Report of the Managing Director for the Year 2004

It is ZiF’s principal task and challenge to promote interdisciplinary research. Ways for fulfilling this task are as diverse as the topics proposed to the Center and the disciplines joined together in research activities. In the past year, ZiF could further strengthen its role as promoter of interdisciplinary interaction.

Successful in Research

A good example for this successful development is the current Research Group *Emotions as Bio-Cultural Processes* (organizers: Hans J. Markowitsch and Birgitt Röttger-Rössler), which started its operation in the Center in April 2004. Recent advances in evolutionary biology and cognitive science lead to questions shared with the social sciences and the humanities. Looking for answers to such questions does not only induce changes in theories and methods within the respective disciplines, but also far-spreading research networks transgressing disciplinary boundaries.

Similarly, the ZiF: Task Force *Public Health Genetics* (October 2003 – March 2004; organizers: Angela Brand, Alfons Bora, Notburga Ott) not only investigated social needs and effects of gene research and technology, but it could also establish a comprehensive network of researchers, research institutions and representatives of R & D in politics and the public health sector.

The ZiF: Task Forces are a new working format which has been specially designed beyond its immediate thematic purpose for establishing interdisciplinary research networks. Two further pilot projects of this type were supported in 2004.

The ZiF: Task Force *Communicative Description and Clinical Representation of Anxiety* (April – September 2004; organizers: Elisabeth Gülich, Jörg Bergmann, Martin Schöndienst, Friedrich Wörmann) combined diagnostic imaging and linguistic analysis of verbal protocols for the development of novel, comprehensive diagnostic methods.

The ZiF: Task Force *Socio-Economic Modeling* (June – September 2004; organizers: Joachim Frohn, Bernd Meyer, Carsten Stahmer) investigated how social subsystems, esp. demographic development and education, can be integrated into economic modeling of social development. First results will be presented on the final conference in February 2005.

A preliminary evaluation of these three task forces shows this format to be highly promising and accepted; yet it seems that efficiency could still be increased by investing further resources in preparation and follow-up periods.

A broad variety of themes has been worked on in the conferences and workshops. Far more than a thousand scholars have visited the Center in the course of the year. 57 workshops and conferences, plus the regular meetings and seminars of the research groups and task forces, give ample evidence of ZiF’s high attractiveness as a meeting place for interdisciplinary exchange and personal communication.

One of the year’s highlights was the Author’s Colloquium in honor of the renowned historian Christian Meier in June 2004 (organizers: Aloys Winterling, Wilfried Nippel). The Center continues to play an important strategic role for Bielefeld university, both as the site for the evaluation of large externally funded research projects (e. g., Collaborative Research Centers) and for preparatory workshops connected to new research initiatives.
Characteristic of all these activities is not only that research themes are worked on, but also that researchers get into close personal contact with each other. Even in the age of video-conferencing, personal encounters are of an irreplaceable kind. Renovated conference rooms and foyers, cafeteria and fellow room, swimming pool and sauna have further stimulated personal exchange. For the ZiF, not only what is communicated in polished lectures is important. Even more decisive appears that what is said off the record, speculatively and enthusiastically written down on paper tablecloths, blackboards, or outlined in late-night e-mails. Such is the evidence for the breeding of ideas in the Center’s special intellectual climate, which eventually find their way into published research output.

Open for the Public

The ZiF not only hosts intense research co-operation, but also conveys research in new formats. Inaugurated in 2003 and continued annually, leading experts present their field of investigation to the public in the Center’s plenary hall. A distinguished science writer, Gero von Randow, gave last year’s public evening lecture on July 21st, 2004. The audience was fascinated by his remarks on Formulas of Power? What Political Analysis can Learn from the Sciences. Vivid discussions followed all through ZiF’s summer party till long past midnight, and no less intriguing than musician Thomas Gerdiken’s exciting boogie play on the piano. Jorge Volpi, Mexican writer and prize winner of 1999 Premio Biblioteca Breve and 2000 Prix Grinzane Cavour—Deux Océans, read from his novel En busca de Klingsor (In Search of Klingsor) on Dec 9th, 2004. The science thriller novel deals with the intimations of leading physicists and the Nazi regime.

The series of ZiF: Public Lectures will be continued in 2005. Prof. Dr. Angela Friederici, director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, has been invited to give a lecture in July.

In 2004, eight art exhibitions were realized, two of which originated directly from research contexts. Under the heading My whole body is painting artistically active patients of Bethel hospital worked (and painted) together with members of the research group Emotions as Bio-Cultural Processes in a three-day workshop. The public presentation of the results were completed by exhibits of Bethel collections. An introduction into the exhibition was given by Jan Hoet, founding director of MARTa museum, Herford, and Artistic Director of documenta IX.

The exhibition German Presence in the U.S.A. in Past and Present Times displayed souvenirs of German emigration to the United States, esp. from the local region. It was part of the ZiF: Workshop German Presence in the U.S.A., organized by Josef Raab and Jan Wirrer (both U Bielefeld).

In order to adapt the newsletter to its international dissemination, the ZiF: Mitteilungen will be published in a bilingual format (German—English) from 2005 onwards. Short texts are given in full translation, longer texts are accompanied by a summary in the second language. A new flyer giving a brief overview on the ZiF will be issued in early 2005.
Forthcoming Projects

From April to September 2005, a ZiF: Research Group *Stochastic Modeling in the Sciences* will be organized in the Center by Michael Röckner, Friedrich Götze, and Yuri Kondratiev. For the academic year 2005 / 2006, a ZiF: Research Group *Embodied Communication in Humans and Machines* (organizers: Ipke Wachsmuth, Günther Knoblich) has been approved by the Board of Directors.

For 2005, 13 ZiF conferences and 12 workshops of research groups and task forces have been granted, so far. 10 further applications are currently under review.

Financial Situation

The Center has relied on a constant annual project budget by the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia of app. € 750,000, for more than 10 years. In effect, this decreases the scope of ZiF’s activities in the course of time, a development which can only partially be counterbalanced by raising external funds (in 2004: € 90,000). The situation has become aggravated by the very success of the “task forces”, which effectively meet interests of research and research policy, but – so far – have to be financed out of the budget for research groups and workshops.

The Board of Directors, therefore, upholds their demand for a mid-term increase of state funding by € 150,000.

Personalia

Beirat / Advisory Board

Neu in den Beirat gewählt wurden / Newly elected:
Prof. Dr. Volker Arolt (Psychiatrie/Psychotherapie, U Münster) und Prof. Dr. Günter v. Kiedrowski (Organische Chemie, U Bochum).

Ausgeschieden sind / Terms ended:
Prof. Dr. Dr. Hinderk M. Emrich (Psychiatrie/Psychotherapie, MH Hannover) und Prof. Dr. Bernt Krebs (Chemie, U Münster).

Wiedergewählt wurden / Re-elected:
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Braungart (Literaturwissenschaft, Bielefeld) und Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Reinhard Selten (Wirtschaftswissenschaft, Königswinter).

Direktorium / Board of Directors

Der Wissenschaftliche Beirat hat in seiner Sitzung am 6. November 2004 dem Senat der Universität Bielefeld Herrn Prof. Dr. Martin Carrier zur Wiederwahl in das Direktorium des ZiF vorgeschlagen.

*On Nov. 6th 2004, the Advisory Board has nominated Prof. Dr. Martin Carrier to the Senate of Bielefeld University for re-election to the Board of Directors.*

Kuratorium / Board of Trustees

Neu ins Kuratorium wurden gewählt / Newly elected:
Staatssekretär Hartmut Krebs (Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung, NRW) und Dr. Johannes Meier (Mitglied des Präsidiums und Kaufmännischer Vorstand der Bertelsmann-Stiftung).
Nachwuchs-Netzwerk / Network of Young Scientists
Fünf neue Mitglieder wurden in das nun auf 22 Mitglieder angewachsene Netzwerk berufen / Five new members were elected to the network:
Thomas Beschorner <thomas.beschorner@uni-oldenburg.de> Wirtschaftswissenschaften
   Forschungsschwerpunkte: Ökonomik als Handlungstheorie; Verhältnisbestimmung
   von Kulturwissenschaften und Ethik in ökonomischen Zusammenhängen
Andreas Blödorn <bloedorn@uni-wuppertal.de> Literaturwissenschaft
   Forschungsschwerpunkte: Narrative Rationalität und Konstruktionen des Subjektes;
   Hirnforschung und ihre folgen für die Geisteswissenschaften
Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann <stefan-ludwig.hoffmann@rub.de> Geschichtswissenschaft
   Forschungsschwerpunkte: Nationale Souveränität und Menschenrechte;
   Kulturwissenschaften; Neuere und Neueste Geschichte
Michael Neugart <neugart@wz-berlin.de> Wirtschaftswissenschaft
   Forschungsschwerpunkte: Arbeitsmarktökonomik; Nichtlineare Dynamiken in der
   Ökonomie; Neue Politische Ökonomie; Agent-Based-Computational Modelle;
   Angewandte Ökonometrie
Karsten Weber <kweber@euv-frankfurt-o.de> Philosophie
   Forschungsschwerpunkte: Philosophische Grundlagen der Kulturwissenschaften und
   ihrer Analyse; Informationsethik