

Witten/Herdecke University, Germany
Faculty of Management, Economics & Society

Sharing Information on Progress (SIP 1.0)
Principles for Responsible Management Education

PRME Report

Academic Year 2022/2023



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Faculty's Message



The Faculty of Management, Economics & Society 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 2022 and 2023.

Witten/Herdecke University and its Faculty of Management, Economics & Society 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. We have strongly incorporated the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRMEs) into the curriculum of our new degree programs, expanding the range of our courses on ecological as well as social topics.

We would like to draw your attention to this progress report's section "Highlights of the year" which exemplarily illustrates our broad engagement in current projects related to teaching, research and extracurricular initiatives.

As part of our 40th anniversary, we introduced our new "Bachelor of Choice" program, which encourages students to explore a wide range of fields before choosing a major. The optional track "Global Sustainability: Climate Justice Transformation", showcases our commitment to integrating sustainability into our academic offerings. The Social Data Science program, in collaboration with the Fraunhofer Institute, blends data analysis with

essential economic, business, and ethical knowledge, equipping students for today's data-centric professional world.

Furthermore, we launched the SWITCH Conference marking a milestone in our movement for planetary education. This event brought together students, educators, and leaders to explore education's role in addressing global challenges like the climate crisis and social inequality.

The establishment of the International Center for Sustainable and Just Transformation (Tra:ce) underlines our commitment to research that addresses social-ecological challenges and influences societal, industrial, and political decision-making.

In addition, we would like to highlight the strong dedication our students demonstrate in the social sector. Their exceptional level of involvement is evident through the abundance of student-led initiatives at our university that have a significant impact on society.

Our journey in shaping future leaders with exceptional management skills and a deep awareness of sustainability and equity continues.

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



Prof. Dr. Dirk Sauerland

Dean



Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko

PRME Coordinator

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 present our new campus building.

40th anniversary of the university: Advancing holistic education and research for sustainable transformation

Celebrating 40 years of educational excellence, the Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H) continues to stand at the forefront of holistic education and innovative research, particularly exemplified in our progressive educational initiatives. Since its inception, UW/H has revolutionized education and research with new learning and examination formats. President Prof. Dr. Martin Butzlaff emphasizes the University's role as an inspiring place for personal growth and positive societal change, with a history marked by individuals taking responsibility and engaging in meaningful actions.



The University Witten/Herdecke Executive Board (from left): Prof. Dr. Jan Ehlers (Vice President for Teaching and Learning), Dipl. oec. Jan Peter Nonnenkamp (Chancellor), Dr. Dirk Jakobs (Vice President for Organizational Development), Prof. Dr. Martin Butzlaff (President), Prof. Dr. Petra Thürmann (Vice President for Research)

Central to this journey is the pioneering "Bachelor of Choice" program, a testament to our commitment to interdisciplinary learning and individual student empowerment. Launching

in the winter semester of 2023/2024, this program offers a unique blend of exploration and specialization, allowing students to immerse themselves in diverse fields of study before committing to a major.

One of the program's cornerstones, the "Global Sustainability: Climate, Justice, Transformation" Bachelor's degree, directly addresses the urgency of the climate crisis. It equips students with the knowledge and tools to lead and contribute to societal changes, underlining our dedication to integrating sustainability and responsible management into the core of our academic offerings.



Our commitment to inclusive education is also reflected in the Reversed Generation Contract (UGV), an innovative funding model developed by our students in 1995. This model has been pivotal in making our educational programs financially accessible to a diverse student body.

As we mark this significant anniversary, the Witten/Herdecke University reaffirms its dedication to shaping a sustainable future through education and research. Our continuous evolution in teaching and learning methodologies reflects our alignment with the core values of PRME, ensuring that we contribute meaningfully to the development of responsible leaders who will navigate and shape tomorrow's world.

Initiative: Movement for planetary education

This year marked a significant milestone for the Witten/Herdecke University with the initiation of a pioneering movement in planetary education. The SWITCH Conference, hosted on September 14 and 15, 2023, symbolized a paradigm shift amidst the escalating challenges of the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and social inequality. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, UW/H leveraged this opportunity to champion a radical rethinking of the relationship between humans and the planet.

Drawing around 200 attendees, including students, educators, and leaders from various sectors, the conference focused on how education can empower individuals to shoulder responsibility for all life on Earth. Supported by prominent entities like the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation and Evonik Industries AG, the conference underscored the university's commitment to fostering sustainable solutions.

A key highlight was the address by philosopher Natalie Knapp, who urged a new understanding of our world and a reunification of human intelligence with the wisdom of all life forms. This was complemented by insights from Liza B. Bauer of the Panel on Planetary Thinking, emphasizing the need for a continual reassessment of our perspectives in light of current environmental challenges. Sebastian Benkhofer, spearheading the event, reflected on the complex and transformative nature of planetary thinking and its impact on traditional decision-making processes.



The conference uniquely integrated artistic performances, showcasing the role of art in depicting the complex dynamics between nature, society, and the economy. Through music and performance art, participants experienced the depth of the planetary education concept, highlighting art's role in shaping our perception and understanding of sustainability.

Interactive workshops delved into diverse topics such as climate-sensitive healthcare, sustainable business practices, and investment strategies aligned with environmental responsibility. These sessions not only fostered idea generation but also set the stage for ongoing collaborative projects among participants.

Looking ahead, the university has charted a comprehensive path to continue building on the momentum from the SWITCH Conference. A series of initiatives, including virtual meetings, barcamps, summer schools, and collaborative projects with partners, are planned in the lead-up to the next conference. These efforts are aimed at not only advancing the discourse on planetary education but also translating these ideas into tangible actions that can shape a sustainable future.

For ongoing updates and insights into these initiatives, resources like the WittenLab-Magazin and the conference website will provide valuable information. These platforms will serve as a nexus for sharing progress and developments in UW/H's journey towards fostering a transformative movement in planetary education.

Teaching: New Social Data Science Bachelor's program

The Witten/Herdecke University has embarked on a pioneering venture this year with the introduction of its Bachelor's program in "Social Data Science". This program stands out in the German academic landscape for its unique combination of data analysis skills and a solid grounding in economics, business, politics, and ethics.

A key feature of this program is its collaboration with the Fraunhofer Institute for Software and Systems Engineering (ISST) in Dortmund. This partnership enriches the course by linking academic research with real-world data analysis applications. The hands-on experience students gain in managing large datasets is crucial for navigating today's data-centric professional landscape.



The Fraunhofer ISST's research on the value and secure management of large data sets, particularly in logistics, the data economy, and healthcare, complements the Social Data Science curriculum. This synergy promises to prepare students for pivotal roles in a data-driven future.

Offered as part of the "Bachelor of Choice" model at UW/H, the Social Data Science program allows students to specialize in a field after a shared foundational year. The program not only equips students with the technical skills for data analysis but also emphasizes the ethical and responsible use of data.

Through this collaboration with the Fraunhofer ISST, UW/H is set to nurture a new generation of professionals. These individuals will be uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between specialist data scientists and decision-makers across various sectors, playing a key role in shaping the data-driven aspects of economics, politics, and society.

Research: “International Center for Sustainable and Just Transformation” (Tra:ce)

In response to the escalating climate crisis and its global repercussions, the Witten/Herdecke University has established the “International Center for Sustainable and Just Transformation (tra:ce)”. This interdisciplinary research center represents a significant stride in the university's commitment to addressing the complex challenges of social-ecological transformation.

tra:ce, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Joscha Wullweber, has been conceived as a beacon of knowledge and innovation, extending its influence beyond academia into the realms of society, industry, and politics. The center's mission is to harness scientific expertise from diverse disciplines to facilitate a sustainable and equitable societal transformation. This initiative underscores the university's role in guiding democratic decision-making processes in an era marked by multiple crises.

The center's collaborative framework is notable, drawing on a broad network of academics and a wide alliance of practice partners from various sectors. This approach reflects a commitment to inclusivity and multidisciplinary cooperation in tackling the multifaceted nature of the climate crisis.



Eleven research modules have been launched under tra:ce, pioneering a holistic approach to addressing the climate crisis, weaving together health, political, economic, and artistic aspects. These efforts not only demonstrate the university's research prowess but also its dedication to practical, real-world applications of knowledge.

- Urbanzero: Aimed at transforming Duisburg-Ruhrort into the world's first environmentally neutral quarter by 2029, led by Prof. Dr. Wullweber.
- BioVal: Focusing on enhancing biodiversity in food production and consumption, headed by Dr. Ulrike Eberle.
- Sustainable Pharmaceuticals: Prof. Dr. Petra Thürmann leads this module, exploring environmentally friendly alternatives in medicine.
- African Green Technology: Directed by Prof. Dr. Magdalene Silberberger, this module examines policies to promote greenhouse gas-reducing technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Sustainability through Art: Prof. Dr. Claus Volkenandt's module investigates the intersection of sustainability and the arts.
- Sustainable Medical Education: Prof. Dr. Jan Ehlers looks into integrating sustainability and climate medicine into medical curricula.
- Sustainable Finance: Prof. Dr. Wullweber's module develops strategies for steering the financial sector towards sustainable investments.
- Sustainable Personality Development: Led by Dr. Svenja Hartwig, this module explores the development of a sustainable self in higher education.
- Non-Communicable Diseases in Adolescents: A multinational consortium investigates global strategies to address these diseases.
- Economic-Ecological Topologies: This module rethinks economic theories in the context of planetary boundaries.
- Open Membership and Diverse Directorate

tra:ce is open to external researchers and institutions who share a focus on social-ecological issues. The center is governed by a diverse directorate, reflecting a range of disciplines and perspectives within the university. This body is complemented by a scientific advisory board comprising experts from academia, politics, industry, and civil society, who provide critical oversight and stimulate new research and policy initiatives. With these ambitious projects and collaborative efforts, tra:ce stands at the forefront of understanding and shaping the much-needed socio-ecological transformation of our society. For more information on these pioneering initiatives, visit www.uni-wh.de/trace.

Sustainable construction

A significant achievement for the Witten/Herdecke University this year has been the recognition of its new building as a sustainable construction. The innovative structure, a wood-hybrid extension, has been awarded the "Silver" certificate by the "Bewertungssystem Nachhaltiges Bauen (BNB)", affirming its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The uniqueness of the building lies in its use of sustainable materials and design principles. Constructed primarily from certified spruce wood sourced from sustainable forestry, the building stands as a testament to ecological responsibility. It not only reduces the greenhouse gas potential through carbon sequestration but also contributes to biodiversity conservation.



Energy efficiency is another hallmark of the building, consuming about a third less energy than comparable structures. This achievement is further enhanced by its Low-Tech concept, which minimizes the need for maintenance-intensive equipment, thereby scoring high on the BNB's life cycle cost assessment.

Architectural flexibility, an essential feature for a university building, has been integrated to accommodate changing educational needs. The design allows easy reconfiguration of interior walls, ensuring that the space remains adaptable for future pedagogical concepts. Further, the building's resilience against natural hazards, public accessibility, and thorough project preparation were crucial factors in meeting the BNB standards.

Key facts about the building:

- Type: New campus extension in wood-hybrid construction
- Construction period: May 2020 – September 2021
- Gross floor area: approximately 7,000 m²
- Total cost: €26.7 million
- Main building material: 1,200 m³ of PEFC-certified spruce wood, around 10,000 wooden construction elements, including a facade of natural larch wood
- Facilities include around 300 study spaces, seminar rooms, a multi-story library, a café with lounge area, an event room for up to 350 people, and office spaces.

The successful certification of this building reflects the university's deep commitment to sustainability, not just in its academic and research endeavors, but also in its infrastructure and operations. This achievement has set a benchmark for sustainable construction in the region and serves as an inspiration for future building projects. For more information on this pioneering project, visit www.uni-wh.de/zukunftsraum.



"We want to bring the European Green Deal closer to the people. And here in this new Witten/Herdecke building, you can feel how it can be done. This building is as sustainable as it is functional and beautiful. I congratulate you on your wealth of ideas would like to encourage you to continue working, researching and thinking off the beaten track."

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen

Acting President of the EU Commission

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.

Shaping future leaders: The Witten/Herdecke approach

Our purpose

Witten/Herdecke University was founded and state recognized 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.

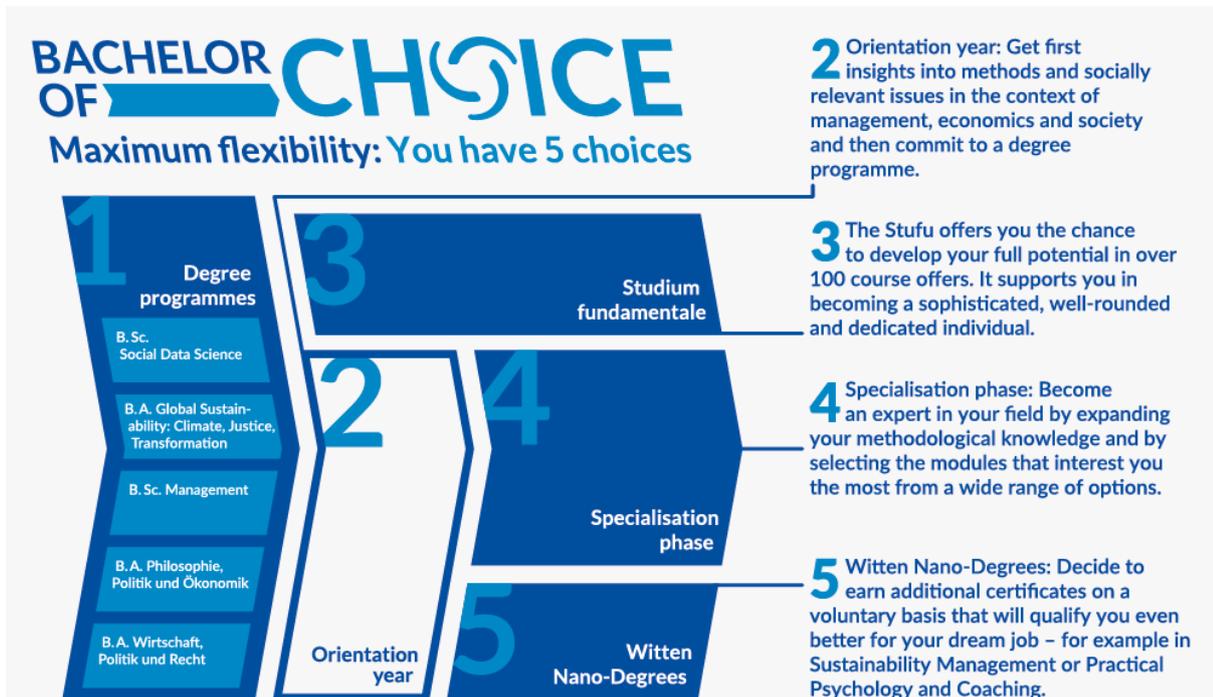
In an increasingly complex, rapidly changing and insecure world, future physicians, entrepreneurs, managers, politicians or consultants need methodical, social, ethical and cultural competences as much as subject-related expertise. “Studium fundamentale” is an obligatory part of all degree programs at Witten/Herdecke University. One day per week, students of all disciplines take time for reflection 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.

Bachelor of Choice

The Witten/Herdecke University has introduced a unique Bachelor-of-Choice program, emphasizing flexibility and individual choice in higher education. This innovative model, beginning in the winter semester of 2023/2024, offers students a range of study options within the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society.



Choice of Study Programs

Students can choose from five study programs, including “Management”, “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics”, and three new programs: “Economics, Politics, and Law”, “Global Sustainability: Climate, Justice, Transformation”, and “Social Data Science”. Beyond their major, students have access to over 100 courses from various fields as part of the “Studium fundamentale”, designed to impart transformative competencies and broaden their academic horizon.

Orientation Year

Before finalizing their major, students undergo a common orientation year, gaining foundational knowledge and interdisciplinary insights into the faculty's thematic areas. Flexibility in Switching Majors: After the orientation year, students can either continue in

their enrolled program or switch to their preferred major without losing credit points or time.

Nano-Degrees for Additional Skills: The model includes optional nano-degrees, enabling students to acquire extra qualifications in areas like sustainability management or coaching, better preparing them for their future careers.

Educational Purpose and Sustainability Integration

Under the innovative "Bachelor of Choice" umbrella, the Witten/Herdecke University introduces two distinctive programs. The **B.A. in Global Sustainability: Climate, Justice, Transformation** is designed to develop leaders capable of driving societal changes amid the climate crisis, focusing on understanding and addressing planetary challenges. Meanwhile, the **B.Sc. in Social Data Science** merges the realms of data science and social sciences, empowering students to analyze and interpret complex social data for informed decision-making. These programs reflect the university's commitment to holistic education and research, aligning perfectly with the PRME "Purpose" principle.

For more information about the program, interested individuals can visit: www.uni-wh.de/wige-bachelor

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.

Mission statement and claim "Here We Grow"

The Witten/Herdecke university's ethos is encapsulated in its claim, "Here we grow". This mantra reflects our commitment not only to academic excellence but also to the personal growth of our students, faculty, and staff. We believe in nurturing individuals to realize their ideas, engage actively and extend their impact beyond the university walls.



Our mission is to actively shape the social, ecological, and economic transformations that our society, facing numerous crises and threats, urgently requires. This mission drives our learning, research, and collaborative efforts, aiming for sustainable and equitable change.

Transformative Education and Research

For over 40 years, the Witten/Herdecke University has been at the forefront of offering future-oriented study programs in diverse fields, including business, politics, psychology, nursing, medicine, and dentistry. Our unique educational approach ensures individual attention and fosters a pioneering spirit in learning and assessment settings. Our research, characterized by its freedom and transdisciplinary nature, contributes innovative, sustainable, and practical solutions for societal betterment.

Core Principles and Actions

Our philosophy is rooted in fostering a just and sustainable transformation of the world, respecting our planet's boundaries. We are committed to being a catalyst for change, creating a climate-neutral, discussion-rich, and modern learning environment. As one of Witten's largest employers, we take a leading role in societal transformation, addressing justice, sustainability, and diversity issues.

Practical Implementation of Sustainability

Our efforts in sustainable campus operations include promoting eco-friendly mobility, energy-efficient buildings, and responsible consumption practices, exemplified by our status as a "Fairtrade University."

The Sustainability Networking Office plays a crucial role in coordinating and advancing our sustainability initiatives, ensuring that our actions are aligned with our mission and values.

Our three fundamental values

The three foundational values of the Witten/Herdecke university provide guidance and reflection in all our actions. These values are reflected in our student selection, curriculum design, financial model, emphasis on sustainability in teaching and campus life, research priorities, and the autonomous community initiatives of our university members. They are a testament to our dedication to fostering a just and sustainable world.

1. *Encourage freedom*

Our students are free to organize 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.

2. *Strive for truth*

The question of truth goes beyond the question of feasibility. Witten/Herdecke university 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.

3. *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: Method



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 & Society has always looked beyond the narrow boundaries of the subject and integrated perspectives, methods and concepts of neighboring 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 sustainability, corporate social responsibility and ethics

Witten/Herdecke University offers numerous lectures and courses in the field of corporate responsibility and sustainability within the following programs.

- Analyzing the complexity of sustainability transformation with systems constellations
- Art and sustainability
- Basics in Philosophy I: Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Classics and current problems in social and cultural philosophy (Ecological Communication).
- Climate and Economics 1: The book by Dipesh Chakrabarty: "The Climate of History in the Planetary Age". A seminar in the framework of the 'economic salon' of STUFU
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Crisis management, restructuring and reorganization
- Cross Cultural Management
- Cultural and Social Philosophy II: Normative Social Theory and Social Criticism ("Planetary Turn" - Science and Practice)
- Current Issues and Further Questions: Philosophy and Society (The Ethics of Financial Markets)
- Current Issues in Value-Based Management (Controlling Risks in Organizations)
- Current questions on "Sustainable Management" (Sustainable Management - Goals and Implementation)
- Developing a Culturally Competent and Compassionate LGBT+ Curriculum in Health and Social Care Education.
- Digital ethics
- Digital Medicine goes Planetary Health
- Economic philosophy and business ethics
- Ethical implications of planetary health
- Ethical Issues in Organizations
- Ethics and Society (Philosophy of Human Rights)
- Food supply of tomorrow - regional, sustainable and circular?
- Game Theory and Social Structure

- Global Dynamics of Sustainable Transformation
- Global Social Witnessing in Calais's Jungle
- Global Social Witnessing: Theory and Practice
- History of Economic Ideas in the Context of Social Philosophy
- Literature, films, eGames and sustainability
- Living sustainably? Psychological explanations and communication approaches
- Management & Society / Current Issues in Value-Based Management (Managing for the Circular Economy)
- Organizational Culture and Change Management
- Planetary Health Academy
- Planetary Social Witnessing
- PPE in Practice (Resilient and sustainable reconstruction in the Ahr valley after the 2021 summer flood: Political, social and technical challenges)
- Research on Sustainability in Public Spaces - A Joint Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Start! Designing a multigenerational project for Witten. Innovative project management for inclusion and togetherness
- Startup Creation and Management / Business Creation Entrepreneurial Lab
- Strategizing Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainability Accounting
- Sustainability in health care and nursing
- Sustainability management
- Sustainability Marketing
- Sustainable corporate management in practice
- Sustainable development in the region - business is more!
- Sustainable Performance Management
- Technology, energy and sustainability
- The Art System in Transition: Linking Business, Social and Art - Cultural Management in Theory and Practice
- The Sustainable Development Goals - Global Goals and Future Competencies
- Witten Management Workshop 1: Management Classics
- Witten Management Workshop 2: Real World Management

Studium fundamentale: Interdisciplinary heart of Witten/Herdecke

At Witten/Herdecke University, 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

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.



Oikos Winter School 2023: "WTF can I do? Developing Your Agency Facing the Ecological Crisis"

The 17th Oikos Winter School, themed "WTF can I do? Developing Your Agency Facing the Ecological Crisis," was a five-day journey from the 27th to 31st of March 2023, focusing on empowering action towards a sustainable society. This event was not just a conference but a transformative experience for students determined to make a difference in the world's ecological future.

The core of the Winter School was to explore and enrich the understanding of the participants regarding the larger picture of sustainability. It was an invitation to introspect on questions like "What is my role in the sustainable story?" and "What work can I contribute to this narrative?" The program emphasized skills that are crucial in navigating the complexities of a world facing environmental challenges, aligning personal strengths

with impactful actions.

The method of engagement at the Winter School was an innovative mix of lectures, workshops, and open spaces for reflection and consolidation. A small, intimate group of students had the opportunity to learn from pioneers of change and cutting-edge researchers. The format was designed to foster an environment of mutual learning, with ample space for personal reflection and conversation among participants.



A unique aspect of the Winter School was its accommodation approach. Participants were integrated into the local community through a couch-surfing system, where they were hosted in shared flats of students from Witten/Herdecke University. This arrangement not only facilitated a closer bond among the participants but also provided a real-life experience of sustainable living practices. Additionally, the event ensured that attendees were well catered to throughout the week, with wonderful catering services keeping everyone nourished and energized.

In conclusion, the 17th Oikos Winter School was a platform where students could learn, reflect, and prepare themselves to be agents of change in addressing the ecological crisis. It provided the tools and knowledge necessary for initiating impactful actions and instilled a sense of empowered responsibility towards building a sustainable society.

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 2022: Surfing on Crisis: Hope and Fear between Ideals and Ideologies

The 7th Edition of the PPE Conference, titled "Surfing on Crisis: Hope and Fear between Ideals and Ideologies," embarked on an insightful journey into the depths of global crises and their implications. This conference epitomized our commitment to exploring the complex tapestry of challenges that define our times, ranging from climate change to political and economic upheaval.



At the heart of the conference discussions was the recognition of crises not just as disruptors but as potential catalysts for revealing hidden issues, fostering innovation, and driving societal change. Historically, crises have often served as a common denominator for revolutionary changes, propelling societies towards adaptation, resilience, and evolution. The conference posed critical questions that delved into the underpinnings of crises: What ignites a crisis - individual agents or overarching structures? Is the narrative that crises are opportunities for progress universally applicable, and who benefits from these turbulent times? The event also explored the intricacies of social cohesion in the face of crises, examining its correlation and impact.



A special focus was placed on understanding the phenomenon of political apathy in an era of perpetual crises. The conference highlighted how the emotions of hope and fear are instrumentalized in such times, emphasizing the complex relationship between individuals and their ideals against the backdrop of institutions and ideologies. It sought to unravel how individual changes manifest within ideological spaces and the forms they take.

The PPE Conference 2022 served as a confluence of diverse perspectives, attracting scholars, practitioners, and students from various fields. It provided a critical platform for examining crises as interconnected events that shape our global society, rather than isolated incidents. Through this interdisciplinary approach, the conference significantly contributed to the ongoing discourse on managing and understanding crises, reflecting the Faculty's dedication to responsible management education and its alignment with PRME principles.

"Sieben:Viertel" Project: A fusion of knowledge and community engagement

The Witten/Herdecke University, under the banner of its WittenLab, re-launches the "sieben:viertel" project with a range of engaging events open to the public. This initiative, starting from the 13th of April, exemplifies the university's commitment to the motto "Together, more knowledge!" and aims to foster a closer connection between the university and the local community.

The "sieben:viertel" project kicks off with a series of evening events, beginning with a philosophical salon at Café Leye on the 20th of April. This will be followed by an enlightening lecture on effective argumentation in partnerships at the Bürgeruni on the 25th of April. Additional events planned for April include the start of the Ruhr-Makerthon and a photography exhibition, all detailed on the project's dedicated website, www.sieben-viertel.de, which also provides information on schedules and registration.

Going beyond mere events, "sieben:viertel" offers a variety of seminars and workshops designed for active participation. Many of these sessions are supported by Kreativ.Quartiere Ruhr and conducted in collaboration with regional partners like Wiesenviertel e.V., the Buxus Foundation, and the IHK Mittleres Ruhrgebiet. The topics covered are diverse, ranging from human rights to innovative forms of cultural work and ecological circular economy.

A unique aspect of this project is the collaboration between dedicated scientists and artists from the university's Studium fundamentale and organizations and citizens in the region. This collaborative approach is aimed at addressing societal challenges together. As Dr. Andreas Lingg, the leader of the sieben:viertel project, emphasizes, "Only together can we know more. Only together can we shape the future." This initiative not only bridges knowledge and community engagement but also reflects the university's dedication to creating a shared space for learning, discussion, and the co-creation of a sustainable future.

Bürgeruniversität – Citizens' University

The Bürgeruni is a joint project of the Adult Education Center Witten | Wetter | Herdecke and WittenLab. As in previous years, a variety of lectures were organized. The event series takes place on a regular basis and is open to everyone. The following provides an overview of the topics covered:

- Buddhist Spirituality - What Can the West Learn? (Prof. Dr. Werner Vogd)
- How the history of persons and nations can be intertwined - Germany and Japan in comparison (Prof. Dr. Kazuma Matoba)
- The filter in the mind: how do we distinguish the important from the unimportant (Prof. Dr. Jan Philipp Röer)
- Can Artificial Intelligence Produce Art? (Prof. Dr. Renate Buschmann,)
- What the hormones do in the body - especially in children (Prof. Dr. David Martin)
- How the economy invented "growth" - which today is becoming a threat (Dr. Andreas Lingg)
- What does the future of our democracy look like? (Prof. Dr. Birger P. Priddat)
- Close to nature - close to people: Citizens' University is dedicated to traditional Chinese medicine (Dr. Anna Schönenberg-Tu)
- What can I do now for a "successful dying"? (Prof. Dr. Klaus Weckbecker)



Awards

StudyCHECK 2023: 1st rank

Based on over 40,000 evaluations from current students, the study program portal Studycheck.de selects the most popular universities and universities of applied sciences each year. In addition to positive evaluations, the decisive factor for the ranking of the universities is the recommendation rate of the students.



Witten/Herdecke university regularly achieves top positions and recommendation rates of almost 100%. According to its students, this makes it one of the top universities in Germany. In 2023 it was named the most popular one among universities with less than 5,000 students scoring at 9.21 out of 10 points with a large gap to 2nd place. It was the only university from North Rhine-Westphalia within the top 7 ranking. 99 % of the participating students recommend Witten/Herdecke University to others.

StudyCHECK 2022: Survey results on student life

In addition to the evaluations for the university ranking, students can also participate in surveys about university life at StudyCHECK. This involves topics such as the environment and infrastructure, dining hall food and the feel-good atmosphere, university sports, accessibility and much more.

According to survey results as of January 2022, the student opinion picture looks like this:

- 96% confirm that there are parks, green spaces or lakes in the immediate vicinity.
- 95% say that the wifi on campus is good.
- 80% are of the opinion that the location of the university is okay.
- 79% ride their bike to the university at least sometimes.
- 78% think the campus is very nice.
- 75% say that it was very easy to find a connection. Another 20% see it as doable.
- 69% always find a parking spot with a little luck.
- 66% say everything is barrier-free.
- 66% are enthusiastic about the university sports program.
- 62% rate the public transport connections as very good.
- 57% say they have made friends for life at our university.

- 54 % have a student job, another 19 % have a student job during the semester break.
- 54% have spent a semester abroad or are planning to do so.
- 46% of the students live in a shared apartment.
- 30% of students eat a vegetarian or vegan diet.

2023: Exceptional Performance of Bachelor Programs in Economics in CHE Ranking

The CHE ranking is Germany's most comprehensive university comparison - around 300 universities and technical colleges are examined. The Center for University Development annually collects data from around 150,000 surveyed students from various courses. Each study program considered is reassessed every three years.

The Bachelor programs in Management and Economics have achieved outstanding results in the latest CHE Ranking 2023. The programs, Management (B. Sc.) and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (B. A.), have secured top positions in all fourteen categories of the ranking, surpassing the average of all evaluated universities.



Key highlights of the ranking include:

- Overall Study Situation: Exceptional ratings with 4.8 out of 5 stars, reflecting the high-quality educational environment provided to the students.
- Study Organization: Also rated 4.8 out of 5 stars, indicating excellent management and structuring of the courses and curricula.
- Facilities and Resources: The availability and quality of learning spaces earned an impressive 4.8 out of 5 stars, showcasing the university's commitment to providing top-notch resources.
- Support from Faculty: The dedication and expertise of the teaching staff were highly regarded, with a score of 4.7 out of 5 stars.
- Teaching and Practical Learning Opportunities: Both aspects received a strong rating of 4.7 out of 5 stars, highlighting the program's effective integration of theoretical and practical knowledge.
- Equipment and Tools: Also rated at 4.7 out of 5 stars, this reflects the excellent resources available to students for their academic pursuits.
- In addition to these achievements, the programs received top marks for supporting

new students, scoring 13 out of a possible 16 points. This outstanding achievement underscores the faculty's dedication to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for all students, particularly those just beginning their academic journey.

These remarkable results attest to the Faculty of Management, Economics, and Society's continued excellence in providing a comprehensive and enriching educational experience. The faculty's commitment to academic excellence, practical learning, and student support shines through in this year's StudyCHECK and CHE ranking.

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

Behavioral and social sciences play an important role in research at the Faculty of Management, Economics and Society. Our research activities focus on the behavior of individuals and their interactions within the institutional and social frameworks. Deliberately striving for an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, which also reflects the in-depth knowledge of the individual disciplines, is crucial to our research. The Faculty of Management, Economics and Society is thus committed to view both established and new fields of research from various perspectives and to apply methodological pluralism, far off the beaten track.

Research in the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship (MUT) pursues the goal of understanding, explaining and shaping decisions and change processes in business. The main research areas in the MUT Department are shaped by the profiles of the professorships, chairs and institutes; they can be divided into three areas:

- Leadership and Responsibility,
- Innovation and Foundation, and
- Organization and Markets.

Two overarching features characterize the department's research profile. Complex questions on interface topics or between disciplines characterize practice and are therefore the focus of research for the MUT Department. Companies and organizations, like their environment, are in a constant state of change, which is why many of the department's research perspectives are linked to the observation of dynamics, change and

transformation.

The Department of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPÖ) stands for research that is fundamentally anchored in its disciplines, that is recognizably striving to leave well-trodden paths and/or that exhibits an explicit will to shape society. The PPÖ Department supports and demands both research that leads to high-quality publications and research that does not shy away from expressing bold visions, experimenting with transdisciplinary approaches, or seeking to improve people's lives in sociopolitical terms. To make this possible, the PPÖ Department promotes both a disciplinary depth of focus and a diversity of perspectives between and within disciplines that achieves a theoretically, analytically, and methodologically rich and thus fruitful spectrum.

PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change (ISIC)

Taking the place of the former Witten Institute for Institutional Change (WIWA), the *PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change* (ISIC) was founded in 2020 by members of the



Department for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Witten/Herdecke University. Its mission is to foster and promote the unique approach of PPE research on topics of social and institutional change. PPE research goes beyond multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches by synthesizing philosophy, political studies, and economics into a distinctive and transdisciplinary scientific environment. It considers the three fields as interrelated perspectives on social reality.

ISIC is committed to promoting excellence in research that is relevant and internationally visible. ISIC develops formats for scientific exchange with public impact and participates in practical change projects and initiatives at the interface of philosophy, politics, and economics.

PPE young scholars award for institutional change

ISIC annually invites applications for the "PPE Young Scholars Award for Institutional Change," a prestigious recognition funded by the university's Board of Trustees. "PPE" refers to



the variety of theoretical approaches and normative positions on topics and problems at the intersections of philosophy, politics, and economics. For this reason, nominations are

open to different theoretical and normative schools. The only criteria are originality and creativity.

With this award, the board of trustees of Witten/Herdecke University and ISIC aim to encourage promising researchers to leave the beaten track and break new ground in research and teaching. The prize is dedicated to young scientists who contribute to the methodological and thematic diversity within and across economics, political science, and philosophy with new ideas and approaches.

In 2022, ISIC had honored the two researchers Dr. Björn Bremer (Max Planck Institute for the study of societies, Köln) and Dr. Madelaine Fitzgerald Moore (Bielefeld University).

Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management

Since its founding in 2010 under the name of its founder, the Bertelsmann Stiftung has supported the Reinhard Mohn Institute (RMI). Through research, teaching and practical dialog, it provides significant national and international impetus for reforming the theory and practice of corporate management.



The RMI works in the spirit of Reinhard Mohn's participative and responsible leadership philosophy - and with an anchoring in organizational theory. In its new content orientation, it understands strategy, management, organization and control increasingly across companies in the sense of cooperative corporate management in networks.

It's current focus areas include Cooperative Relationships, Network and Alliance Strategies, Strategic Adaptation Processes, Managing Openness and Transparency, Trust in and between Organizations, Innovation and Learning in Organizations, New Forms of Leadership and Work in the Digital Age, and Corporate Responsibility.



Research seminar with Julia Grimm on multi-stakeholder initiatives

Dr. Julia Grimm from Stockholm University led an insightful RMI Research Seminar, exploring how Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives (MSIs) can bridge differences between various interest groups to address social and ecological challenges. The seminar included a case study comparison between Germany's "Partnership for Sustainable Textiles" and Sweden's "Fossil Free Sweden Initiative," highlighting the complexities and potential of collaboration

among diverse participants. Dr. Grimm's research, which delves into issues of transnational governance and sustainable supply chains, underscores the importance of finding common ground in MSIs for substantial cooperation. This seminar continues the tradition of RMI in fostering dialogues on pressing global challenges and collaborative solutions.

Practical application of sustainable corporate management: Presentation at Katjes

Students from Prof. Dr. Wilhelm's "Sustainable Corporate Management in Practice" seminar concluded their project work with an impressive final presentation at Katjes' headquarters in Emmerich. Addressing corporate leaders, including Managing Partner Bastian Fassin, they focused on the requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, which outlines sustainability reporting standards for companies. This seminar, offered in collaboration with the Witten/Herdecke University's Center for Sustainable Corporate Management, aims to empower students to apply scientific approaches to practical challenges in ecologically and socially sustainable corporate management. It covers sustainability management knowledge and hones skills in qualitative data collection, analysis, and presentation. Prof. Wilhelm expressed satisfaction with the partnership with Katjes and the project's success, noting it as an excellent opportunity for students to build their professional networks. The University extends its gratitude to Katjes for hosting the event and looks forward to future collaborative projects.

Research seminar: Digital technologies in tackling grand challenges

At a hybrid event on May 10th, 2023, Dr. Francesca Ciulli (Tilburg University) and Dr. Leona Henry (UW/H) shared their research on leveraging digital technologies in multi-stakeholder partnerships to address societal grand challenges. These challenges, such as climate change, poverty, and transitioning to a circular economy, require collaborative efforts across sectors. The seminar focused on how these partnerships are increasingly integrating digital technologies to enhance their effectiveness. Dr. Ciulli, an expert in organization studies and global management of social issues, and Dr. Henry, whose work revolves around collaborative forms for sustainability, contributed to a rich discussion on this vital topic. This RMI Research Seminar offered an insightful platform for exploring the latest research in areas aligned with the Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management's focus.

Guest Lecture by Dr. Becky Stiles on Strategizing CSR

On November 15th, 2022, Dr. Becky Stiles, Head of Sustainability, Personal Care at BASF for the Emea Region, delivered a guest lecture on sustainability in the value chain of personal care products. Part of the master seminar "Strategizing Corporate Social Responsibility" in the Strategy & Organization program, her talk covered various critical aspects, including partnerships for sustainability, sustainable sourcing strategies, and the challenge of reducing CO2 emissions. Dr. Stiles provided students and interested attendees with an in-depth perspective on BASF's sustainability strategy, emphasizing the significance of collaborations in sustainable corporate management. This theme aligns closely with the seminar's focus, offering valuable insights into real-world applications of CSR strategies.

Day of corporate management: Reflecting on the future

The "RMI Day of Corporate Management" held on September 7, 2022, brought together about 100 guests to discuss the pressing and intertwined crises of climate, war, and disease. Held in the new event hall, the day was marked by a series of thought-provoking discussions. Keynote speakers, including Wibke Brems, Chairwoman of the Green Party in the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, and historian Annette Kehnel from the University of Mannheim, engaged the audience with insights into sustainability and responses to current challenges. A special "Future Talk" during the evening networking session sparked further conversation, exploring role models for navigating these uncertain times, from the inspirational Mother Teresa to the controversial Elon Musk. This event continues RMI's tradition of bridging academic inquiry with practical business and societal concerns.



Research Seminar: Navigating Boundaries in Migrant Businesses

Bernadette Bullinger from IE University presented her research at the RMI Research Seminar on June 7th, 2022. Her study focused on migrant shop owners and their employees, exploring how they navigate cultural and spatial boundaries in response to disturbances. Conducting 83 interviews in a multicultural neighborhood, Bullinger's work sheds light on the concept of boundary work – efforts to create, blur, or transform boundaries between groups. This research is crucial for understanding the resilience and adaptability of migrant business actors, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The seminar provided a valuable forum for discussing contemporary research relevant to the themes of the Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management.

Research Seminar: Shaping the Future in Times of Crises

On April 7, 2022, the RMI Research Seminar featured Birthe Soppe, Philip Balsiger, and Simone Schiller-Merkens, who explored the role of moral market entrepreneurs in shaping society's future, particularly in times of crises. They examined how these entrepreneurs, who engage in the market with a social change agenda, perceive and respond to crises. Given the backdrop of fundamental crises like the ongoing pandemic, this hybrid seminar, including both in-person and online participants, delved into the challenges and opportunities these conditions present for market-driven social transformation. The presenters – Soppe from the University of Innsbruck, Balsiger from the University of Neuchâtel, and Schiller-Merkens from the Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management at Witten/Herdecke University – discussed how such entrepreneurs are key drivers in the socio-ecological transformation of the economy.

Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU)

The “Wittener Institute for Family Business (WIFU)” is supported by the WIFU Foundation, which is linked to Witten/Herdecke University via a cooperation agreement. It is integrated as an institute into the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society. The institute specializes in studying family businesses and entrepreneurial families with a transdisciplinary orientation, combining expertise in business management, psychology/sociology, and law studies. With a network of about 80 family enterprises, WIFU fosters a unique academic-practitioner dialogue. For over 25 years, its six chairs and numerous professors have been driving forward research and education to develop innovative theories, approaches and practical solutions.



Working group “Sustainability in Family Businesses”

The "Sustainability in Family Businesses" working group at the Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU) provides a structured forum for its supporting members to exchange and learn about sustainability activities in both corporate and family contexts. Annually, the group hosts two full-day workshops, each held at a different member's venue, including a social gathering on the preceding evening. During these workshops, the host and another company each present a case study related to sustainability, sparking discussions among the participants. These workshop dialogues contribute to a broader research initiative, integrating both the participating companies and doctoral students. This approach not only

fosters practical insights but also helps in developing solutions and deepening understanding of sustainability challenges in family businesses.



The working group, initially scheduled for 2021, successfully convened for the first time on November 17, 2022. Led by Prof. Dr. Tom Rüsen, this exclusive event focused on exploring the diverse aspects of sustainability and collaboratively identifying key topics for future meetings. The inaugural session of the working group was held in Witten, at the newly constructed, wood-hybrid building of UW/H, symbolizing a commitment to sustainable practices. This gathering marked the beginning of a series of in-depth discussions and collaborative efforts aimed at integrating sustainability more deeply into the practices of family businesses.

Symposium "Sustainability in Family Businesses"

The "Sustainability in Family Businesses" Symposium, established in 2021, is a key event in the Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU) calendar. This symposium aims to provide insights into the business dynamics of societal transformation towards sustainability, highlighting its implications for family businesses, such as supply chain management, business models, and certification processes, and for entrepreneurial families, including issues like intergenerational sustainability, succession planning, wealth management, and impact investing. The event features expert speakers from various sectors who offer in-

depth knowledge on related topics. Additionally, it showcases concrete best practice cases from family businesses, fostering an interactive and informative discussion. Held annually, the symposium is exclusively designed for members of family businesses and entrepreneurial families, as well as their top management, facilitating a tailored and focused learning environment.

In November 2022, the Witten/Herdecke University hosted a symposium, "Sustainability in Family Businesses: Societal Coercion or Focus on Future Generations?" Following the WIFU working group meeting, this event featured Prof. Dr. Tom Rösen and Thomas Schmidt (Franz Haniel & Cie. GmbH) in the opening session. Keynote speaker Mirjam Rübhelke-Alo (Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership, UW/H) discussed sustainable practices in the FMCG sector. The symposium included personal experiences from Dr. Meike Schäffler (Westfalen AG) and Janik Seitzer (Start-up Sustayn), followed by a panel discussion. The afternoon session presented the WIFU study "Sustainability in Family Businesses" and concluded with a panel discussion involving Prof. Dr. Tom Rösen and other experts, emphasizing the role of sustainability in family business strategies.

Selected research projects

- Sustainability in family businesses - family and entrepreneurial conditions and the role of motivation
- Sustainability strategy development in family businesses - the role of the entrepreneurial family and external factors
- Ecological sustainability in family businesses

Selected Publications 2022 – 2023

- Casciaro, T., Lobo, M. S., Wilhelm, H., & Wittland, M. (2022). The Way We Make Each Other Feel: Relational Affect and Joint Task Performance. *Academy of Management Discoveries*, 8(1), 15-35. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amd.2018.0095>
- Clauß, T., Kraus, S., & Jones, P. (2022). Sustainability in family business: Mechanisms, technologies and business models for achieving economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 176, 121450. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2021.121450>
- Henry, L. A., Rasche, A., & Möllering, G. (2022). Managing Competing Demands: Coping With the Inclusiveness–Efficiency Paradox in Cross-Sector Partnerships. *Business & Society*, 61(2), 267–304. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650320978157>
- Hogrefe, R., & Bohnet-Joschko, S. (2023). The Social Dimension of Corporate Sustainability: Review of an Evolving Research Field. *Sustainability*, 15(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15043248>
- Khattak, M. S., Anwar, M., & Clauß, T. (2021). The Role of Entrepreneurial Finance in Corporate Social Responsibility and New Venture Performance in an Emerging Market. *The Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 30(2), 336–366. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09713557211025655>
- Müller-Crepon, C., Pengl, Y., & Bormann, N.-C. (2022). Linking Ethnic Data from Africa (LEDA). *Journal of Peace Research*, 59(3), 425–435. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433211016528>
- Pilgrim, K., & Bohnet-Joschko, S. (2022). Corporate Social Responsibility on Twitter: A Review of Topics and Digital Communication Strategies' Success Factors. *Sustainability*, 14(24), Article 24. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142416769>
- Schiller-Merkens, S. (2022). Prefiguring an alternative economy: Understanding prefigurative organizing and its struggles. *Organization*, 13505084221124189. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13505084221124189>
- Schiller-Merkens, S., & Machin, A. (2023). Knowing Food: Sustainability Politics, Food Policy Councils and the Co-Production of Knowledge. *International Journal of*

Politics, Culture, and Society, 36(3), 311–328. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10767-023-09446-1>

Schmidt, L., & Bohnet-Joschko, S. (2022). Planetary Health and Hospitals' Contribution—A Scoping Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(20), Article 20. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192013536>

Wilhelm, H., Steigenberger, N., Weber, C.E., Juntunen, J., & Ebers, M. (2023). (No) Time for Change: When and Why Entrepreneurs Act During Underperforming Fundraising Attempts. *Organization Science*. Online First. <https://doi.org/10.1287/orsc.2020.13803>

Serafin Research Prize

The Serafin Research Prize, an esteemed acknowledgment at the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society of Witten/Herdecke University, continues to spotlight outstanding academic works that align with entrepreneurial innovation and societal responsibility. The prize, graciously endowed by the Munich-based “Serafin Unternehmensgruppe”, recognizes one exemplary Bachelor's and Master's thesis each year, with a focus on current, entrepreneurially significant issues.

Theses awarded in 2023

- “Shareholder- und Stakeholderorientierung im Kontext von Corporate Political Advocacy am Beispiel des Russland-Bojkotts von Unternehmen aufgrund des Ukraine-Krieges” (Pauline Mengede)
- “Trading Virtual Employee Stock Option Plans – Business Plan or Thought Experiment?” (Anna-Maria Kégl)



Theses awarded in 2022

- “Corporate Sustainability in Family Firms – a systematic literature review and research agenda” (Andrea Gerlitz)
- “Corporate sustainability reporting of German listed firms: Analysis of non-financial disclosure regarding environmental, social and governance (ESG) indicators” (Jan Haase)



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 organizations, 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. Witten/Herdecke University 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 university 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, Economics & Society 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.



ZNU spearheads digital workshop series on sustainable supply chains

The ZNU, in collaboration with the Adalbert-Raps-Stiftung, launches an insightful digital workshop series on sustainability in the supply chains of spices and other plant-based materials. This initiative is tailored for professionals across manufacturing, trading, and research sectors. Spanning from September 2023 to March 2024, the series comprises six workshops, each exploring a unique sustainability challenge within supply chains. These include themes like land and soil use, water management, pollution control, climate impact, human rights, and effective supply chain management. The workshops will be moderated by Julius Wenzig, Research Leader at ZNU, and will feature international experts offering insights and best practices. This initiative aims to foster a comprehensive understanding

and discussion among industry and academic experts, addressing global sustainability issues. All interested parties are invited to participate in these free, interactive sessions, contributing to a dialogue that shapes more sustainable industry practices.

Transformation lab for sustainable food industry

The ZNU joins forces with leading organizations including B.A.U.M., BVE, and Regionalwert Leistungen to establish a transformation lab for nutrition. This innovative coalition aims to address the challenges posed by the EU Green Deal and to contribute meaningfully to climate goals, circular economy, and resilient economic structures.

This unique collaboration brings together diverse expertise: an industry association, a pioneer, a standard-setter, and an innovator in holistic business accounting. The lab will focus on practical and accessible solutions for supply security, healthy nutrition, and pleasure within planetary boundaries.

The partnership will undertake two years of intensive work to tackle global food industry challenges. The initiative will kick off with a series of workshops aimed at forming a core group to collaboratively develop concrete solutions. These workshops will cover topics like climate accounting, sustainability in financial reporting, and effective responses to climate risks. The workshops will explore various aspects of sustainability accounting, with an eye on current regulatory changes and the potential impact on the food industry.

The Transformation Lab for Nutrition aims to align with the EU Commission's forecast, which predicts significant losses and rising food prices due to climate change. It seeks to integrate lifestyles, nutrition, and planetary boundaries into a cohesive sustainability strategy that extends beyond production to include consumption patterns.

This initiative represents a significant step towards achieving a sustainable and resilient food industry, emphasizing the synthesis of sustainability and financial reporting for a transformative impact on the industry.

Borussia Mönchengladbach ZNU Standard certified

Borussia Mönchengladbach, a renowned football club in the Bundesliga, has been certified for sustainable business practices as per the ZNU Standard, a comprehensive framework developed by the Center for Sustainable Corporate Leadership (ZNU) at the Witten/Herdecke University. This certification, conducted and validated by TÜV Rheinland, signifies the club's



dedication to promoting climate awareness and sustainable development.

The certification process encompassed an exhaustive audit of the club's business operations, evaluating its current sustainability measures and future plans. The club's commitment to sustainability is evident in its plans for significant infrastructural upgrades, including a large photovoltaic installation at their stadium, and a review of various operational aspects for sustainability.



Borussia Mönchengladbach's achievement is a testament to the club's commitment to societal responsibility and environmental stewardship. This initiative is part of a broader movement in the sports industry, with several other top-tier clubs pursuing similar sustainability goals. The ZNU's holistic approach to sustainability in business serves as a guiding framework for these efforts, highlighting the integration of environmental, economic, and social considerations in corporate practices.

ZNU goes to Berlin: Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development

On February 8th 2023, Dr. Christian Geßner had the possibility to speak to the parliamentary advisory council for sustainable development. Since January 5, 2023, the EU reporting obligation on sustainability issues came into force. According to this so-called Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the reporting obligation is extended to non-capital-market-oriented companies. The first reporting year is 2025. This means that many SMEs will have to publish their first publish a report for the first time in 2026. This could affect around 15,000 companies in Germany.



Dr. Geßner made clear that the ZNU standard (the first holistic sustainability management system which can be externally certified) combines sustainable development and entrepreneurial freedom. The ZNU Standard for Sustainable Development not only integrates the CSRD, but also many other regulations and other requirements at national and international level, such as the German Federal Government's Supply Chain Duty of Care Act or the UN's sustainability goals, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The advantage to make the ZNU standard applicable to companies and advantages for politicians are: reduced bureaucracy, supporting the pace of transformation by introducing a management system for sustainability management; having one solution for all sectors and at least the external certification bodies to guarantee a certain level and development of each company or organization.

XIV. ZNU - Future Conference "Climate neutral ? Sustainable ? Together! Do it!"

On May 4 and 5, 2023, around 140 participants engaged in a vivid discussion at the Sparkassenakademie NRW am Phönixsee, Dortmund, under the motto "Climate neutral ? Sustainable ? Together! Doing!". In 2023, the focus was on corporate climate protection and authentic communication.

The first day of the conference began with a keynote speech on climate protection in reporting by Prof. Dr. Mi-Yong Becker (Bochum University of Applied Sciences) and Thomas Wember, (auditor at Husemann & Partner). Professor Becker made it clear that companies must prepare for the upcoming reporting on climate protection. Not everything is yet clearly defined and she classified the current status of the CSRD directive. The speeches were followed by subsequent workshops. These included "Climate impact adaptation - various reporting requirements and adequate verification options" with Philipp Schmitt (fjol) and "Opportunities for technical innovations" with Matthias Kuhles (E.ON) and Guido Christiani (König-Brauerei), among others.

On the second day of the event, speakers included Dr. Antje von Dewitz (VAUDE) on "Responsibility as a brand essence" and Dr. Rainer Münker (Wettbewerbszentrale) on legal requirements for sustainability communication.

XIII. ZNU – Future Conference “Jointly Shaping the Transformation Process”

The XIII ZNU Future Conference exemplified our commitment to fostering partnerships for sustainable development. On May 5th and 6th, 2022 it was held at the KOMED Media Park in Cologne and brought together a diverse group of participants from politics, business, and NGOs, under the theme "Jointly Shaping the Transformation Process: Viable and Measurable Sustainability."



The conference provided a platform for critical discussions on Europe's sustainability

commitments under the Green Deal 2030 and the pursuit of climate neutrality by 2050. The first day's focus on developing solutions for climate protection, sustainable packaging, human rights in supply chains, and biodiversity, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in these areas.

University President Prof. Martin Butzlaff and ZNU directors Dr. Axel Kölle and Dr. Christian Geßner emphasized the need for collective action in managing sustainability challenges. Keynote speakers, including Dr. Ophelia Nick and Johannes Hartig, addressed the roles of political frameworks and sustainable finance in supporting these initiatives.

The conference concluded with a consensus on the necessity of joint efforts to shape a sustainable socio-economic future, aligning with our principle of fostering effective partnerships in line with the PRME objectives.

ZNU goes Zero

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. Over 20 mid-tier partner companies have committed themselves to climate neutrality.

Professional Trainings: ZNU-Sustainability Manager

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.

Professional Trainings: Sustainable leadership

The aim of the seminar is to develop personal capability as a leader and innovator in order to transform the passion for sustainability into the success of your own organization. This training focuses on people with their strengths and leadership potential. The participants reflect their own leadership skills in order to become aware of their strengths and to use these in a long-term and targeted manner in everyday project work.

Selected research projects

- BioVal - Biodiversity Valuing & Valuation
- Sustainability clustering of spices
- SDG Valuation - Further Development of a Sustainability Assessment Method based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Responsible business in the Berchtesgadener Land biosphere region
- Self-check for more sustainable procurement for SMEs
- The handprint: a complementary measure of the positive sustainability impact of products
- Innovative logistics for sustainable lifestyles (ILoNa)
- Meat of the future: sustainable protein supply in Germany (preliminary phase)
- Food waste data for more sustainability in the in the food industry (LeDaNa)
- Industry guidelines, e.g. sustainability in the frozen food in the frozen food industry, in the confectionery industry and in breweries

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 Konferenz

2023: Mindfulness and the Art of Shaping the Future

The 8th Mindful Leadership Conference, set for June 22-23, 2023, with extended workshops until December, revolves around "Mindfulness and the Art of Shaping the Future". Addressing the challenges of rapid organizational change and increasing complexity, the conference emphasizes mindfulness as a key tool for leaders. It aims to equip them with resilience and adaptability, fostering a transformative mindset essential for driving sustainable change. Featuring inspiring examples, practical workshops, and innovative methods, the event explores how mindful leadership can guide organizations through the evolving business landscape and shape a future-ready organizational culture.

Entrepreneurship Center Witten (EZW)

The Entrepreneurship Center Witten (EZW) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit enterprise of Witten/Herdecke University and the Initiative of Business for the UW/H. Its goal is to counteract structural change in NRW by promoting a start-up culture. Through these and other initiatives, the start-up landscape has developed rapidly and has long since had an impact beyond the borders of the federal state. The EZW focuses on supporting social entrepreneurs who want to solve global problems in an entrepreneurially sustainable way. Accordingly, our goal is to make social business ideas sustainably successful.



Collaboration with Global Entrepreneurship Center

The (EZW) has expanded its impact through a partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Center (GEC) in Meerbusch/Düsseldorf. This collaboration marks a significant step in supporting start-ups from their early stages to scale-up phases.

The EZW, known for being one of the first centers in Germany to focus on advising and supporting social entrepreneurs, assists founders from the inception of their ideas. It is a hub for those interested in creating societal and sustainable change through entrepreneurial action. In contrast, the GEC specializes in aiding more established start-ups aiming for active expansion.

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 UN-PRME 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.

AG Notfallmedizin

The student-organized Emergency Medicine Working Group is committed to increasing the importance of emergency medicine in



the curriculum of the Model Study Program 2020. In addition to a variety of seminars, practical exercises and short lectures, the main aim is to show that emergency medicine is fun.

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.



Bundesverband Deutscher Volks- und Betriebswirte (bdvb e.V.) - Hochschulgruppe Witten

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.

Café im Kulturstall

The "Café im Kulturstall" on the Christopherushof (near the Witten campus building) is a general meeting place. On Thursday's, 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.

CoronAid

In these times, the CoronAid initiative would like to assume social responsibility for those who are ill and their families, as well as for those in need of help - following the ideals of the Witten/Herdecke University. The CoronAid initiative was created by students and staff at the university to help address the many medical, social, and human challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was established as a separate working group

of the UW/H Corona Task Force on March 16, 2020.

DigitalWorks

DigitalWorks 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.

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.



Familienunternehmerkongress (FUK)

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.

Feministische Gruppe

The Feminist Group is a 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 & 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.

for action medeor

This initiative is aimed at committed individuals who want to work for the health of people worldwide. The initiative supports action medeor e.V. and promotes a health care system that provides preventive care, treatment and necessary medicines to people in need worldwide.

The association action medeor, to which the initiative is committed, is regarded as the world's emergency pharmacy and supplies doctors in disadvantaged regions with vital medicines. The aim is to promote local health structures, to provide both immediate and sustainable help in emergencies and disasters, and to fight diseases that are fueled by poverty.

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.

Gendergerechte Medizin

On average, women end up in the emergency room with a heart attack one hour later than men. This is because women are not prone to the "typical" heart attack symptoms. However, since general society, and thus also the medical community, usually thinks in normative male terms, many people are not aware of this. The Gender Equitable Medicine Initiative wants to change that.



Gute Laune Laufen

The "Running in a good mood" initiative promotes mental well-being and combats depression through the power of exercise. This student-led group organizes a series of

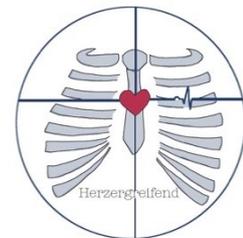
lectures on sports, physical activity, healthy living, and mental health, specifically focusing on depression. In addition to educational events, the initiative holds regular running training sessions one to two times a week and encourages participation in races, fostering a supportive community focused on physical and mental health improvement.

Humanitäre Hilfe für die Ukraine

The Witten/Herdecke University actively supports humanitarian aid efforts for the people affected by the war in Ukraine. This comprehensive initiative includes organizing informative lectures and providing scientific insights into the conflict, as well as initiating various aid and networking projects to assist those in Ukraine and refugees. Key activities include the "United Students for Ukraine," a student-driven initiative coordinating medical supply donations and financial aid for medical needs and refugee support in Germany. Additionally, the university offers ten guest study places for Ukrainian refugees, along with housing assistance and psychotherapy support for those affected by traumatic experiences. The university encourages participation and support for these vital efforts, welcoming donations and collaboration from the community to alleviate the hardships faced by those impacted by the conflict.

Herzergreifend

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.



Ibitaro

The IBITARO initiative, led by medical students from the Witten/Herdecke University, aims to improve healthcare in Musha, Rwanda, a region with stark medical resource shortages. Focusing on supplying essential medical equipment and training for local health center staff, the initiative organizes various fundraising activities, including charity



ibitaro

tournaments and school runs. Begun in 2020, IBITARO is transitioning to an independent association and welcomes new supporters and contributors.

Initiative PNI

Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) is a young interdisciplinary research field and a subdiscipline of psychosomatics. It moves between the fields of immunology, psychology, psychosomatics and neurology. In this sense, the PNI initiative builds bridges between medical, psychological and social science contexts. These connections are the basis to make the present particular view attentive to the more complex, holistic level. The PNI initiative invites you to participate in exciting lectures or to become active in the initiative.



Initiativlabor

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.

Investment Club

The Investment Club is an initiative founded by three management students in the summer semester of 2021. Together, the goal is to create a platform for students at Witten/Herdecke University to exchange ideas about stocks, the stock market and other investment opportunities. Discussions, dialogs, and contacts are to be promoted through monthly meetings, practical lectures or workshops, and students from all faculties are always welcome.



Konfessionelle Hochschulgemeinschaften Witten

The initiative "Denominational University Communities Witten" wants to give students

with denominational affiliation at UWH a space for religious life, communal togetherness, social engagement and political and interreligious education. The communities are basically aligned with the existing denominations. At the same time, they strive for close cooperation through regular joint educational events, excursions and social gatherings.

Körperlich Themenwoche

The Körperlich 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.

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.

Kunst der Erfahrung

Art of Experience is a student initiative, which researches between the arts and psychology and therefore regularly invites to the congress of the same name, in order to open a space of experience between the different disciplines and to go into design with each other.



L'appel Deutschland

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.

Luthers Waschsalon

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.

Medical Students for Choice Witten

The university group "Medical Students for Choice Witten/Herdecke" is a student initiative that advocates for a more intensive discussion of the right to bodily self-determination as well as the topics of sexual and reproductive health.



Medizin mit Herz und 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 (MUN)

Witten/Herdecke University 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 & Society has been hosting the annual international oikos Winter School, bringing together more than 25 young change-makers from around the world.



PAN University Witten/Herdecke

PAN („Physicians Association for Nutrition“) ist ein 2018 in München gegründeter gemeinnütziger Verein und mittlerweile eine international vernetzte Non-Profit-Organisation. Ziel der Initiative ist es, in der Allgemeinheit und insbesondere im Gesundheitswesen ein erhöhtes Bewusstsein für das präventive und therapeutische Potential einer evidenzbasierten gesunden Ernährungsweise zu



schaffen sowie deren Umsetzung zu ermöglichen.

Plurale Ökonomik Witten

The Initiative "Plural Economics Witten", part of the broader Plurale Ökonomik network, gathers weekly to explore and debate a diverse range of economic theories and schools of thought. Utilizing resources from the network, members develop a foundational understanding of different economic perspectives.



The group's activities include preparing and presenting lectures on various economic streams, often featuring guest speakers. Open to all who are interested in engaging with economic topics critically, the initiative fosters a rich environment for learning and discussion.

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.

pottkutsche - freies lastenrad witten

The "Pottkutsche" initiative manages a free cargo bike that can be borrowed free of charge by anyone in Witten for sustainable transportation in the city. As an alternative to cars in the city, it is already part of the traffic turnaround and is also intended to encourage people to rethink urban mobility in general.



Pottpost

Pottpost, the campus newspaper of the UW/H, is a project for the whole university in which everyone can participate. A newspaper from everyone for everyone. Clara, Theda and Paulina, who started this project, welcome everyone to help, write, design, critique, interview, read and contribute.



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 - das studentische Frauennetzwerk

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.



Rotaract Club Witten-Wetter-Ruhrtal

Rotaract is a group of young people between the ages of 18 and 30 who share the motto "Learn - Help - Celebrate". Rotaractors work together worldwide to help others and

contribute to international understanding through friendship, fairness and tolerance. Members of the initiative broaden their horizons with regular lecture meetings and sightseeing tours, get involved in cooperation with the local children's home and collect food for the needy or meet for entertaining club evenings.

Sono@UWH

The initiative Sono@UWH is an association of medical students who want to dedicate themselves to ultrasound teaching at Witten/Herdecke University. Since 2020 the team consists of six students, this is about to change! The initiative is to become larger and would like to further expand ultrasound teaching at the university together with interested parties and possibly set up projects abroad.



Students for Future

Students for Future is the local student group of the Fridays for Future movement and pursues the goal of increasing the focus on sustainability and climate protection in the various educational institutions as well as the entire city population of Witten, while at the same time developing constructive proposals for solutions.



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.

Teddykrankenhaus

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.

Theaterverein

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 initiative strives to identify current issues to be discussed with representatives 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.

Traditionelle Chinesische Medizin

TCM" is a holistic medicine that aims to maintain health. In China, the idea of the balance of Yin and Yang permeates not only medicine, but also the way people live. Diet, exercise, phytotherapy, acupuncture and massage form the five pillars of TCM. With this knowledge

one tries to strengthen one's life forces (Qi) to stay physically and mentally healthy.

UW/H Chess club

The UW/H Chess Club welcomes players of all levels for weekly skill-building sessions and friendly competition. The club's centerpiece, the UW/H Chess Tournament, blends the thrill of the game with charity, as participants support social projects and aid organizations. Open to everyone, from beginners to seasoned players, the club fosters a community spirit through chess.



UW/H Schachclub

UW/Honig

This self-organized group of student beekeepers from various disciplines is dedicated to sustaining two bee colonies throughout the year, located in a community garden near campus. Emphasizing ecological awareness and the joy of beekeeping, the initiative tackles all aspects of apiculture, from expanding the hives and swarm control to honey harvesting. Regular weekly meetings from spring to fall, and winter preparations for the following year, including crafting candles from harvested wax, are part of their activities. The group aims not only to maintain their bee colonies but also to enhance the habitat for various wild bee species, vital for ecosystem health and biodiversity.

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.



Weltgesundheit

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.

Willkommen in Witten

The student initiative "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.



Wittenbolzt

"Soccer for a good cause" - Environmental education combined with soccer. The initiative organizes soccer tournaments and sports festivals for children and young people and combines it with trash collection. They also start so-called cleanups for entire families with grandma and grandpa, organizations, students and generally for everyone. A smile is guaranteed - because collecting trash is simply fun!



Wittener Unternehmergespräche

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.



Zahnmedizinisches Nepalprojekt

Launched in 2023, the Dental Health Initiative for Nepal focuses on educating children aged 4-10 in orphanages and surrounding schools about the importance of oral health. In Nepal, dental care often lacks emphasis in healthcare, and this project aims to bridge that gap. Armed with donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste, students teach effective and sustainable tooth brushing techniques. This initiative makes a significant contribution to improving dental health in Nepal while offering students a memorable experience. Relying on donations, the project welcomes support in both financial and material forms.

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