

Witten/Herdecke University, Germany

Faculty of Management & Economics

PRME Report

Academic Year 2018/2019

United Nations Global Compact Academic Network

PRME

This is our **Sharing Information on Progress (SIP)**
Report on the Implementation of the **Principles for
Responsible Management Education**



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Faculty's Message



The Faculty of Management & Economics at Witten/Herdecke University is deeply committed to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management Education. Hence, we are very proud to submit our Report on Progress for the academic years 2018 and 2019.

Witten/Herdecke University and its Faculty of Management & Economics are designed to prepare students for leading positions in business, politics and society. We educate change agents who are able to cope with the unexpected and who are prepared to assume responsibility. It is our professed aim to raise awareness amongst our students for the economic, ecological and social challenges of the 21st century. As in previous years, the Faculty of Management & Economics offers a wide range of mandatory and elective classes in the field of sustainability. We will spare no effort to further integrate the idea of sustainability into our degree programmes.

We would like to emphasize the high level of commitment our students show in the social sector. An impressive number of student initiatives strives for societal impact. With a new organizational unit, the Initiatives' Lab, we implemented a student-led contact point for initiatives and project ideas of all kinds to support, strengthen, consolidate and illustrate our students' commitment to a fairer and more sustainable world.

Once again, our excellent teacher-student ratio and practice orientation were corroborated by top results in the "trends Graduate Barometer" and by the "StudyCheck" Award.

At the end of 2019, the Faculty is looking forward to a new organizational setting as we will expand and transform into a new Faculty of Management, Economics and Society with added focus by introducing a department structure. The new faculty is to start its work in spring 2020. We are committed to further unlock the potentials of transdisciplinary research in addressing societal issues and sustain and strengthen our teaching towards all aspects of social responsibility.

We would like to draw your attention to this progress report's section "Highlights of the year" which exemplarily illustrates our broad engagement by current projects in teaching, research and extracurricular student activities. In the field of teaching, we would like to highlight the Social Entrepreneurship Summer Camp that enables students to familiarize themselves with issues of social responsibility. In terms of research we would like to introduce the research work of the new interim Professor of International Politics II, Amanda Machin, PhD who focuses issues of injustice, responsibility, climate and sustainability at a societal level. Moreover, we want to shed light on an extracurricular student initiative, the oikos Sustainability Week, which took place in May 2019 and included numerous lectures, workshops and a career opportunities fair with a broad range of organizations.

Finally and most important, we are pleased to report that the University has adapted its University Statutes to more explicitly address aspects of social responsibility and sustainability and to introduce a sustainability reporting on university level.

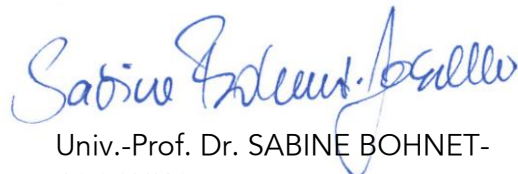
We are proud to be an active member of an international academic network committed to lay a solid foundation for the education of future leaders.

Herewith, we renew our commitment to the United Nations' Global Compact Academic Network and to the Principles of Responsible Management Education.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. MARCEL TYRELL

Dean, Faculty of Management & Economics



Univ.-Prof. Dr. SABINE BOHNET-
JOSCHKO

Chair of Management and Innovation in
Health Care

Highlights of the year

We would like to illustrate our broad engagement through three vivid examples of student initiatives, research and teaching, as well as the adaption of our University Statutes and Regulations towards sustainability.

Adaption of the University Statutes and Regulations

Toward the "special responsibility for a sustainable, peaceful world"

On 20 June 2019, the University Statutes and Regulations of Witten/Herdecke University was changed according to a Senate decision in order to add further social and sustainability aspects.

The preamble states that the admission of members shall be decided independently of social aspects and establishes that the University shall encourage not only the ability to solve problems independently but also the assumption of social responsibility.

Furthermore, Section 3 "Goals and Duties" was supplemented by Subsections (6) to (8). These subsections now complement the University Statutes and Regulations by the awareness of a "special responsibility for a sustainable, peaceful and liberal world". Accordingly, teaching, research, operations and governance at the University are committed to sustainable development in terms of generational sustainability that harmonizes ecology, economy, culture and social responsibility. Most important: The Executive Board will report annually to the Senate on measures taken and progress made.

Not new but still a long way to go, decisions shall always consider the equal rights of women and men. For example, committees and commissions appointed by the University shall be gender-equitable. Also, family-friendliness has to be promoted through appropriate measures.

From now on, the Senate elects a Commissioner for Equality and Diversity as well as four deputies who will deal with the concerns of women, minorities and potentially disadvantaged groups at the University on a triennial basis. This applies especially to study, teaching, research and development planning. Accordingly, a permanent Senate Committee for Equality and Diversity will be established, and a person of trust for a prompt and sustainable resolution of conflicts between University members will be appointed.

Student initiative

oikos Sustainability week

Terms like "sustainability" lose their sharpness through frequent and abstract use and run the risk of turning into an empty word. The oikos Witten/Herdecke student association would like to counter this trend by bringing the term to life using practical examples.

One of numerous projects was the "oikos Sustainability Week 2019" which took place at the University from 21 to 24 May. The University's students and staff as well as Witten citizens were invited to spend a week addressing sustainability issues. Three days of this week were devoted to the motto "Change in values - individual, work, society". oikos hoped that the balance between practice and theoretical input would allow an approach to sustainability as diverse as possible, going beyond addressing the topic in the academic environment or purchasing organic products and being embedded in the question: Which values do we want to live in the future and how do we get there?



The thematic focus on the "Individual" included a workshop on "Psychology in environmental protection – starting points and barriers for environmental protection measures". Motivation psychology provides information about what drives our actions and what we can change in order to facilitate environmentally friendly and sustainable behaviour. A behavioural model can help to understand and change (un)sustainable behaviour. In the evening, a clothing swap party took place to support the slow fashion movement.



On the second day, the focus was on "Work". Therefore, a Career Opportunities Fair was organized together with non-profit or sustainable companies, start-ups, NGOs, foundations and associations, providing students with the possibility to explore interesting career opportunities, find internships, network and to see what the world of work has to offer for integrating personal commitment into everyday working life. The programme also comprised workshops for various initiatives.

The last day focused on "Society", with a workshop on "Me & the others - communication strategies on sustainability" organized by sustainability week representatives. Afterwards, there was a panel discussion on "Economic growth in the field of tension of sustainability - what transformation potential do alternative economic schools of thought offer", where representatives of various schools of thought discussed the roles of feminist economics and common theories in a change of values in economics.

Due to a large number of participants and the positive response, the Sustainability Week was an outstanding success.



Research

**New Chair of International Political Studies II with a focus on inequality and sustainability:
Ph.D. Amanda Machin**

International Politics encompass a broad array of intersecting concerns and challenges, some of which are unique to today, others of which are endemic to the more-than-human condition. Studying these concerns and challenges involves grappling wicked problems and rehearsing interdisciplinary thinking, especially in the field of sustainability and responsibility.



Since October 2018, Ph.D. Amanda Machin is an interim professor of the new Chair of International Political Studies II and engages with this multifaceted picture, focusing particularly upon issues of ecology, citizenship, identification, inequality, sustainability and democracy, drawing from and augmenting agonistic political theory.

Her goal is to develop a critical perspective upon environmental and democratic politics, in which environmental concerns are understood as posing opportunities as well as dangers for the enhancement and enlivenment of the political realm. She is also geared towards creating a synergy between research and teaching, as her teaching includes seminars on politics and sustainability, political and social theory, climate change discourse and citizenship today.

Amanda Machin is involved in funded research projects such as the "Community in Crisis? Political Identification in Europe" project together with Nadine Meidert from Zeppelin University. This project gathers a group of scholars from across Europe with different disciplinary backgrounds, focusing upon issues concerning challenges of citizenship, immigration and populism and their impact upon political identification in Europe. The project includes a two-day workshop held in October 2018, and a forthcoming edited collection.

In the reporting period, she published the book *Society and Climate: Transformations and Challenges* (co-authored with Nico Stehr N., World Scientific, 2019), *Against Political Compromise: Sustaining Democratic Debate* (co-authored with Alexander Ruser, Routledge, 2017) and *Nations and Democracy: New Theoretical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2015).

Teaching

Summer University Camp - Social Entrepreneurship

Fighting poverty and hunger, stopping the climate crisis, creating fairer educational opportunities and gender equality, sustainable and responsible management - the global tasks our world society is facing are manifold, must be taken seriously and can only be accomplished jointly and with the help of the next generation. That was the thematic context of the workshop "Machen ist wie wollen. Nur krasser" (the difference between wanting and really doing it), which 25 young people attended in the summer break at Witten/Herdecke University under the guidance of Christine Bleks, founder of the award-winning social enterprise "Tausche Bildung für Wohnen" (offering education for free accommodation). She gave the participants an insight into the 17 UN sustainability goals and into how social entrepreneurial action and business may trigger positive social change.



Sandra Schürmann, founder and managing director of the "Project Factory" in Witten, was invited to join the summer camp. She is an award-winning social entrepreneur and Ashoka Fellow who supports long-term unemployed young people in finding a profession they really like by acting on stage. Her success rates are well above the average of other job placement programs. In the meantime, Schürmann's approach has also been successful in other European countries. The event was hosted by Dr. Babak Zeini, founder and managing director of the futurest GmbH in Cologne, Germany, who specializes in the analysis and development of tomorrow's markets and products in social enterprises and sponsored by the Chair for Innovation and Management in Healthcare led by Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko.

Using various creativity techniques and methods from the field of design thinking, four groups of participants developed four different approaches to attaining the UN sustainability goals "No Hunger", "High-Quality Education", "Gender Equality" and "Climate Protection".



Participants developed quite a number of ideas, four of which were presented to all attendees: From the establishment of a local supermarket offering only regional products, a service providing children from remote places access to educational facilities, an alternative for plastic materials made of algae for the industry and consumers to working closely with pupils on non-violent and gender-equitable communication strategies. Participants were able to vote for the project that was most convincing regarding effectiveness and feasibility. In the end, the "Algastic" team was the winner.



"A context in which committed young people address issues of the future – that is exactly what university is about", said Prof. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko and was pleased about the good response to and results of the workshop.

The summer camp is a co-operation between Witten/Herdecke University, the Duisburg Social Enterprise Exchange Education for Living Association and the Social Entrepreneurship Network Germany.

Principle 1: Purpose

We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable values for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Our purpose

Witten/Herdecke University was founded and state recognised in 1982 and has since been a pioneer among Germany's institutions for higher education. Over a period of 30 years, we introduced significant innovation in research and teaching. As a model university, we stand for dynamic reforms of the traditional alma mater and the pursuit of a humanistic educational concept adapted to the challenges of our modern knowledge society. In adherence to Humboldt's educational ideals, we strive to integrate research and student education, provision of scientific services, practical application and social responsibility. Theory-based and practice-oriented teaching at UW/H is always associated with the acquisition of subject-related, methodical, social and cultural competences, value orientation and personal growth.

Witten researches.

Research at UW/H is interdisciplinary, highly diverse as to methodology, and focuses on well-defined areas. As a private university with a moderate percentage of state funding in our budget, we feel obliged to make a contribution to society in return for the funds we receive. One way of doing so is to generate innovative research results. Real-life problems call for transdisciplinary research. The social relevance of our chosen fields of research is as important in this respect as transparent and generally understandable publication of research findings.

Witten educates.

Education is much more than training for the job. In addition to subject-related expertise and skills, we also convey methods and strategies which enable our students to cope with complex and permanently changing demands of the modern knowledge society. Students are encouraged to think in wider contexts and assume social responsibility in and beyond a chosen discipline. The economic, ecological and social challenges of the future will certainly not respect the boundaries of academic disciplines.

Witten – fundamental.

In an increasingly complex, rapidly changing and insecure world, future physicians, entrepreneurs, managers, politicians or consultants need methodical, social, ethical and cultural competences as much as subject-related expertise. Studium fundamentale is an obligatory part of all degree programmes at Witten/Herdecke University. One day per week, students of all disciplines take time for reflexion of fundamental issues, communicative experiences, and artistic-creative exercises. They discover new horizons, explore trans-disciplinary contexts, and enjoy time and space for out-of-the-box thinking and action.

Witten gets involved.

The role of higher education in society underwent radical changes in recent years. Top level research and teaching are the necessary conditions for successful universities. In Witten, however, we go a bit further. We demand and encourage initiative and responsibility; in university bodies, in the representation of student affairs, in the design of courses, congress organization or implementation of business ideas – but also in student-organized social initiatives. Our students show tremendous commitment and assume responsibility for their university, themselves and ultimately for society. On occasion of the founding ceremony of Witten/Herdecke University, Alfred Herrhausen, then Chairman of Deutsche Bank, spoke of an “esprit engagé, a dedicated spirit to be developed and employed for the fostering of our society”. This spirit is an essential part of our philosophy.

“Witten/Herdecke University as the oldest and one of the few interdisciplinary private universities stands for pluralism, freedom in curricular organization and encouragement of social responsibility. Its reformative character is an inspiration to the entire system of higher education in Germany.”

Prof. Dr. h.c. **Roland Berger**,
Chairman Roland Berger Strategy Consultants GmbH

“Germany’s oldest private university has been addressing a topic of much economic and social significance for by now ten years, and has done so with impressive success.”

German Chancellor **Dr. Angela Merkel** in her address to the 10th
Congress for Family Businesses

Principle 2: Values

We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Our Values

Knowledge and competence being reflected in practice and developed further. A high degree of freedom for students to develop their own personality. Values combining curiosity, dedication and humanity. This is what UW/H has always been standing for.

- **Encourage freedom**

Our students are free to organise their curriculum. We explicitly encourage them to set their own priorities in terms of content and to gain intensive practical experience. Moreover, UW/H offers ample scope for testing one's skills and abilities and for progressing in other fields of study as well.

- **Strive for truth**

The question of truth goes beyond the question of feasibility. UW/H encourages students to gather and reflect personal experiences, to methodically change perspectives and to enter into open interdisciplinary discourse. Such refined discernment allows dedication to become effective.

- **Assume social responsibility**

It is our objective to educate professionally and personally competent graduates being able and willing to assume social responsibility – long before graduating. About 40 student initiatives at UW/H show that Witten works.

Principle 3: Methods

We have been educating students in humanities/arts, management and economics, psychology, nursing science, medicine and dentistry for more than 30 years. We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

Our method

The key philosophy of social responsibility outlined in the three guiding principles of UW/H is and remains highly important in view of future challenges. Today's economic systems operate within contexts that are informed by not only political and social but also environmental, technological, demographic and health-related issues. Responsible entrepreneurial activity is therefore an integral part of such wider contexts.

Multidisciplinary curricula

Many future challenges to our society will require interaction between a wide range of disciplines. Subjects like business economics, general management, philosophy, psychology, sociology and anthropology all contribute to the development of a sustainable economic system. In contrast to conventional business schools, the Faculty of Management & Economics has always looked beyond the narrow boundaries of the subject and integrated perspectives, methods and concepts of neighbouring disciplines.

One-sidedness can sometimes make life easier but is ultimately unrewarding. Only changes in perspective produce well-established insights. This is why we offer not only one school of thought but also alternative approaches to economics. Students receive a comprehensive and comparative overview of methods and concepts. This helps to train judgment and prevent tunnel vision. What we expect from you is that you do not choose the easiest way, but challenge us and yourself.

Lectures regarding Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability

Witten/Herdecke University offers numerous lectures and courses in the field of corporate responsibility and sustainability within the following programmes. Also, one of the core teaching concepts of the Faculty of Management and Economics, the "Gründerwerkstatt" (Business Creation and Entrepreneurial Lab), opened up to topics and business models related to sustainability. Participants in this course gain insights into the implementation of founding a social business.

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Cosmopolitan Communication – Global Empathic Competence
- Democracy and Future Generations
- Development Economics
- Development Economics and Politics
- Economic Philosophy and Economic Ethics
- Environmental Inequality
- Guaranty of Energy Supply – Change and actual KRITIS-Danger
- International Climate Policy – Paris Agreement 2015
- International Politics - Climate Change Discourses
- Intersectional perspectives on global inequality and domination
- Models of Change: Introduction and Distribution of Social Innovations
- Politics and Sustainability - The Limits of Democracy?
- Praxis and Critiques of International Humanitarian Aid
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Start up the future – "Gründerwerkstatt"
- Strategic Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainable Development Goals
- The Political Economy of Sustainable Transformation



Studium fundamentale – The interdisciplinary heart of UW/H

In addition, all students have to take "Studium fundamentale" classes. The aim of Studium fundamentale is to offer students new perspectives for their studies and to develop their reflective, communicative and creative skills in the context of general studies in liberal arts and humanities. Once a week, students of all UW/H faculties explore fields beyond their own disciplines and attend lectures and classes, in which topics ranging from philosophy, aesthetics and arts to medicine are addressed. Studium fundamentale also comprises a variety of classes in social sciences.

Conferences, Workshops, Debates & Special Lectures

Furthermore, numerous conferences and workshops focus on sustainability-related topics each semester. A considerable number of them are initiated in close cooperation with our students. Examples from the last two years include:

Oikos Winter School

oikos Winter School 2018

The oikos Winter School is an international one-week conference organized by the members of the oikos chapter Witten/Herdecke University. Since 2007, about 30 students from all over the world have come to Witten once a year for addressing sustainability issues. Here, special attention is paid to the triple bottom line of social, ecological and economic sustainability. For one week, participants analyze theories, methods and case studies, and reflect on different perspectives and ideas. The 2018 oikos Winter School "BOTTOMs up – TOPs down? Sustainable Development Cooperation" focussed on how to arrange sustainable development cooperation. All in all, 23 global participants (China, Japan, Belgium, El Salvador, Azerbaijan) addressed the topics during keynotes, workshops and discussions.





oikos Winter School 2019

This year's Winter School "Growing Cities, Growing Responsibilities – Take the lead to a sustainable future!" has been a very enriching experience for the participants. The seven-day oikos Winter School 2019 was full of lively discussions, thought-provoking speakers examining a wide variety of topics, and a lot of fun in the process of finding solutions for a better future. In addition to the intellectual input, several team-building activities were integrated to generate a positive and comfortable atmosphere.



The topics of the 15th oikos Winter School conference ranged from megacities and smart cities, new energy and transportation concepts to civic participation and urban Farming. Participants also looked at the interesting development of the Ruhr area, the metropolitan region of the former mining industry, where the conference took place. The conference aimed to make participants aware of solution-oriented analysis of sustainable development in cities and to provide practical experience in this field.

oikos Career Opportunities Fair 2019

During the Sustainability week, oikos Witten/Herdecke invited students for the first time to network with selected companies and organizations that operate at the interface between sustainable management, environmental awareness and social responsibility on 5 May 2019. This fair aimed at bringing students as well as social and non-profit enterprises, NGOs, foundations, associations, think tanks and research institutes together, providing students with the opportunity to explore interesting career perspectives, find internship vacancies and figure out how to integrate personal commitment into their daily working life.



PPE Conference

This conference is a student-led interdisciplinary conference that takes place once a year. Participants discuss and review student papers, receive input from expert keynote speakers and build a network of interdisciplinary thinkers in the fields of politics, philosophy and economics.



PPE Conference 2018: The Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Growth & Degrowth

The 3rd International PPE Conference was an intense thought-provoking and action-inspiring conference, enriched by the contribution of experts in degrowth, sustainable development and finance. Around 70 students from 17 different countries participated in the conference, giving this event a truly international, interdisciplinary and diversified perspective. In addition to the conference programme, the FutureLab acted as a catalyst for new possibilities, ideas and projects to be developed.

Student presentations were at the very heart of the conference. Eleven students from Germany, Europe and overseas illustrated their research on controversial topics including finance and money, public debt, ethics and equality, institutional economics, management and business economics.



The conference took place on the campus of Witten/Herdecke University from 6 to 8 April 2018.



PPE Conference 2019: [re]framing reality

The way of perceiving, organizing and communicating about reality is called 'framing', and its role in the modern world – and in particular, in the fields of politics, philosophy and economics – is what the PPE Conference 2019 at Witten/Herdecke University focused on.

The three keynote lectures provided valuable input on the use of framing in politics, journalism and populism, the relevance of framing in the climate change debate as well as the linguistic aspects of framing. The topics were as diverse as the participants themselves,

ranging from the biases of internet algorithms to the awareness of different frames in the work of occupational therapists with young people from disadvantaged communities.



Once again, the lively exchange of students and scholars attending the conference showed the benefit of bringing together different perspectives and continuing to further expand the PPE network.



EU Conference

The student-organized conference took place on 12 April 2018 with „Brussels, we have a problem - Rethinking justice within the European Union“ as its motto. Instead of each country discussing the EU individually, 100 participants from fourteen European countries traveled to Witten/Herdecke University to address the topic of justice within the EU beyond daily political challenges. The aim was to talk about the future shape of the EU with proven experts. Topics such as the social design of markets or the issue of a fair asylum policy were addressed. In



order to facilitate a well-founded and diversified dialogue, a number of renowned researchers, civil servants and representatives of companies from various EU countries gave lectures and conducted workshops.

Entrepreneurship Centre Witten – EZW Forum Food

"What role does nutrition play in the global development of our world?" asked Prof. Erik Strauß, initiator of the event which took place on 2 May 2019, reminding participants that there is a huge and much differentiated industry behind it. Conference speakers included on the one hand Ema Simurda, founder of GoodBank – the world's first vertical-farm-to-table-restaurant, and Nikolai Fuchs, Executive Board Member of GLS Treuhand Bank, as well as on the other hand, Dr. Helmut Schramm from Bayer Crop Science Germany as well as Udo Hemmerling, Deputy Secretary-General of the German Farmers' Association. As the forum serves as a think tank for opinions and impetus, the speakers did not only present their diverse views of the food industry's current problems, but also shared their personal visions of the future.



Bürgeruniversität – Citizens' University

As in previous years, a variety of lectures were organized in cooperation with the Adult Education Centre Witten. The event series takes place on a regular basis and is open to everyone. The following provides an overview of the topics covered:

- Corruption A –Z – Prof. Dr. Matthias Kettner
- Of power gain and retention of power - On the occasion of the 550th birthday of Niccolò Machiavelli – Jun.-Prof. Dr. Jens Lanfer
- Thanks to modern medicine, we're getting older and older. But how do we stay healthy? - New ways – Prof. Dr. Hans Jürgen Heppner
- Was Marx rather "Red and Green"? – Ecological (trace) elements in Marx's thinking – Prof. Dr. Reinhard Loske
- "The moment is timeless" – Comments on Leonardo da Vinci's art on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death – Dr. David Hornemann von Laer
- Eating meat seven times a week? Are we eating up our planet? – Prof. Dr. Jan Ehlers
- Does security cause uncertainty? On the paradoxical relationship between security and terrorism – Jun.-Prof. Dr. Jens Lanfer

Theatron Logou

The Theatron Logou lecture series was initiated by UW/H students nine years ago as a platform for exchange with renowned personalities from politics, philosophy, theology and natural sciences to discuss issues of social relevance and new ideas for transformation processes.

Principle 4: Research

We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

Our research

The two key fields of research activities at the UW/H Faculty of Management and Economics are reflected in the degree courses the Faculty offers. Under the heading "entrepreneurship and leadership" one field concentrates on managerial questions regarding the behaviour of prospective business leaders on the protagonist level. Therefore, the entrepreneurial spirit is one of the specific features of Witten/Herdecke University and its Faculty of Management and Economics. Our students assume responsibility for curricular organisation and themselves at an early stage of their studies. They discover, test and hone their talents in a variety of format and settings, e.g. the prize-winning Start-up Workshop, in student initiatives and business activities. These may take the form of start-up enterprises, social projects or initiatives to enhance campus life. Students who learn this within the secure surrounding of the university will have an advantage later on in their professional life.

Research in the economics-oriented field comes under the heading "markets and institutions" with a focus on rules for the management of markets and market systems. This research approach permits and even demands interdisciplinary exploration since major challenges to future societies will require a joint effort of several disciplines. Market analysis also covers sustainability aspects. The Faculty's research focuses on:

- Family Business
Focus: Long-term orientation of family firms
- Leadership and Governance
Focus: Responsible management and leadership in all ranks, governance, social responsibility
- Institutional Change
- Sustainable Management
Focus: Sustainability assessment, sustainable corporate leadership, sustainable logistics management
- Healthcare Management and Economics

Witten Institute for Institutional Change

The Witten Institute for Institutional Change (WIWA) is an interdisciplinary research institute at the Faculty of Management and Economics and focuses on social issues at the interface between society, economy and politics. Social issues such as climate change, financial and economic crises, European integration or mass migration are complex phenomena. It is therefore essential to approach these issues from various scientific perspectives in order to be able to comprehend the complexity of major issues and to develop appropriate solutions.



WIWA Conference 2018

The purpose of the 4th WIWA Conference on Institutional Change on 1 and 2 February 2018 was to improve the theoretical understanding of Institutional Pathologies (in institutions, organizations, networks). This is not only a scientifically demanding task, but it is also a practically very important concern, since theoretically robust diagnoses of institutional pathologies immediately imply the question, political and otherwise, whether something can and should be done about them.

The conference was sponsored by WINIR, the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research, and generously supported by the "Aktionsgemeinschaft Soziale Marktwirtschaft (ASM)".

WIWA Young Scholar Award for Pluralism in Economics

The WIWA and the Board of Trustees of Witten/Herdecke University understand the Young Scholar Award for Pluralism in Economics as a signal of encouragement for younger economists to break new ground in teaching and research with verified contributions to the methodological and thematic diversity in economics. 'Pluralism in Economics' in the meaning of the invitation

exclusively refers to the diversity of theoretical approaches and normative positions. The only criteria are originality and creativity of published papers.

This year, the Witten Institute for Institutional Change (WIWA) has awarded the Young Scholar Award for Pluralism in Economics to Jun.-Prof. Dr. Svenja Flechtner, University of Siegen. Her research focuses on socio-economic inequalities and interdisciplinary approaches in economics, as well as on the practice of pluralism in economics. In the field of inequality research, Svenja Flechtner is currently working on the topic of choosing a particular field of study. She is investigating how these choices made by men and women contribute to the gender pay gap in Germany and which factors are responsible for it. During the award ceremony on 14 January 2018 Prof. Flechtner gave a lecture on "Economic inequality and development research from a pluralistic perspective" in line with her main focus.

WIWA UW/H Debate on Corruption

Reports about corruption and scandals in the economy can be found almost regularly in the press. In order to avoid such behaviour in the German economy, Transparency International is calling for the introduction of statutory minimum standards for compliance management systems. At the same time, the establishment of stable cooperation relationships within and between companies requires trust in the reliability of the cooperation partners.

The relationship between corruption, compliance and trust in business was the topic of the UW/H Debate. The Witten Institute for Institutional Change (WIWA) invited the public to panel discussions at Witten library on 10 April 2018. The discussions included the following speakers: Dirk von Keitz (Compliance Officer Division Europe, HOCHTIEF AG), Prof. Dr. Guido Möllering (Director of the Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management, UW/H), Prof. Dr. Dirk Tänzler (Faculty of History and Sociology, University of Konstanz), and were hosted by Prof. Dr. Dirk Sauerland (Director, Witten Institute for Institutional Change – WIWA).

Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management

In 2010, Bertelsmann Foundation and UW/H founded the Reinhard Mohn Institut (RMI), financed by Bertelsmann Foundation. The RMI operates in line with the participative and responsible governance philosophy of Reinhard Mohn, with a solid foundation of organization theory. In 2016, the Institute underwent a complete make-over in terms of personnel, outlook, and strategy. With its research, teaching and culture of dialogue with practice, the Institute provides substantial national and international impetus for reforming corporate governance theory and practice.



RMI Management Forum – “Responsibility: Who is ready?”

At this year's Forum, about 150 participants from business and science discussed the topic of willingness to assume responsibility in the main lecture hall of Witten/Herdecke University. Who has the competence, but also the motivation, to assume responsibility? Who is trusted to assume responsibility, both professionally and morally? How far does responsibility for people, companies and society extend? When the world changes, there is also movement in the structure of responsibility. The knowledge required is different. Experience is not helpful *per se*. Even more, uncertainty must be endured - and no more "heroes" (or "scapegoats") are needed, but proactive mediators for shared responsibility. This again requires a certain attitude and trust. Invited speakers from Deutsche Post DHL, GLS bank, TU Dortmund and Coventry University submitted topics from “Responsibility as a corporate culture”, “Significance(s) of Responsibility” to “Responsibility needs Trust”.



RMI Research Seminar

In 2019 two international speakers were invited. Associate Professor Hwee Hoon Tan from the Singapore Management University's Lee Kong Chian School of Business gave a talk on the development of a culturally valid scale to measure propensity to trust as well as a systematic examination of the impact of ability, benevolence and integrity on trust across 29 countries across the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. In July Dr. Kirti Mishra from the Indian Institute of Management Udaipur (IIMU, India) gave an insight into her field research at an RMI Research Seminar, where she looked behind the scenes of companies that strategically react to climate change. In the engaged discussion of her results with researchers and students of UW/H, she pointed out a repertoire of activities in companies, with which the problem is still understood, but at the same time already dealt with. Due to her "Strategy-as-Practice" approach, which is characterized by structural theory, her work is close to research at the RMI.

Research Group Social Entrepreneurship and Social Finance

The research group "Social Entrepreneurship and Social Finance - Impact-Oriented Models for Social Innovation" deals with three major topics: Financing structures of social enterprises, mechanisms of the social capital market (impact investing) and social entrepreneurial impact logic in selected sectors. Members of the research group are Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko (Witten/Herdecke University), Dr. Markus Freiburg (Founder and Managing Director of FASE), Dr. Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl (Zeppelin University) and Jan-F. Ude.

The research group has been founded to combine expertise and strengths at the University in order to make them visible. In addition to research and publication of results, courses are offered, as well as supervised homework and theses.

The website "Together for social commitment - Social Entrepreneurship at Witten/Herdecke University" is a first project to improve the visibility of the topic and serves as a platform and inspiration for interested parties.

Selected Publications 2018 – 2019

Balsiger, P. and Schiller-Merkens, S. (2019): Moral Struggles in and Around Markets, in: *The Contested Moralities of Markets* (Research in the Sociology of Organizations) Vol. 63, Emerald Publishing Limited, pp. 3-26.

Bohnet-Joschko, S., Nelson, E.C., Zippel, C. et al. (2019): How social business innovates health care: two cases of social value creation leading to high-quality services, in: *Journal of Public Health*, Berlin: Springer Verlag, p. 1 – 10.

Henry L. A., Möllering G. (2019): Collective Corporate Social Responsibility: The Role of Trust as an Organizing Principle, in: *mrev management revue*, vol. 30, p.173 – 191.

Hülsbeck, M., Meoli, M. Silvio V. (2019): The Board Value Protection Function in Young, Mature and Family Firms, in: *British Journal of Management*, vol. 30, 2, p. 437 – 458.

Machin A. (2019): Democracy and Agonism in the Anthropocene: The Challenges of Knowledge, Time and Boundary, in *Environmental Values*, vol. 28, 3, p. 347 – 365.

Machin A., Ruser A. (2019) What Counts in the Politics of Climate Change? Science, Scepticism and Emblematic Numbers, in: Prutsch M. (eds.) *Science, Numbers and Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, p. 203-225.

- Ortmann, Günther** (2019): Betriebswirtschaftslehre und Unternehmensstrafrecht – Über Effizienz, Wirtschaftsethik und Demokratie, in: Bergmann, G.; Daub, J.; Özdemir, F. (Hg.): *Wirtschaft demokratisch. Teilhabe, Mitwirkung, Verantwortung*, Göttingen, p. 259-286.
- Silberberger M., Stender, F.** (2018): False friends? Empirical evidence on trade policy substitution in regional trade agreements, in: *The World Economy*, vol. 41, 8, p. 2175 – 2199.
- Stehr N., Machin A.** (2019): *Society and Climate: Transformations and Challenges*, London: World Scientific.
- Svare H., Haugen Gausdal A. & Möllering G.** (2019) The function of ability, benevolence, and integrity-based trust in innovation networks, *Industry and Innovation*.
- Boldyrev, I., Zweynert J.** (2018): *Neueste Institutionenökonomik und neue Brücken zwischen Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften*, Berlin: Duncker und Humblot.

Principle 5: Partnership

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Our partnerships

Right from the start, Witten/Herdecke University assumed social responsibility in many forms and on various levels. Witten/Herdecke University is in a continuous lively exchange with the community: with the citizens of Witten, the local and regional business world, social and cultural institutions, even international organisations, corporations and foundations.

Since its foundation in 1983, crossing borders has played a vital role in the vision and mission of UW/H. Borders between theory and practice, between disciplines and faculties, but also actual physical borders between national states. UW/H is a proud member of an international research network spanning over all five continents; it permanently extends its network of partnerships on student and faculty exchange as well as research co-operation with universities world-wide. Furthermore, education at UW/H does not stop at merely studying a subject; it is a simultaneous process of personal and intellectual development. Hardly anything is as formative as international experience. Hence, we strongly encourage our students – and our staff as well – to gather experience abroad during the studies, but also through practical experience and border-crossing student initiatives. It makes us proud that many of our alumni have taken up international careers and serve as UW/H ambassadors abroad.

Our students spend quite a lot of time working on projects on- and off-campus. In view of our still young age and a comparably small number of some 2.600 enrolled students and 500 staff, we have produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial and non-profit initiatives. One example is the oikos Winter School, where young and visionary individuals from all over the world meet in Witten for workshops on specific sustainability projects, interdisciplinary meetings, latest research finding, etc.

Moreover, the Faculty of Management and Economics is part of a regional and global network of higher education institutions, companies and other organizations. Based in the city of Witten and the Ruhr area, we cooperate with more than 50 family businesses (including Haniel, Grillo, Pictet), about 30 companies in the food industry (including Dr. Oetker, Katjes, Iglo), and more than 300 mentor companies who support our company mentorship concept in teaching. In this context, the ZNU Future Conference, for example, focusses on the change processes towards more sustainability in the food sector.

Furthermore, we have renowned academic partners for our key research activities. Our alumni, many of whom hold key positions all over the world, constitute a further essential part of our network.

Finally, the university also draws on the dedication of its environment. A number of associations and societies form a network to support the university and its students on several levels. New ideas and projects result from this commitment on a regular basis. Apart from associations such as the "StudierendenGesellschaft" or the "Universitätsverein", various institutes with close links to the Faculty of Economics and Management help to build bridges between theory and practice.



ZNU - Center for Sustainable Leadership

The ZNU – Center for Sustainable Leadership is an application-oriented research institute aiming to make sustainability tangible and inspire people with the opportunities that sustainable



management offers. An interdisciplinary team is working with the sustainability leaders of today and tomorrow to make tangible improvements in sustainable corporate management through research, teaching, training and conferences.

Xth ZNU – Future Conference

Last year's conference on "How will a sustainable set menu look like in 2030?" invited over 230 representatives of the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry. In addition to inspiring keynotes, eight branch-specific workshops about trends, challenges and insights into the future were conducted from 19 to 20 April 2018.

The ZNU founders, Dr. Kölle and Dr. Geßner, launched the event by encouraging companies to commit to addressing future social issues and to take more responsibility for attaining sustainable development goals such as climate, health and human rights alongside like-minded parties. Hence, the aim is to switch from a defensive role to a proactive one, to see sustainability even more strongly as an engine of innovation and to work together on intelligent future solutions and climate neutrality for a set menu in 2030.



XI. ZNU – Future Conference

This year's conference "Zero emission, zero waste & human rights – sustainability strategies in trade and production" was hosted in Berlin from 2 to 3 April 2019 and invited renowned manufacturers from the FMCG industry as well as trade representatives. For two days, 180 guests were welcomed to discuss "Zero Strategies", promote close exchange and tackle current complex problems such as climate change.

Keynote speaker Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, outlined that development policy and climate protection can only be shaped meaningfully together as climate protection is a central issue of the survival of mankind. He further acknowledged the activities of Witten/Herdecke University and the ZNU.

During panel discussions and workshops one mission clearly emerged: "Entrepreneurs are essential multipliers for more sustainability within society. Every company shall find a way to apply 'Zero Strategies' instead of waiting for political measures." Nevertheless, a sound political framework will be necessary.



ZNU goes Zero

To counteract ongoing climate change the ZNU wishes to assume responsibility together with its partners, proves its pioneering role and sends out a signal for other economic actors: By 2022 at the latest, the ZNU is aiming to operate with its approx. 70 partner companies at their German sites in a climate-neutral manner. In addition to avoiding, reducing and compensating for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, partners will also be implementing additional projects under the motto "education, soil and / or trees" to make an additional contribution to Earth's sustainability. With this joint initiative communicated in spring 2018 for the first time, the ZNU wishes to make a clear statement for entrepreneurial climate protection and do even more justice to its responsibility for future generations.



The following five steps to climate neutrality will be monitored and controlled by the ZNU: location-specific capture of GHG emissions in accordance with internationally recognized standards, avoidance and reduction of GHG emissions, raising awareness of employees, greening through the use of certified green electricity, and finally compensation of unavoidable emissions by climate compensation projects like Plant for the Planet. Already 15 mid-tier partner companies have committed themselves to climate neutrality.

Professional Trainings: ZNU-Sustainability Manager

The ZNU annually hosts professional trainings open to professionals as well as students. The 3-day seminars strive to make sustainable business happen through empowerment and

qualification of decision-makers, change leaders and individual sustainability managers from across industries. The seminars include a theoretical background on sustainability and corporate responsibility as well as the required methods to deal with sustainability challenges in daily business. In order to assure practical relevance the training involves speakers from science and corporate leaders from the FMCG sector.

Mindful Leadership Conference

The annual conference is organized by Witten/Herdecke University and CONCADORA publishing house in cooperation with Trigon Development Consulting Munich and the Centre for Mindfulness Stuttgart. It aims to train managers and employees in acquiring creative adaptive skills for handling new situations, in self-reflection and emotional intelligence in order to counteract automatic patterns of action.



Mindful Leadership Conference 2018: Manage the unexpected – Organizational mindfulness as a basic competence for successful companies

The 4th Mindful Leadership Conference took place in Stuttgart from 22 to 23 March 2018 and was an unconditioned success.

The mix of academic input and practical cases attracted a large number of participants. The variety of practical cases unanimously showed that mindfulness programmes increased empathy and stress resistance in executive staff. Prof. Dr. Marcel Hülsbeck outlined mindfulness as a mega-trend. The focus of the conference was on the research of organizational scientists Karl E. Weick and Kathleen M. Sutcliffe. They have examined organizational processes on aircraft carriers, air traffic controllers and members of other professions who have to perform their core activities absolutely reliably.

Academic input was provided by Prof. Dr. Niko Kohls/Coburg University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Prof. Dr. Kathleen Sutcliffe/John Hopkins Carey Business School, Prof. Götz W. Werner, Prof. Dr. Marcel Hülsbeck/Witten/Herdecke University.

Mindful Leadership Conference 2019: Mindfulness – the key competence for successful leadership and cooperation

The conference was organized by Witten/Herdecke University and took place on 7 to 9 March 2019. It was an enriching event for all its participants.

In his opening address, Prof. Dr. Julian Nida-Rümelin highlighted the importance of values and virtues for the behaviour of executives and also for organizational culture. In his view, the promotion of virtues is indispensable for the development of a humane economy. After practical exercises for developing mindfulness and self-guidance skills, Daimler AG, Fraport AG, IKEA, Volkswagen AG and other companies reported on their experiences with cultural transformation in organizations.

Principle 6: Dialogue

We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, and civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

Our Dialogue

Students and their projects are truly the best ambassadors for a UNPRME membership. Witten/Herdecke has produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial and non-profit initiatives and curricula that foster responsibility. Characteristically at UW/H, students team up for cross-disciplinary projects, reaching beyond their own study focus. In the following, you can find a selection of numerous projects initiated by our students and achievements that we are proud of.

Student Initiatives

A-Coaching

A crisis that appears hopeless, some serious problem, the need to confide in somebody – the A-Coaching team offers a confidential setting and helps students via systemic approaches to find their own solutions.

ADD ACTION

It is a frequent demand to integrate health-related subjects such as physical education and nutrition into school curricula from early on. Since 2010 ADD ACTION is a first step in this direction. Our students organize a variety of activities at schools to counteract the rising incidence of obesity amongst children and adolescents.

AIAS Witten

Every 15 minutes a person is diagnosed with blood cancer in Germany and one in ten patients does not find a stem cell donor. The aim of the student initiative is to organize a registration campaign for stem cell donations at UW/H and to further support DKMS/AIAS through sponsorship and fundraising. The purpose of the association is the promotion of public health through non-material and financial support of the "German Bone Marrow Donor Centre" to expand the international stem cell database. AIAS Witten wants to get closer to the goal that every blood cancer patient will find a suitable stem cell donor.

Bochumbolzt

"Soccer for a good cause" - The idea is simple: inviting various elementary schools to a nearby basic football ground to combine a big soccer tournament with a joyful cleanup during the breaks. With this idea we are trying to raise the awareness for environmental pollution and through playful experience take a small step closer to our goal: preventing waste!

Bundesverband deutscher Volks- und Betriebswirte (bdvb e.v.) – UW/H group

The Witten/Herdecke University Group is a member of the German association of political and business economists. Founded in 1901, the bdvb represents the interests of economists in Germany and stands for a strong and competent network of responsible specialists in the field.

Congress for Family Businesses

The annual Congress for Family Businesses offers networks and expertise for this particular type of business. Family businesses make up a strong 90% of all German companies. UW/H students host the congress, which is the most important and renowned of its kind in Europe.

Café im Kulturstall

The "Café im Kulturstall" on the Christopherushof (near the Witten campus building) is a general meeting place. On Thursdays visitors can enjoy pies, soups, delicious cakes, gateaux and waffles, and every Wednesday evening, cooking and baking take place in a relaxed atmosphere in the courtyard kitchen.

kultur.moment

kultur.moment (cultural moment) is a student initiative that aims to establish a theme day each semester on current issues of cultural reflection.

The idea originates from the reflection of the form and content of cultural reflection issues and the search for a format in which the diversity of cultural reflection can be represented. Cultural reflection is understood as an examination of different perspectives of perception, as well as the construction of meaning in writing, language, music and imagery. For this, a classical, traditional form of philosophical discourse is used – round table talks.

Dental Project Myanmar

The Dental Project Myanmar aims at providing the country's dentists with material, financial and practical support. It is equipped with a mobile dental treatment unit. In particular, conservative treatments, dental prevention programmes and education will be offered for children. At least once a year, a group of dentistry students will travel to Myanmar in the clinical phase of their studies to help locally.

In the future, six Myanmar Foundation schools will be provided with new toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste on a quarterly basis. This will enable the children (more than 1200 in total) to brush their teeth together after lunch to significantly improve dental health.

DigitalWorks

Only some UW/H lecturers use e-learning methods regularly and actively in class. One of the main problems is the lack of knowledge of how to use the tools of the Moodle system.

DigitalWorks therefore aims to make e-learning more accessible to lecturers and students at Witten/Herdecke University. To begin with, students will receive theoretical and practical training on e-learning opportunities at the University.

The media competence of course participants is thus promoted and expanded in the communicative skills area.

Entrepreneurs in Dialogue

Since 1998, students have been inviting extraordinary entrepreneurs to Witten/Herdecke University who recount their career as entrepreneurs and discuss their experiences with students and professors. As this is not a lecture series, but rather a discussion forum, the format thrives on the open structure, informal character and personal atmosphere, developing in the course of the evening.

ERASMUS Student Network (ESN) Witten/Herdecke

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is an association of local Erasmus student initiatives. Volunteers in currently 33 sections mentor more than 10,000 exchange students annually. Throughout Europe, ESN is active at more than 430 universities in 37 countries. Hence, ESN Witten/Herdecke is a section in one of the largest student organisations world-wide with students from all faculties. The initiative aims to better integrate students into everyday university life.

Feminist Group

The Feminist Group is a UW/H student initiative with a feminist perspective on higher education policy and social contexts. The initiative attempts to actively participate in the curriculum from a queer and intersectional feminist position, for example by complementing UW/H courses that are inadequate in this respect. In the long term, the group would like to work on establishing intersectional feminist, postcolonial and critical courses, quite common at other universities.

Finance and Consulting Association (FCA)

Following the aim to make an active contribution to the teaching of classical issues in Business Studies, five UW/H students founded the FCA in summer 2014. FCA regards itself as a platform for students interested in Business Studies. It organizes lectures and workshops with expert practitioners on topics in the field of Finance & Consulting. So far, major emphasis was on mergers & acquisitions, strategy and venture capital.

Future Doctors Network

The Future Doctors Network supports improvement and expansion of medical education in developing and emerging nations. Training in physical examination skills is in great demand amongst medical students in target countries as it shall also encourage prospective physicians to gain practical experience while treating patients and fellow students during their studies in order to prepare them for taking responsibility during their professional career.

Heart-Gripping

The group wants to ensure that the topic is being discussed in Germany and that it will become part of the regular school curriculum as it can affect each and every one. It plans to talk about the sensitive topic of resuscitation in schools, answer questions, rehearse an emergency situation and, above all, take away the fear of doing something wrong. The initiative is supported by the German Workers' Samaritan Federation, with which it works closely together.

Initiatives' Lab

The Initiatives' Lab sees Witten/Herdecke University as a laboratory for experiments, for involvement in social and ecological projects, in which students can gather exciting practical experiences. Affiliated to the Department of University Development, the Initiatives' Lab serves as a permanent contact point for student initiatives and project ideas of all kinds. In this way, UW/H student commitment to a fairer and more sustainable world shall be strengthened, consolidated and made more visible.

Körperllch week

The Körperllch week is an annual conference organized by a student initiative that invites people of all ages and different contexts to get involved with the interrelation between mind and body at a practical and theoretical level, and to engage in interdisciplinary exchange. In 2013, the impetus for the conference came from the interaction between students from the new "Psychology and Psychotherapy" degree programme and the Integrated Curriculum for Antroposophic Medicine (ICURAM) at Witten/Herdecke University. The aim is to promote a holistic understanding of psychology. In addition to the theoretical foundation acquired during the course of study, the event intends to provide room for practical experience and for reconsidering or implementing theoretical models.

L'appel Deutschland e.V.

L'appel is an organization for development cooperation. The joint projects in Africa in the field of health, education and infrastructure are tailored to the needs and necessities of the target groups. Members are students and young people who provide expertise on a volunteer basis.

Luther's launderette

Who gives medical care to poor or even homeless people and/or those without health insurance? UW/H medical students provide help; they identify patients requiring immediate treatment, refer them to physicians, or perform minor treatment themselves.

Medicine with heart and hand

This students' initiative wants to raise awareness for the potential of integrative medicine. Since 2010, a summer academy is organized once a year that draws participants from all over the country. Medical doctors, therapists, artists and students work together on how to strengthen the relationship between patients and health professionals and foster dedication and delight in health care.

Model United Nations

UW/H sends a student team to New York City to the largest UN simulation worldwide annually. Each student assumes the role of a delegate from a country assigned to him or her and represents this country's interests at the specific forums of the UN conferences. Extensive preparation is necessary in advance in order to deal with the highly specific and current issues and to be able to represent the country accordingly. Participants not only learn how to debate and deliver speeches, but also much about how international politics works in practice.

Musicclub

The Musicclub is an integral part of musical life at Witten/Herdecke University. The participants of Michael Kiedaisch's seminar "Improvisation & Jazz" present their work at the end of each semester. Students may play in the Musicclub combo, a band that is newly composed each semester, work on a solo performance or perform in a small group, such as a duet or trio, etc. New ideas emerge in the course of the seminar.

OIKOS Witten/Herdecke

"What is good for all must be good for me, too, and what hurts society and the environment will ultimately hurt me, too." For oikos Witten/Herdecke, a student network for sustainable ideas and projects, the logical inference of this observation is sustainable management and thus the implantation of solutions today which will not cause new problems tomorrow. Since 2008, Witten/Herdecke and its Faculty of Management & Economics has been hosting the annual international oikos Winter School, bringing together more than 25 young change-makers from around the world.



Ponte

The "Ponte" initiative strives for getting to know each other in an interdisciplinary environment for promoting cross-faculty communication and networking.

Various events focus on the possibility to meet and network with students of other disciplines and semesters outside of lectures.

PPE Conference

A student-led interdisciplinary, academic conference that takes place once a year. Participants will discuss and review submitted student papers, receive input from expert keynote speakers and grow a network of interdisciplinary thinkers in the field of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Prisma

The aim of this initiative is to network women from all fields of study across semesters and generations and to facilitate mutual support and exchange. Through network meetings, panel discussions, coaching and joint events with Alumnae, the initiative promotes equality and looks forward to like-minded people.

The principle is to learn from each other and to treat each other respectfully in order to promote diversity through active listening and participation in workshops or demonstrations.

Repair Café Witten

The Repair Café Witten consists of students of UW/H and Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB), as well as of pupils and people from Witten who like to do handicrafts and rather repair things than throwing them away.

ROCK YOUR LIFE!

Ten UW/H students founded the Witten chapter of ROCK YOUR LIFE! in November 2012. ROCK YOUR LIFE! trains dedicated students as coaches to accompany and support pupils (secondary school) on their way into work life on a continuous basis. Pupils enhance their school performance, expand their social skills and perspectives, improve their ability to reflect, seize new opportunities and thus also promote their chances of successfully starting their career.

Summer School

What do management consultants do? What is business management? The Witten/Herdecke University summer school has answers to these and many more questions for high school students and applicants. A student team hosts this event every year.

Sustainable innovator speaker series

UW/H students founded the Sustainable Innovator Speaker Series in spring 2010. The idea was to add an initiative with a focus on sustainability to the existing student projects at university. Once or twice a semester, they invite executives with a record of sustained social innovation.

Studierendengesellschaft Witten/Herdecke

Sketched on a paper napkin by students of Witten/Herdecke University in 1995, the idea of a reverse generational contract (RGC) proved to be an innovative payment concept for tuition fees. It has been successful for almost 25 years now and is also the origin of the non-profit organization Studierendengesellschaft Witten/Herdecke e.V., managed by students. The RGC promotes equal opportunities in education. It offers payment modes that enable students to finance their studies independent of their parents' income or social background. The basic idea is: study today and pay tomorrow. The fees are based on the concept of contribution, which ensures that students make contributions to the overall success of the university within the scope of their financial capacity. By this, graduates should be entitled to choose their professional careers freely. Students may opt for paying a certain percentage of their income after graduation as soon as they earn money. In this way, UW/H graduates pay tuition fees for currently enrolled students – a reverse contract between student generations. This ensures that nobody is excluded from studies at UW/H for a lack of funds.



Teddy Bear Clinic

Students initiated the Teddy Bear Clinic for children from 4 to 6 to help them overcome their fear of doctors and hospitals. As part of their visit to the Teddy Bear Hospital, the children can have their teddies or other cuddly toys treated by medical and dental students and thus experience the situation of a treatment from the perspective of an observer, which they may later have to experience as a patient themselves. The Teddy Bear Clinic is organized on campus every year and almost always welcomes more than 500 little guests.

Theatre Association

The UW/H Theatre Association was founded in 2006. It consists of former students who attended the theatre group courses of previous years and who also want to enable current students to gain positive experiences with theatre work. Founding an association made it possible to accept donations, which are needed for costumes and all other production expenses. Some impressive productions have been staged in the course of time, such as classic plays and texts by Shakespeare, Goethe, Brecht and Thomas Mann, but also modern ones by Peter Handke and Christa Wolf.

Theatron Logou

Michel Friedman, Gregor Gysi and Wolfgang Schäuble were guests of Theatron Logou. This student initiative strives to identify current issues to be discussed with a top-level representative of national politics, business, academia or the media. Initiated in 2001 as an interdisciplinary series of talks, the aim was to create a forum for well-known personalities, students and citizens.

Think Tank Series

The Witten/Herdecke Think Tank Series is a forum for innovative ideas. Students organize each meeting in cooperation with selected institutions and explore visions, concepts and future scenarios for a specific industrial sector.

Traditional Chinese Medicine

In the summer semester of 2015, medical students founded the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) study group. On Thursdays a two-hour meeting takes place during which students learn about TCM theory and practice.

The study group aims to acquire knowledge enabling participants to work with patients in an integrative way. In addition, the high level of application-oriented training content facilitates immediate implementation of the acquired skills in daily life.

Unikat e.V.

Committed students meet regularly and spend their free time offering a dance hall, a painting studio, a conference room and a large living room with sofas for various event formats. The student initiative thus provides room for culture, life and parties on three floors.

Wanderful

Together with the Werner von Siemens School, Bochum, UW/H students and schoolchildren prepare a hike and then go hiking together in the UK.

World Health

The World Health initiative results from a cooperation between the Integrated Curriculum for Anthroposophic Medicine (ICURAM) and the non-profit association L'appel Deutschland e.V. It wants to introduce students and other interested parties to this topic and create a basis for finding their own answers to global health issues.

Welcome to Witten

The student initiative Willkommen in Witten (Welcome to Witten) was founded with the aim to give assistance to refugees in the process of arrival and integration in Witten. Major emphasis is on teaching basic German, help with school homework, recreational activities and the removal of bureaucratic hurdles.

Awards

2019 Witten/Herdecke University on top position in StudyCheck ranking out of 520 universities

In 2019, Witten/Herdecke University was in the top spot of the StudyCheck university ranking. The ranking is based on student recommendations on courses, teachers, classes, facilities, campus life, and organization. Based on the evaluation (3.9) and recommendation rate (95%), the University ranked second.



2019 Excellent rating for Faculty of Management and Economics in trendence Barometer

Management Studies at UW/H received top ratings by students in the trendence Institute's Graduate Barometer 2019, based on student evaluation. The survey among 113 universities put Witten in first place with respect to student activities and in second place of 113 regarding teaching. As well far above average are the recommendation rate (96%), social commitment of students (72%), political commitment (35%) and the rate of founders (31%). In 2018, of all students of 113 participating universities, Witten students were most satisfied with their professors.



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