

## Health Psychology in Germany: Recent and current developments summer 2014 to summer 2015

### Academic development

The Health Psychology Section of the German Psychological Society (DGPs) has published a curriculum for B.A. and M.A. studies of Health Psychology ([www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/fachgruppe/studium](http://www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/fachgruppe/studium)).

From September 2015 on, Jacobs University in Bremen starts a new Master's program, which was developed in accordance with this curriculum ([www.jacobs-university.de/msc-psychologie](http://www.jacobs-university.de/msc-psychologie)).

### Applied development

To aid implementation of evidence-based health prevention in different settings (e.g., kindergarten, school, workplace) funded by different social insurance agencies (e.g., health, nursing care, annuity and accident insurances and the Federal Labour Office), a Prevention Act has long been discussed. The current government is about to draft a Prevention Act and plans to pass it in 2015.

### Section of Health Psychology in the German Psychological Society

The Section of Health Psychology in the DGPs has currently 290 academic members ([www.gesundheitspsychologie.net](http://www.gesundheitspsychologie.net)). The executive committee members of the Section of Health Psychology within the German Psychological Society are Claus Vögele (President), Nina Knoll (Secretary), Heike Spaderna (Treasurer), Verena Klusmann (representative of young researchers) and Theda Radtke (stand-in representative of young researchers). A new board is currently elected (results not yet official) and will start its work in September 2015.

In 2014, the Section of Health Psychology introduced two new grants to support young researchers: Every two years, there will be a peer-mentoring-tandem grant available for cooperation between two pre-docs and one for cooperation between pre- and postdoc or two post-docs.

The Section of Health Psychology also established a database for experts on specific topics within health psychology in Germany ([www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/experten](http://www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/experten)).

The journal "Zeitschrift für Gesundheitspsychologie" will be reorganized and internationalised ([www.hogrefe.de/zeitschriften/zeitschrift-fuer-gesundheitspsychologie](http://www.hogrefe.de/zeitschriften/zeitschrift-fuer-gesundheitspsychologie)). It is planned to switch to an English journal title (not yet decided which) and to publish articles in English only. A new editorial board will be set up.

### EHPS-related activities

A lot of members of the Section of Health Psychology in the German Psychological Society are members of the EHPS. EHPS conventions and activities are announced in the Section of Health Psychology's newsletters two times a year.

### Conventions

The next convention of the Section of Health Psychology of the DGPs will be held from September 17 to 19, 2015 in Graz (Austria) with the topic "Measuring Health – Promoting Health". Keynote speakers will be Prof. Dr. Manfred Schedlowski (Universität Duisburg-Essen) on the Placebo-Effect, Prof. Dr. Frank Madeo (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz) on Nutrition and Health and Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schoberberger (Medizinische Universität Wien) on stationary smoking cessation programs.

Prior to the convention, the summer school „Young Scientists Exchanging Ideas“ for PhD students will be held from September 15 to 16, 2015 in Graz (Austria) including methods training on multilevel modelling.

### **Current research**

There is a broad range of academic research related to Health Psychology in Germany. The Section of Health Psychology currently compiles a register of evidence-based Health Psychology programs ([www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/datenbanken](http://www.gesundheitspsychologie.net/index.php/de/datenbanken)).