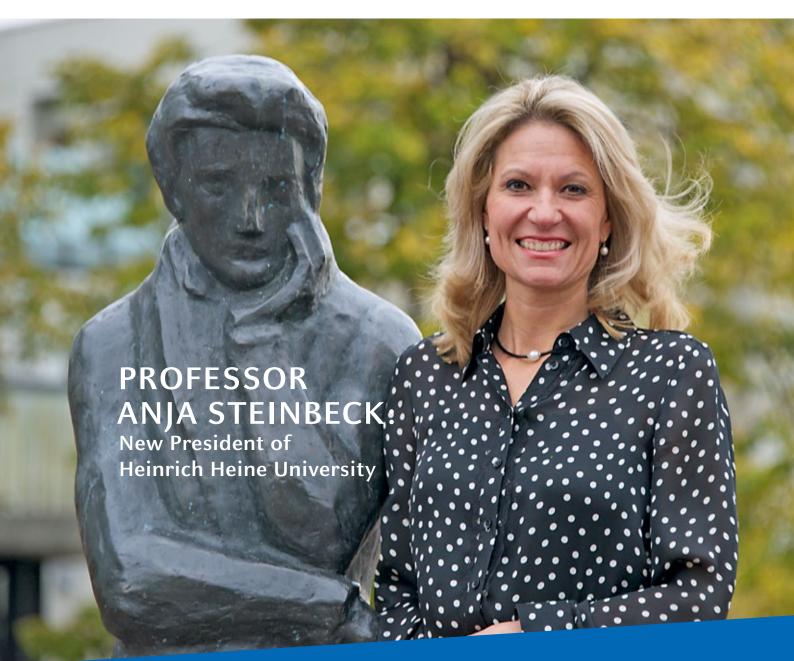




# MAGAZINE

OF HEINRICH HEINE UNIVERSITY DÜSSELDORF



- ➤ SUSTAINABLE
  TUNA BREEDING:
  International project
  successful since 1999
- ► MANGA AND

  MAYA THE BEE:

  Institute explores

  Japanese popular culture
- ► A HORROR STORY: How dangerous are herb-based drugs really?

### **Editorial**



#### Dear Reader

You are holding in your hands the brand-new HHU Magazine – a newsletter with which we would like to keep our international partners informed about current topics and developments at Heinrich Heine University.

In November 2014, Professor Anja Steinbeck took over from Professor Piper as the new President of Heinrich Heine University. New vice-presidents were also appointed and are now working with great enthusiasm on the University's further development. As the new Vice-President for International Relations, it will be my pleasure to use this newsletter in future to keep you updated about HHU's news and priorities in the area of internationalization.

To date, considerable effort has been invested at HHU above all in expanding student mobility, which is why we today have an excellent infrastructure, a broad range of services and many exchange students (both incoming and outgoing). The aim in future is to extend and advance international networking in the area of research; we want to welcome a large number of international guest researchers to HHU, make it easier — with the help of HeRA Graduate Academy — for international doctoral researchers to undertake and successfully complete their doctoral studies here as well as create incentives for establishing joint research projects with international cooperation partners.

With today's issue, we would like to give you an insight into research work and other activities at HHU: An insight into biology and the tuna research performed successfully

since 16 years, an insight into the University's Coin Collection, which is now also available online, into the relationship in popular culture between manga and Maya the Bee investigated by researchers in the Department of Modern Japanese Studies as well as into the research being undertaken in the field of forensic medicine on the topic of legal drugs. The newsletter ends with a report on the Meyer-Struckmann Prize awarded to Professor Alain Schnapp, the internationally renowned archaeologist, and I am pleased to tell you that the Foundation has decided to award the prize – one of the highest in the field of the humanities – for a further ten years. The current call was launched in March and I would like to encourage you to nominate suitable candidates, since the Foundation explicitly welcomes proposals from abroad!

Dear Reader, I hope you find this brochure entertaining and wish us all continued and productive cooperation at international level!

Yours sincerely

Professor Andrea von Hülsen-Esch Vice-President for International Relations

E-Mail: Prorektorin.Internationales@hhu.de

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Rolf Willhardt (head), Dr. Victoria Meinschäfer, Susanne Dopheide

#### **Editorial assistance:**

Professor Christopher Bridges, Dr. Arne Claussen, Christian Herrmann

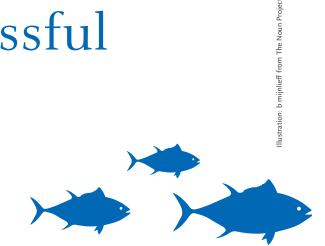
#### Translation:

Sharon Oranski, www.oranski.de

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# 16 years of successful tuna research

#### Düsseldorf biologists coordinate European research project



Düsseldorf counts as the largest Japanese colony in Germany. It is hard to imagine the Rhineland without its fellow Japanese citizens and sushi, one of their favourite dishes. That sushi fans have even more for which to thank Düsseldorf is less well known: In Düsseldorf, research work is also being performed in the field of "tuna breeding".

BY ARNE CLAUSSEN

ver the past 16 years, Professor Christopher Bridges, biologist at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, has coordinated several European collaborative projects with a total funding volume of over 9 million euro. The objective was the sustainable propagation and breeding of bluefin tuna. TRANSDOTT, the fifth project, ended in September 2014.

#### Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) is a very popular fish for human consumption and treasured above all by the Japanese for making sushi. Over 90% of all tuna of this type caught are sold to Japan for

very high prices. The record: In 2013 a huge fish weighing 222 kilograms was sold to a chain of Japanese sushi restaurants for over a million euro. Due to high demand and prices, the bluefin tuna population is extremely endangered, particularly in the Mediterranean.

In order to prevent its extinction, the ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) has set strict fishing quotas for the Mediterranean so that the population can recover. This quota includes tuna from fisheries, which today make up about 95 percent of all Mediterranean tuna sold. It also includes tuna from aquaculture, where young fish are caught in the open sea and fattened within five months in fish farms, since these fish too are taken from the natural cycle.

In order to protect the endangered tuna population in the long term, a complete breeding cycle would be necessary: From spawning and fertilization of eggs to cultivation of larvae to fattening. Tuna which stem from a complete breeding cycle would be excluded from the fishing quota.

It is precisely this sustainable tuna breeding which since 1998 has been part of the research plan of the Ecophysiology Working Group at the Institute of Metabolic Physiology under the leadership of Professor Christopher Bridges. Four predecessor projects in the framework of TRANSDOTT (Translation of Domestication of Thunnus thynnus into an innovative commercial application) already dealt with various aspects of the breeding cycle.

### Sustainability through breeding cycle

Amongst others, egg deposition of tuna in captivity was successfully achieved – this had not previously been possible with these highly sensitive fish. In addition, simple and cheap methods were developed for clear genetic identification of tuna. Only in this way can the origin of tuna from sustainable cultivation be fully verified. A range of new techniques from these predecessor projects is now being marketed by "Tunatech", an enterprise founded in 2012 by

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two former doctoral researchers together with Professor Bridges. Tunatech is cofinanced from the pre-seed start-up fund of Heinrich Heine University.

TRANSDOTT itself focussed from 2012 to 2014 on the transfer of various research projects into practice with the purpose of commercializing the research results. Led by the team in Düsseldorf, higher education institutions and enterprises from Germany, Israel, Italy, Malta, Norway and Spain worked closely together.

A key topic in the field of tuna breeding is the feeding of the larvae and young fish up to the age of 150 days and a weight of about two kilograms. Only a small percentage of the fertilized eggs survive this first stage, whilst in the fattening phase – in which the tuna

reach a slaughter weight of 60 to 80 kilograms – only a few fish die. Through a special diet, initially comprising tiny crustaceans and later other fish larvae and then dry feed, it was possible to raise the survival rate considerably.

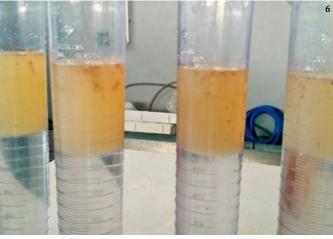
#### 100.000 fish per year

From 2013 to 2014, the commercial project partners in TRANSDOTT bred several thousand fish. The mediumterm goal is an annual cultivation on the scale of 100.000 tuna fish, which would equate to an annual production of over 10.000 tons. Such volumes would be close to the current catch in the Mediterranean.

Yet to what extent are TRANSDOTT's breeding methods sustainable? Professor Bridges explains: "We need less than 150 tuna fish caught in the wild as parent fish for egg production as well as just a few more each year to refresh the genetic pool. Otherwise all tuna come from the cycle."

Breeding and fattening take place in large sea cages in deeper water near the coast. In this way, waste is quickly transported away and dispersed by the strong current. "Since tuna fish are very resilient and hardly affected by disease, we can do without medication and antibiotics," points out Professor Bridges. This is a major difference to salmon farms, which have fallen into disrepute for polluting waterways with large volumes of dirt and medicines. Only the dry feed for





- 1: Tuna is particularly popular in Japan and sold for very high prices.
- 2: Professor Christopher Bridges with a harpoon developed in Düsseldorf for taking tissue samples.
- 3: 150 day-old tuna weighing 1.7 kg and 29 cm in length.
- 4: Tuna in a breeding station in Gabriel Mourente, Spain.
- 5: Breeding cages in Malta.
- 6: 2 million tuna eggs in the breeding station in Malta.





fattening the fish has so far been made from caught fish. "Work is already being done on producing dry feed based on soy", says Professor Bridges, "which tuna also accept and has no influence on the taste." This vegetable feed however costs significantly more than animal-based dry feed. In the long term, algae from aquaculture and not soy are likely to provide the source of vegetable protein.

#### Strengthen natural stocks

Tuna from sustainable aquaculture released into the sea could also contribute in the long term to replenishing the natural population. Such restocking ex-

periments have already been undertaken in Japan with older farmed fish. However, only a few of these fish have so far been caught again, so that it is not clear to what extent the experiment was successful. Professor Bridges suggests a different approach: "The six breeding stations distributed across the entire Mediterranean region could produce 900 million fertilized eggs each year and release larvae at an early stage once they have overcome the first critical stage."

Adult tuna from such restocking would be easy to identify because the genetic 'fingerprint' of the farmed fish is known exactly. "We would, however, have to wait a few years until mature fish have developed out of the larvae and then caught. Only then will we see

how many of our larvae actually survive", says Professor Bridges.

An application for a successor project to TRANSDOTT has been submitted within Horizon 2020, the new European Framework Programme for Research. The aim of this future project is to improve structures in European marine research and to establish aquaculture based on a molecular marker. Particularly fast-growing tuna and amberjacks will be chosen by means of genetic selection. If the application is successful, research work could commence in the spring of 2015.

► Contact: Prof. Christopher Bridges, Institute for Metabolic Physiology – Ecophysiology Working Group, Tel: +49 211 81-14991, bridges@hhu.de

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# How Emperor Constantine announced he was a Christian

#### Now also accessible online: Heinrich Heine University's Coin Collection

oins narrate both stories and history: For example of the Roman monarchy's Christianization from Emperor Constantine the Great (306–337 AD) onwards. Under his rule, the pictures on Roman coins changed. Depictions of Pagan deities disappeared and Christian symbols appeared on coins for the first time in order to make the emperor known as a Christian ruler. In this way, even a little coin contains complex messages which can still be interpreted today, for example by the researchers and students in the Department of Ancient History (Professor Bruno Bleckmann), which guards over one of the largest coin collections housed at a university.

In the course of the last forty years, the Department has built up an unusually varied and extensive teaching and research collection of ancient coins. The inventory – in total about 8.000 coins and 15.000 plaster casts – is of outstanding

#### Coins of outstanding scientific value

scientific value and great research significance. It is now being made available to the public in the shape of a Digital Coin

#### **Digital Coin Collection**

The Digital Coin Collection is accessible under <a href="http://muenzkabinett.hhu.de">http://muenzkabinett.hhu.de</a>. Various search functions guide the user through the inventory. Individual objects are displayed with descriptions, technical information and high-resolution images. Supplementary sections provide an overview of the collection itself and its history, present an "Object of the Month" in greater detail and suggest further reading.

Collection and thus also accessible for the first time to a globalized and digitalized research environment.

The history of the coin collection began in 1971 with Dietmar Kienast, who was at that time Professor of Ancient History and who from early on wanted to develop the Department of Ancient History into a centre of numismatic research and teaching. This interest quickly became known outside the circle of staff too, so that over the years a regular group of interested numismatists formed around the Department who complemented the collection, partially also with donations and gifts. Many items were also given on permanent loan. Today the collection comprises not only coins from Greek and Roman antiquity but also Chinese and post-ancient coinages as well as special numismatic pieces, such as plaster casts, ancient and modern counterfeits and medals, as well as items from Roman and Egyptian craftwork. The focus lies on coins from the era of the Roman Empire and Late Antiquity.

"Numismatic collections have always played a very special role in classical studies research as well as for conveying historical findings", explains Dr. Johannes Wienand, Academic Advisor. "They function as an interface between science and society."

#### Tracing historical change from coins

Wienand has been in charge of the collection for three years and his own doctorate focused on panegyrics (praise of rulers) and the stamping of medallions and coins under Emperor Constantine. "The gradual process of Christianization can be seen using the example of coins", says Wienand. "For students, working with ancient objects is a unique experience". In ancient times, coins were a means of depicting sovereignty. In a similar way to triumphal arches, they told of the ruler's accomplishments and greatness and of the victor's virtues. By examining them, historical change can be traced from the coins themselves.



1: Minerva head with Corinthian helmet; place of minting: Rome; dating: Shortly before 269 BC; weight: 5.75 g; diameter: 19.8 mm

4: 開元通寶 lat. Kai Yuan Tong Bao; dating: 732-907 AD; weight: 2.85 g; diameter: 24.93 mm

2: PLAV]TIVS, frontal Gorgoneion; hallmark above inscription; place of minting: Rome; dating: 47 BC; weight: 3.94 g; diameter: 19.7 mm

**5:** Front part of a boar, left-facing; place of minting: Unknown; dating: 500 – 440 BC

**3:** Orodes II. (?), Left-facing bust with short beard; weight: 4.06 g; diameter: 18.4 mm

Photos: Department of Histor

**6:** DIOCLETIAN/radiate crown/beard/armour; place of minting: Ticinum; dating: 284 AD; weight: 3.52 g; diameter: 22.7 mm

# "THEY FUNCTION AS AN INTERFACE BETWEEN SCIENCE AND SOCIETY."

Dr. Johannes Wienand, Academic Advisor

Accessibility to this valuable numismatic collection is an important foundation for scientific work, with which the academic world can radiate far beyond the interests of basic research and right into the heart of society.

The setting up of the online catalogue was supported with funding of 40.000 euro in the framework of the programme line "Infrastructural Support for Social Sciences and the Humanities in NRW" by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as well as by Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Minister Svenja Schulze said: "The scientific potential and cultural capital of the collection can only be released

on a large scale in a globalized and digitalized research environment with the aid of an open-access concept. The successful implementation of this digitalization project will strengthen the Department, the University and thus also NRW as a location for humanities research as well as increasing visibility at international level."

The digitalization project with the title "Coining History. Digitalization and Open-Access Publication of the Numismatic Collections at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf" was implemented under Wienand's guidance by Felix Böttcher M.A., Research Assistant, and Sebastian

### Specially designed reproduction workstation

Lindermann, Student Assistant, using a specially purchased reproduction workstation designed specifically for the digital photography of coins. In the framework of a teaching project in the summer semester of 2014, students also helped to build up the data pool.

# Manga and Maya the Bee

# Department of Modern Japanese Studies explores Japanese popular culture

During recent years, once of the foci of research and teaching in the Department of Modern Japanese Studies has been the analysis of media products in Japanese popular culture. One reason for this is that many students (at present 770, of which 440 main-subject students) have grown up with Japan pop, are very familiar with the various topics and can contribute their own expertise.

BY ROLF WILLHARDT

rofessor Michiko Mae, Chair of "Modern Japanese Studies I" (Cultural Sciences) since 1993: "Japanese pop culture products, such as manga and anime, i.e. animated films, as well as television series give a revealing insight into Japanese culture and society, because they have also dealt since the 1950s with important issues, such as war and peace, the atomic bomb, environmental disasters or the relationship between man, technology and nature. But they are also concerned with the everyday life above all of young people with their social and psychological problems."

Japanese popular culture: A medium which interests students and in which they feel at home. "That's why we use their expertise and interest as the basis for scientific debate. An example is the series we publish entitled 'Young Japan Research in Düsseldorf' with contributions by students. The second issue – ,Japan Pop without Borders' – has just appeared.

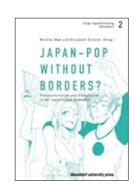
There is no question about it: Japanese popular culture is in great demand in Germany too. Japanese comics (manga) enjoy cult status and as

"graphic novels" are not just for kids. A classic of all time is "Barefoot Gen in Hiroshima", the manga published in 1973 by artist and writer Keiji Nakazawa (filmed in 1983) in which he describes his personal experiences after the atomic bomb was dropped. Japanese cartoons don't tell just cute children's stories.

### Manga aesthetics long present on German screens

Manga aesthetics – their special feature is oversized eyes – appeared at an early stage on German screens too: "Vicky the Viking" (1974), "Heidi" (1974), "Maya the Bee" (1975), "Pinocchio" (1976): All film productions created in Japanese anime studios as co-productions with German, Austrian and Japanese television. And which achieved worldwide success.

Professor Mae: "Japanese popular culture is deeply rooted in the country's cultural tradition. It is, however, also an important example for cultural exchange, adoption and transformation.



"Japan-Pop without Borders – Transkulturalität und Subkulturen in der japanischen Popkultur", Michiko Mae and Elisabeth Scherer (Publ.), düsseldorf university press, Düsseldorf 2015, 280 pages, € 19,80





1: "Maya the Bee" hasn't just hummed across German screens since 1975. The images were drawn in a Japanese film studio which otherwise creates popular anime films typical for Japan. Since 2013 there is a new Maya on German TV: A state-of-the-art HD version.

2: Japan in German cinema: Scene from the film "Cherry Blossoms" by Doris Dörrie, 2008. Rudi (Elmar Wepper) is a widower who practices butoh, a traditional Japanese dance, with Yu (Aya Irizuki), a homeless artist. The film (Dörrie's third), which was at least partly made in Japan, was a great success and made the topic of "Japan" beyond just manga and comics known to a broader public again.

# "JAPANESE POPULAR CULTURE IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE COUNTRY'S CULTURAL TRADITION."

Professor Michiko Mae, Modern Japanese Studies I

Just as there was a transcultural process in art between Japan, China and Europe, which contributed to the development of modern art through what is referred to as 'Japonism', so too in modern popular culture: It became an international

#### Culture as transculture

mediator of Japanese culture and society and one of the country's top exports. Our students learn about culture as transculture, specifically that culture can only develop its own autonomy and uniqueness in open exchange with other cultures. It is not our intention to train Japan specialists, but instead young people with intercultural and transcultural competencies."

With what professional prospects? Professor Mae lists language institutes and cultural institutions, publishing, journalism, PR and media,

international enterprises and organizations. "Today we have five partner universities in Japan at university level and nine at faculty level and each year we send over 20 students to the Far East", reports Professor Mae.

"What's more", she adds, "our students also use other possibilities to complement their academic education in Japan, undertake an internship or work. There are not many, but after all a few, who have then started their careers there."

"Japanese Studies" – Just plain exotic? Professor Mae objects most vehemently. "With our 770 students and at present four professorships, our institute is one of the largest for Japanology in German-speaking countries!"



# "OUR SUBJECT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION PROCESS AT HHU."

Professor Michiko Mae, Modern Japanese Studies I

Professor Michiko Mae: "With its concentration on cultural and social sciences and focus on transcultural gender and diversity-oriented foci in research and teaching, our Department can cover a broad spectrum of student interests and expectations."

Of course the University's advantageous location also plays an important role: With 6.500 people the Japanese community in Düsseldorf is very large (Düsseldorf is the "only Japantown in Germany" according to Wikipedia), and an almost complete Japanese infrastructure, such as the Japanese School, the EKO House (temple

#### Düsseldorf: The "only Japantown in Germany"

and cultural centre), the Japanese Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). And naturally numerous Japanese shops ("Little Tokyo" on Immermannstrasse) as well as the impressive number of 500 branches of almost all important Japanese enterprises in Düsseldorf and the surrounding area.

Professor Mae: "In this way, our students are able not only to get to grips in just an abstract

manner with Japanese culture and society, but also to familiarize themselves directly with them through exchange with the local community. At our University, we are not just well-connected within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, but also exchange modules with the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics. Our subject is very important for the internationalization process at HHU."

Is getting to grips with Japanese popular culture a reason to choose this subject? Yes, according to Professor Mae, half of all new students indeed state that this was their initial motive. "The others have very different reasons, for example an interest in the language, in Japanese cultural tradition and literature – even types of sport typical for Japan. Today's students are not just simply interested in economics. Above all they are living in a global media world. In this popular culture world of media and Internet, Japan plays a significant role and is of special importance for the current lifestyle of many young people."

# Herbal joints: A horror story

# Legal highs: How dangerous are herb-based drugs really?

ach winter semester, toxicologist Professor Thomas Daldrup (Institute for Legal Issues in Medicine, 63) holds a lecture on legal and illegal drugs. There are up to 300 students in the audience. Not just medical students attend, as his talk is also part of the General Studies curriculum. A topic which since 2008 has attracted more and more attention both in the media and in the field of toxicology: "Legal highs" – drugs declared as "herbal mixes", "bath salts", "fertilizer" or "air freshener".

They have exotic and fanciful names and are mostly packaged in colourful little sachets with humorous motifs: "Sonic Boom", "Rocket", "Poppers", "Explosion", "Welcome to Las Vegas". Or "Spice Gold", which comes in a test tube. Professor Daldrup places it on the table in the library of the Institute for Legal Issues in Medicine. Looks like oregano. Or savory. "But it's powerful stuff", says the toxicologist. Because the "spices" are blended with synthetic substances which are intoxicating.

#### Designer drugs are mostly from Asia

They are on sale in marijuana shops and on the Internet as a substitute for cannabis. Customers smoke them to get high. The spices are not yet forbidden, hence the name "legal high".



Professor Thomas Daldrup, Forensic Toxicologist, warns about legal highs

Such lifestyle drugs, on the market now for about six years and mostly produced in Asia, do not (yet) fall under the Narcotics Act. But can have fatal effects. Symptoms range from nausea and vomiting to unconsciousness and hallucinations. In some cases even death.

The herbs are mixed with chemicals which simulate THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), a constituent of cannabis. "There are about 300 cannabinoids. And it is very difficult and complicated to detect these substances in specimens. If you really do find one in a legal high on sale, the manufacturer changes the chemical formula slightly and brings the product back onto the market under another invented name", explains Professor Daldrup.

# Cannabis substitute is not a medicinal product

The German Medicinal Products Act is not in a position to tackle these marijuana substitutes. The European Court of Justice ruled in July 2014 that herbal joints "cannot be classed as medicinal products" and judged in favour of the plaintiff, who had been given a suspended sentence by Lüneburg District Court for "unlawful marketing of medicinal products": He had sold herbal mixes declared as "room fragrance" and "bath salts" as a marijuana substitute. He went to the Federal Supreme Court, which referred the case – due to its fundamental significance – to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg: See above.

Professor Daldrup points out another problem: "Substances which are not yet listed in the Narcotics Act can be sold. Since designer drugs change all the time, they are not generally listed in the Act."

Legal highs – a danger for Düsseldorf and the region? The toxicologist points out geographical differences which at first appear astounding. "If you can get cannabis easily, you don't take spice. Here in Düsseldorf, we are close to the Netherlands where drug laws are very liberal. It is relatively easy for consumers from NRW to get hold of cannabis or amphetamines. In the east of Germany it's a different matter. Legal highs are booming there. Just as in prisons or with drug-addicted car drivers, because spice is hard or even impossible to detect in urine."

# Meyer-Struckmann Prize for Alain Schnapp



Award ceremony on 19th of November at University House (from left): Professor Bruno Bleckmann, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Alain Schnapp, award winner, Professor Anja Steinbeck, President, and Professor Gert Kaiser, Chairman of the Meyer-Struckmann Foundation

lain Schnapp was awarded the Meyer-Struckmann Prize for Research in Humanities and Social Sciences, which was conferred in 2014 in the field of "Classical Archaeology". Schnapp, who was born in France in 1946, is Professor of Archaeology at Pantheon-Sorbonne University in Paris and was head of the "Art History and Archaeology Department". The jury thus honoured a researcher who for many years has united basic research in the shape of archaeological excavation with scientific study and outstanding literary work.

## Fundamental contribution to visual anthropology in antiquity

The jury of the Meyer-Struckmann Prize, which in addition to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Chairman of the Meyer-Struckmann Foundation also included several other representatives of the Faculty and the Foundation, acknowledged a scientist who has made a fundamental contribution to historical visual anthropology in antiquity, investigated the iconography of ancient Greek depictions, delivered significant results in the field of archaeological urban research and history in Ancient Greece and who, with his

books on the scientific history of archaeology which have been translated into numerous languages, has laid the foundation for a new perspective on this discipline.

Professor Bruno Bleckmann, Dean of the Faculty, judged that no-one was a more suitable prize winner than Alain Schnapp, who combines the specialist discipline of excavation with the "lore of ancient things". Professor Gert Kaiser, Chairman of the Meyer-Struckmann Foundation, also considered Schnapp to be a fitting prize winner of whom Fritz Meyer-Struckmann, its founder, would have approved. During the award ceremony on 19th of November at University House, he was also able to make the pleasing announcement that the Foundation had decided to award the prize – one of the highest in the field of the humanities – for a further ten years.

#### **Meyer-Struckmann Foundation**

The Meyer-Struckmann Foundation sponsors science and research above all in the humanities and cultural sciences. Funds stem from the estate of its founder, Fritz Meyer-Struckmann, who was a banker in Essen. The annual prize of 20.000 euro is awarded by a jury composed of members of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and representatives of the Foundation. The jury specifies a new field of research each year from which the prize winner must be nominated. Victoria Meinschäfer











Campusmesse 2015

# Recruitingtag 10.00-16.00 Uhr

Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

Gefördert durch









