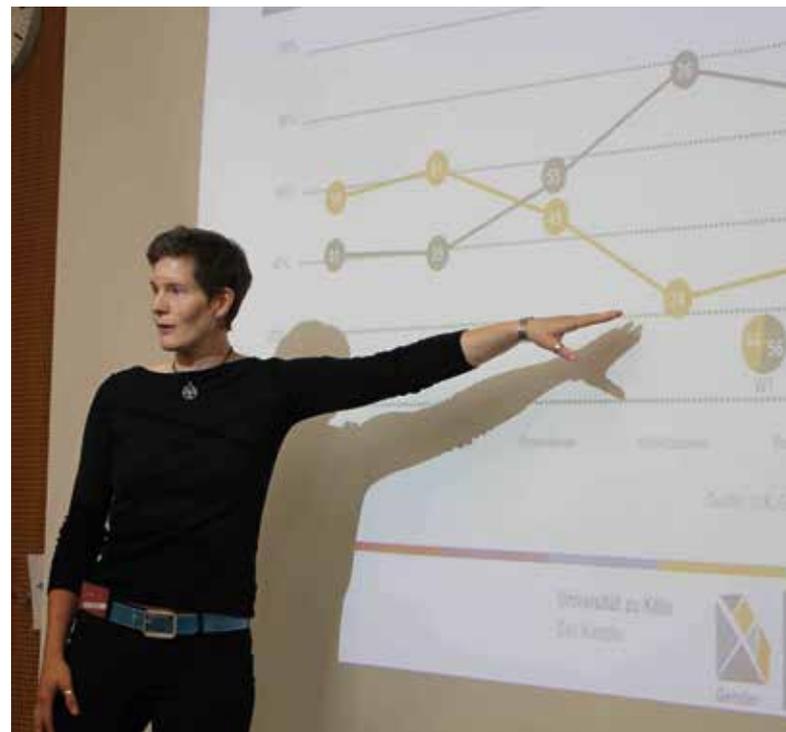
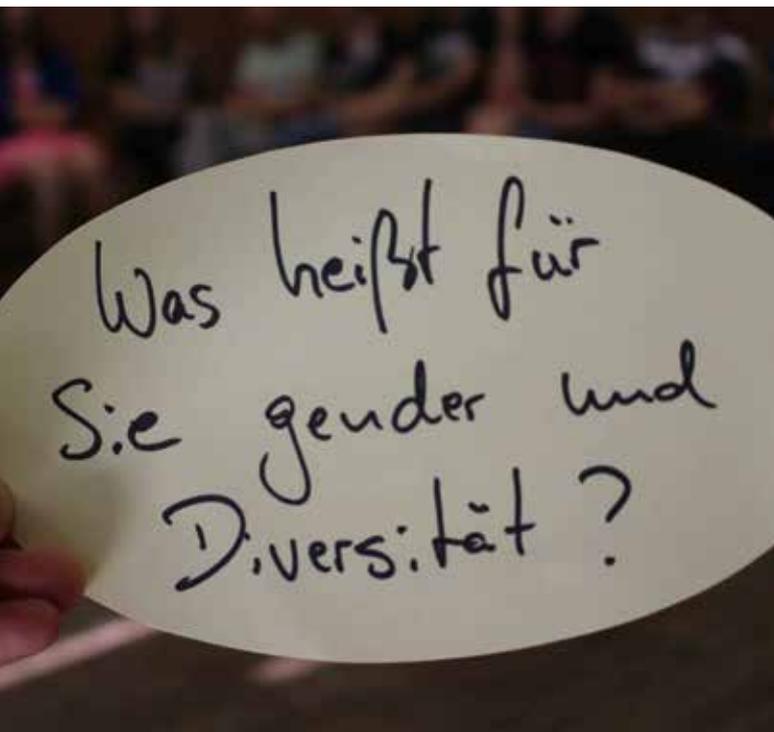
August 9 - 14, 2015

In 2015 the International Office and KölnAlumni WELTWEIT welcomed a group of thirty-three Alumni from sixteen countries at the University of Cologne. A diverse group of academics, from bachelor and master students to doctorates and professors, spent the week exchanging their knowledge on the topic of Gender and Diversity. Since all of the KölnAlumni WELTWEIT members have previously studied at the UoC, this year's summer school continued its tradition of being held in German. Before diving into the topic of Gender and Diversity, the group met for dinner on the first evening at the Cologne brewery Brauhaus Pütz. This gave them the chance to get to know each other, sharing and reliving experiences they had made in Cologne as exchange students or guest lecturers, in a typical German pub atmosphere, with traditional Cologne dishes and drinks, such as Kölsch beer.

During the welcome ceremony the next day, the students met all of the speakers as well as the program's organizational team. Mrs. C. Biehl, initiator of the alumni network, and Dr. S. Bildhauer, Head of the International Office, were there to welcome the guests. Throughout the week, speakers presented their viewpoints on the topic. Dr. Dan Christian Ghattas presented the current state of Transgender and Human Rights from his perspective as a cultural scientist, interactivist and founder of OII Europe, while an insight into this field in Engineering Studies was gained from a talk by Prof. Dr. C. Leicht-Scholten of the RWTH Aachen University. Dr. Rainer Weber, from the

Psychosomatic and Psychotherapy Unit of Cologne University Hospital, presented a survey conducted amongst students of the UoC in regards to studying with mental illness. Sex and Gender from a biological perspective was introduced by Prof. Dr. K. Etschenberg. Mrs. A. Gäckle, an equal opportunities officer at the UoC shared her practical approaches towards gender equality. Mrs. K. Kalmbach presented her work at GeStik, Cologne University's department of Gender Studies, while Dr. M. Haller, from the Human Science Faculty, gave a speech on Gender and Age. Dr. K. Verlinden, from the UoC, talked about Sexuality and Relationships in the Context of the Student Movement in Germany.

The final presentation was a speech on Mobility, Diversity and Social Inequality in Academics given by Prof. Dr. S. Völker from the Faculty of Humanities, and ErzählKaffee. Rounding off the informative summer school, Mrs. C. Biehl, Head of KölnAlumni WELTWEIT, presented a short overview of the organization's recent work. Going on a field trip is a part of the alumni summer school program. This year, the group visited the Dialogue Museum in Frankfurt on the Main, where they had the chance to walk in the shoes of the visually impaired, by being guided through an exhibition in complete darkness. The tour and discussion with the visually impaired tour guide gave the participants an insight on a blind person's everyday life. On the final day, as well as receiving participation certificates, participants had the opportunity to give feedback on the organization of the summer school and its academic program; everyone expressed their satisfaction.



COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON THE FIRST CATARACT OF THE NILE

August 24 - September 13, 2015

The interdisciplinary summer school Cultural and Natural Heritage on the First Cataract of the Nile was a unique opportunity for a group of eighteen students from Aswan and Cologne: not only were they introduced to current discussions on heritage studies and the rich heritage of the Aswan region, they were also involved in some explorative field research.

The summer school was planned and organized by members of the University of Cologne forum Cultural Heritage in Africa and Asia, the Egyptology Department, and the IMES Master Program, in collaboration with colleagues from Aswan University, Nubia Museum Aswan, and the Protected Areas Office Aswan. During the first week in Cologne, students were taught the basics of cultural and natural heritage as well as aspects of heritage and environmental law on international, national and local/traditional levels. They were also introduced to some of the key concepts in the current discourse on heritage, such as identity formation or cultural and historical urban landscapes as the integration of nature and culture. The lectures were given by members of the University of Cologne as well as guest lecturers from Cairo, Durham and Paris. A trip to the World Heritage Site, the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, gave participants the chance to experience a heritage landscape at first hand

while also profiting from the practical knowledge of a heritage manager. The second and third weeks of the program took place in Egypt, mainly in the World Heritage region of Aswan. This began with a day exploring the World Heritage city of Cairo, where many new insights into the entwined character of culture and nature were gained. Visits to some well-known sites such as the temples of Abu Simbel or to protected areas, but also engagement with Nubian heritage and private initiatives on community or individual levels, proved to be valuable expe-





periences of heritage in practice. The heritage research methodologies the students were introduced to where then put to the test, with small mixed groups carrying out field research on topics such as Cultural Landscape and Identity, Nubian Heritage in Practice, Heritage and Tourism, and Camel Trade from the South.

The whole program proved to be extremely intense but successful and was well received by the students, who appreciated both the academic and practical program as well as the intercultural exchange. Everyone agreed that the program should be continued in a similar fashion in the future. For more information:

www.afrikanistik.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/summerschool.html

COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON MEMORY CULTURE AND POLITICS OF MEMORY IN POSTCONFLICT SOCIETIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

September 5 - 12, 2015

The organisers Prof. Dr. Katharina Niemeyer and Victoria Torres de Schmitz as well as the working group Spain - Portugal - Latin America and the Romance Languages Department at the University of Cologne were very pleased to welcome eleven international master's students and PhD candidates from Peru, Columbia, Mexico, Belgium and Austria to the UoC as well as eight local students.

The interdisciplinary topic of "Memory and Memoria" was tackled in panel discussions and lectures. Renowned experts, who came from Spain and Argentina especially for the event, combined presentations with student workshops. Teaching was in English and Spanish.

The Argentinian journalist and Professor of Journalism at the University of Barcelona inspired his listeners with a lecture titled "De Basta ya a Nunca más: La memoria histórica y la construcción de países vivibles. La visión de un periodista latinoamericano". Together with the summer school students, he developed methods of joint remembrance as a means of preventing the repetition of negative experiences and events. Two other lecturers focused on the atrocities of the Argentinian military dictatorship: Lucrecia Escudero Chauvel, Director of



Communication Studies, University of Lille, France, as well as Vanessa Höse, PhD candidate of the Department for Iberian and Latin American History at the UoC's History Institute. Guy Guldentops, philosophy research assistant at the UoC's Thomas Institute, illustrated some philosophical theories dealing with the issue of memory. The lecture by Habbo Koch, who is a Professor of History at the UoC, moved away from the Latin American subcontinent in order to dive into the topic of memory preservation in Europe and, above all, Germany. Martin Becker, Professor at the UoC's Romance Languages Department, and Victoria Torres, lecturer at the Romance Languages Department, gave an insight into the importance of literature in the



process of memory preservation. As a didactic underpinning of the learning experience, the participants worked in groups to create academic posters on the different subtopics. There was also no shortage of practical experience: As a city with a long and diverse history, Cologne offered the summer school group an abundance of opportunities to remember and learn together. During a tour of the city, the group was able to marvel at historical buildings and places, while reflecting on the culture of memory. Other activities during the week included a visit to the Jawne School, which served as a Jewish school during the Nazi regime, a walk through the EL-DE Haus, the NS Documentation Centre of the City of Cologne, as well as a guided tour through the Melaten cemetery, another historical

site at which memory is being preserved. Finally, all of those involved in the summer school had the chance to celebrate its success with drinks and dancing at a farewell party held at the Spanish centre *Círculo Machad*.

The participants looked back, in relaxed conversation, on an amazing week and the creation of new memories for the future.

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COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON MEDIATING CULTURAL REFERENCES AT THE FUDAN UNIVERSITY IN SHANGHAI

August 17 - 21, 2015

Fascination in other cultures is a popular topic in literary texts. The first part of the summer school therefore focused on the theory and forms of cultural difference. This focal point was characterized by intercultural German philology: new problematic issues were tapped into together, and typical examples from art, philosophy and literature were debated. This was especially productive because two cultural horizons provided the basis of the dialogue.

In the second part of the summer school, students presented their dissertation projects and discussed them within the

group. This opened up new perspectives for both German and Chinese students. The summer school also provided the opportunity for students to establish contacts, which will surely blossom and grow in the future, for example when Chinese PhD candidates come to study in Cologne.

The Chinese partners at Fudan University contributed greatly to the summer school, creating an extremely generous and hospitable support program.

The excursion to Zhujiajiao Ancient Town, a fishing village where ancient Chinese culture can be experienced, was of particular note. The Chinese hosts made the visit a productive and unforgettable experience.



COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON LANGUAGE IN POLITICS AND IN THE MEDIA

September 14 - 19, 2015

The media and politics are both areas where language is crucial to understanding and communication. It is the key to informing, contesting, entertaining and also, if necessary, manipulating others. Linguists decode the language used in these areas and help to understand linguistic means.

The Cologne Summer School Language in Politics and in the Media was an extension of an ongoing cooperation between the German Department at the University of Sofia and the University of Cologne, which had previously only taken place as an exchange of teaching staff. The program combined seminar courses with field trips to various organizations and media groups based in Cologne (political organizations, newspapers, radio, television). The students were therefore able to approach the particularities of language in practical settings: radio shows, television programs, newspapers as well as in a political environment, connecting these experiences with their theoretical knowledge on the architecture of slogans, the importance of keywords and the use of metaphors. The academic side of the program was complemented by social activities including a private dinner and a paper chase through Cologne.

Most of the Bulgarian students had been to Germany before and had knowledge of the language. None of the German students had ever been to Bulgaria, so had a lot to learn from their fellow students. In an oral evaluation at the end of the summer school, both groups stated that this interpersonal contact was one of the main plus points of the program. The educational approach of combining theoretical and practical inputs was also a new experience for many.





COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL

[sic!] SUMMER INSTITUTE COLOGNE

August 25 - September 3, 2015

[sic!] Summer Institute Cologne 2015 offered seminars in Classics, Early Modern, Theater, Film and Sound for 48 students from Germany, Canada, France, India, Australia, Switzerland, Poland, Peru, Great Britain and the USA.

[sic!] took place at the Theaterwissenschaftliche Sammlung. As a collaboration between the University of Cologne and Northwestern University, Evanston (USA), each of the five seminars was co-taught by a faculty member from Cologne and from Northwestern.

Lecturers and students explored the topic of intermingling in this two-week course. Seminars form the core of the Summer Institute.

In addition, the program offered academic workshops on subjects such as comics, Shakespeare, or game studies, which were also co-taught by international scholars, and presentations by faculty members. The students had the chance to experience various aspects of German culture with excursions to Zeche, Zollverein in Essen and Museum Ostwall in Dortmund, study trips to the former Elektronisches Studio at WDR (West German state broadcaster) guided tours and a scavenger hunt through Cologne.

Platforms such as a world café, student-led intersections, or PechaKucha were organized to facilitate spaces for the students to contribute to the overall intellectual experience.



COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON HIGH ANGULAR RESOLUTION IN ASTROPHYSICS: OPTICAL INTERFEROMETRY FROM THEORY TO OBSERVATIONS

September 6 - 13, 2015

The VLTI School High Angular Resolution in Astrophysics: Optical Interferometry from Theory to Observations took place at Mater-nushaus in Cologne. It proved a very successful program, giving around forty students from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America the chance to listen to lectures by 20 internationally renowned experts in the fields of astrophysics and high-angular resolution instrumentation.

The lectures were complemented by a series of practical tutorials with a dedicated team of tutors, aimed at solving specific issues. The school offered an excellent opportunity for students to explore new interferometric techniques. The program was concluded with a simulation of a proposal submission in front of an assignment committee composed of the lecturers present. Before that there was even time for some social activities, with a visit to the 100-meter-diameter telescope in Effelsberg and a conference dinner at Paffgen brewery in Cologne. The organizational and academic content was praised by both students and speakers alike.





COLOGNE SUMMER SCHOOL ON NON-LINEAR METHODS FOR COMPLEX SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

September 28 - October 2, 2015

The University of Cologne's Competence Area 3: "Quantitative Modeling of Complex Systems" hosted the Cologne Summer School Non-Linear Methods for Complex Systems Analysis, introducing novel and groundbreaking methods for the analysis of scientific data.

The workshop covered topics such as complex networks and scaling analysis, synchronization, transfer entropy, recurrence networks and causality, which help to characterize highly complex systems governed by non-linear processes.

Guest lecturers included Dr. Reik Donner and Marc Wiedermann from the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research, who created a program based on their lectures at Humboldt University, Berlin, and their popular courses at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly.

25 masters and PhD students from various fields of study, including economics, neuroscience, physics, meteorology and biology, from the University of Cologne and other international

universities made for an interdisciplinary learning experience. The summer school program consisted of half-day lectures and computer labs.

The participants worked in groups on five projects analyzing real-world data, which they presented to each other at the end of the summer school.

The Python toolbox pyUnicorn for non-linear analysis was introduced in the computer labs as well as prominent examples of modern analysis frameworks, highlighting the methodological variety of complex, systems-based data analysis.

Afterwards, the course materials were made available to the participants, including example codes for the platform-independent open-source software Python and the toolbox pyUnicorn.



A special thanks to Mr. Xuan Truong Trinh who took most of the pictures used in this brochure.

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