Dear German and Chinese members of the IRTG “Adaptive Minds”,

We are glad to send you a new edition of the IRTG Newsletter, which is circulated among all German and Chinese IRTG members in more or less regular intervals. Please do not hesitate to give us your feedback on or suggestions for the contents of the current or future IRTG newsletters. For example, all German and Chinese IRTG members are always invited to inform us about new developments in their publication record or scientific career.

Best regards,
The coordination team of the IRTG at the German site
Axel, Hubert, Theo, & Annalena

1.) IRTG News

We are glad to inform you that one of the IRTG publications has been ranked among the Top Five cited articles (since 2010) in the journal Neuropsychologia, namely a paper co-authored by the (former) IRTG members Kathrin Utz, Violeta Oppenländer, and Georg Kerkhoff:


It is a pleasure to announce that Sandra Dörrenbächer has won the prize for the best psychology seminar in the academic year 2013/14 by the student council. She achieved the first place with the seminar "Introduction to Psychology“ (course A) and the second place with the seminar "Introduction to Psychology“ (course B).

We are pleased to inform you that the application for a new DFG project by Jutta Kray and Kerstin Unger starting in April 2015 had been approved. In addition, we are glad to announce the new DFG project “Instantaneous association-building bypassing the hippocampus“, which is carried out by Regine Bader in Axel Mecklinger’s group. The application has been submitted by Regine Bader and Patric Meyer at the Zentralinstitut of Seelische Gesundheit in Mannheim. Regine Bader and Kerstin Unger both wrote their proposals for the DFG project during the time of their IRTG Early Career Support (IRTG Anschubförderung).

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that Michael Kursawe and Balazs Feher have recently successfully completed their doctoral defences. Michael has also been awarded with a new position in the unit “Work and Cognitive Psychology" of Prof. Dr. Müßeler at the RWTH Aachen, in which he continues his work in the research field "Cognitive Load/Effort". This work unit deals with visuomotor coordination processes related to the operation of technical devices. Research is centered around the foundations of cognitive psychology, such as perception and selective attention, as well as the interface between perception and action in space in the applied context.
2.) New IRTG Members

**Carolyn Wu, new postdoctoral researcher**

Hello, my name is Carolyn and I am from New Zealand. I have begun a postdoctoral research fellowship at the IRTG from 1st July. I completed my undergraduate degrees in piano performance and pharmacology at the University of Auckland. After some time in the workforce, I set out to find a way to combine my diverse interests, which led me to research in the field of the cognitive neuroscience of music. My PhD thesis documented an EEG investigation of the effects of musical training on audiomotor interactions in the brain. I studied EEG oscillations as a potential index for action representation in musicians, and explored short-term training effects on action representation networks by implementing an adaptive training paradigm for adult non-musicians. Brain imaging has enabled the music cognition field to move toward potential clinical applications, such as stroke rehabilitation, where musical training could be incorporated into therapy. During my studies I have also undertaken sensorimotor fMRI projects with focal dystonia and Parkinson’s disease patients, and have piloted a connectivity study utilising a MRI-compatible piano keyboard. As well as interests in music cognition, perception, and action, I am excited to have the opportunity to be involved in broader topics, as I come from a cognitive neuroscience research laboratory that has a wide range of neuroplasticity projects from neurogenetic learning and memory to longitudinal developmental disorder research. I am looking forward to meeting you all in Saarbrücken!

**Ann-Kathrin Zaiser, new associated PhD student**

Hi everyone, my name is Ann-Kathrin Zaiser, I am 25 years old and a new PhD student at Saarland University, under the supervision of Dr. Regine Bader and Prof. Axel Mecklinger. I’ve just finished my Master’s degree at the University of Mannheim, where I also did my undergraduate studies and where I used to work as a student/research assistant at the Chair for Cognition and Individual Differences. During my studies, I was engaged in research on (global) memory models. Since I’ve been interested in neuroscience for long, I wanted to combine research on neuropsychology and cognitive psychology (especially memory) and applied for a position in the DFG project of Dr. Regine Bader and Dr. Patric Meyer from the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim. We are investigating the phenomenon of fast mapping, a form of associative memory building that was shown to bypass the hippocampus. I am more than happy to have the opportunity to combine several of my interests. And, as I can tell so far, I’m convinced I will have (and am already having) a wonderful time at this university, the Experimental Neuropsychology Unit, and the IRTG group, where I will be an associated member.
3. ) Fourth German-Chinese School in Germany (11th-17th October 2015)

We are glad to inform you again that the fourth Sino-German Fall School will take place in October 2015 in the Victor’s Seehotel Weingärtner at the beautiful Bostalsee in Saarland, which offers many nice leisure opportunities. The aim of the event school is to bring together the German and Chinese members of our IRTG and to discuss the joint research projects of the participating professors and doctoral researchers.

The participants are also offered the opportunity to learn about the issues and methods studied or applied by renowned external guest speakers. We are happy that Moshe Naveh-Benjamin from the University of Missouri, Mike Anderson from the University of Cambridge, Paul Burgess from the University of London and Björn Rasch from the University of Fribourg have already confirmed their participation as guest speaker.

You can soon find more detailed information about the Fall School at the website http://www.uni-saarland.de/forschung/adaptive-minds/study-program/winter-term-201516/fall-school-2015-at-the-bostalsee.html.

4.) New IRTG Publications

We would like to happily announce the following new papers of IRTG members that have recently been accepted for publication in internationally acknowledged journals:


Gomes, C.A. & Mayes, A. (in press). The kinds of information that support novel associative object priming and how these differ from those that support item priming. Memory.


The website that lists all publications of the IRTG (see “Publications” website at www.adaptiveminds.de) has been updated accordingly. Please let Theo know in case any publication of yours is missing.

5.) Homepage of the IRTG

The IRTG website contains information on all IRTG members. Please inform the coordinator of the IRTG if you want to change, update, or delete information on your person, for example CVs, affiliations etc.