



## WORKSHOP

### Making the Right Move: How to Become a Young Investigator in Germany

**Date:**

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Workshop 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm (incl. a coffee break) and  
Reception 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Location:**

Goethe-Institute Washington  
812 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3718, USA

**Contact:**

Dr. Katja Simons, GAIN Program Director  
(Email: [simons@daad.org](mailto:simons@daad.org); Phone: 212.758.3223 ext. 217)

**RSVP**

Please register by April 12 at <http://www.gain-network.org>

## German Academic International Network (GAIN)

GAIN is a joint initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (AvH), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and associated members, including the German Rectors' Conference, the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the Leibniz Association and the Max Planck Society.

## **Workshop Description:**

This workshop is targeted at young scientists and scholars from all academic fields in the postdoc phase. It will provide information on how to develop independent research careers and set up a research team as a young investigator or as junior faculty. To help participants make informed choices about risks and benefits associated with transatlantic career options, we will explore funding trends in the US and provide you with an overview of opportunities and paths to an academic career in Germany.

Possible funding opportunities (e.g. Emmy Noether-Program of the German Research Foundation (DFG), Helmholtz Young Investigator Groups, ERC Starting Grant, Sofja Kovalevskaja-Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) and positions (e.g. Junior Professorship) at universities and non-university research institutions will be explored. Successful grant holders will share their first-hand work experience and provide information and advice on the application process. They will also talk about how they integrated their skills and experiences gained in the United States into the German research system. Furthermore, the speakers will focus on the following points in their testimonials:

- Why they chose Germany
- How to prepare, apply and negotiate the position
- How to select an institution
- Challenges of managing the research group

### **Moderators:**

#### **Dr. Marion Müller**

Director North America Office, German Research Foundation, DFG

#### **Dr. Katja Simons**

GAIN Program Director, New York

## **Outline:**

### **Introduction**

#### **Weighing the Transatlantic Career Options: Trends in U.S. Research Support and Career Opportunities**

##### **Cathleen S. Fisher, PhD**

Executive Director, American Friends of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

The session will provide a brief snapshot of trends in U.S. research support and opportunities; the aim is to help participants make better informed choices about the relative risks and benefits associated with transatlantic career options. What are the trends in U.S. federal, private, and university funding for academic and other research? What are the chances of obtaining a tenure-track position? What short- and long-term impact will the financial and budgetary crisis have on the research and academic job market? What longer-term trends in U.S. academe should you consider when charting your future career path?

### **Overview on research careers in Germany**

##### **Dr. Anjana Buckow, German Research Foundation (DFG)**

Program Officer, Research Training Groups, Graduate Schools and Programs for Young Researchers: Strategies and Development

There are several ways to a professorship (or a similar position) in Germany: the traditional "Habilitation", the "Junior professorship", which was introduced in 2002, and the leadership of one's own independent junior research group. The talk will give an overview, present the pros and cons, the terms and conditions (salary, teaching, rights) and provide information on the chances to succeed. It will also touch upon the discussion about the need for a German "tenure track" and whether the "Habilitation" is still necessary or advisable.

### **Testimonials:**

##### **Prof. Dr. Isabel Heinemann**

Juniorprofessur für Neuere und Neueste Geschichte  
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster

Nachwuchsgruppe im Emmy Noether-Programm der DFG  
„Die US-amerikanische Familie im 20. Jahrhundert“  
<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Geschichte/hist-sem/NwG-ZG/>

Isabel Heinemann, PhD, is a specialist in contemporary History, her main fields of research being Europe under National Socialist Rule and 20<sup>th</sup> Century US-History. She earned her M.A. in 1996, after studying History and German at the Universities of Mainz, Dijon, and Freiburg. In 2001 she obtained her PhD at Freiburg with a study on the Racial Policies of the SS during National Socialism, published in 2003. From 1998 to 2009 she worked at the History Department of Freiburg University, since 2002 as Assistant Professor (Wissenschaftliche Assistentin).

In 2009 Dr. Heinemann obtained an Emmy Noether Grant by the German Science Foundation and moved to the University of Münster, where she established her Working Group on "American Family Values in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". Her Noether-Group consists of three PhD students, one research assistant, and herself. As Junior Professor for Contemporary History at the University of Münster she teaches US-American History and the history of National Socialism.

## **Dr. Francesca Spagnoli**

Head of the Helmholtz Young Investigator Group:  
Molecular and Cellular Basis of Embryonic Development  
Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin

[http://www.mdc-berlin.de/de/phd\\_ausbildung/phd\\_program/Research\\_Schools/TransCard\\_Research\\_School/Prospective\\_Students/Faculty/Organ\\_Development/Francesca\\_Spagnoli/index.html](http://www.mdc-berlin.de/de/phd_ausbildung/phd_program/Research_Schools/TransCard_Research_School/Prospective_Students/Faculty/Organ_Development/Francesca_Spagnoli/index.html)

Francesca M. Spagnoli earned her Medical Doctor degree in 1996 from the Medical School - University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy. Subsequently, she moved to work as PhD student in the laboratory of Dr. M. Weiss at the Pasteur Institute, Paris. She obtained her Ph.D. in Genetics from the Pasteur Institute - University Paris 6 in 2001. For her postdoctoral training, she joined the laboratory of Dr. Ali H. Brivanlou at The Rockefeller University, New York, USA. In 2008, she became independent group leader at the Max Delbrück Centrum in Berlin, Germany, and kept an Adjoint Faculty position at The Rockefeller University.

Her lab uses different vertebrate model systems, including *Xenopus* and mouse embryos, to investigate molecular mechanisms underlying endoderm development and specification of endoderm derivatives, such as the pancreas and liver. Francesca is one of the 240 top young scientists recipient of the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant in 2009. Ongoing experiments in her laboratory, now generously supported by the ERC Starting Grant, aim at breaking new ground in understanding how to reprogram related tissues and provide the blueprint for cell-based therapies of diabetes.

## **Tricia Striano, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology  
Hunter College  
[www.infancyresearch.com](http://www.infancyresearch.com)

Tricia Striano, Ph.D., has over a decade of experience researching early infant and child social and cognitive development. She studied psychology at The College of the Holy Cross '95 and obtained her MA in '99 and Ph.D. in Psychology from Emory University '00, specialized in Cognition and Development. Dr. Striano obtained her Habilitation in Psychology '08 from the University Osnabrück in Germany.

Recipient of the international Sofja Kovalevskaja Research Prize of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, research grants from the German Research Foundation and the National Science Foundation, she was Head of the Cultural Ontogeny Group at the Max Planck Institute for Cultural Ontogeny, Head of the Research Group on Neurocognition and Development at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences and Center for Advanced Studies at the University Leipzig, Germany. She is Associate Professor of Psychology at Hunter College in New York City where she teaches research methods and developmental psychology.