



SCIENTIA International

Workshop  
Mind the (Cultural) Gap

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Dr. Nataliia Lazebna  
Sophie Renninger, M.A.

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Overview: What makes up German culture?

- Food
- Geography
- Literature, Music & Arts
- Traditions
  
- Behaviors and Communication
- Language
- German academic career system
- Approaches to teaching and learning

Input: Academia and Family Matters – Natalie Nikolaus, M.A.



## ENGLISH

pardon?

please.

go ahead.

here you go.

you're welcome.

what?!

## Deutsch

bitte?

bitte.

bitte.

bitte.

bitte.

bitte?!

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

- language and dialects
- food
- geography
- literature, music & arts
- traditions



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# Mind the (Cultural) Gap On German Culture



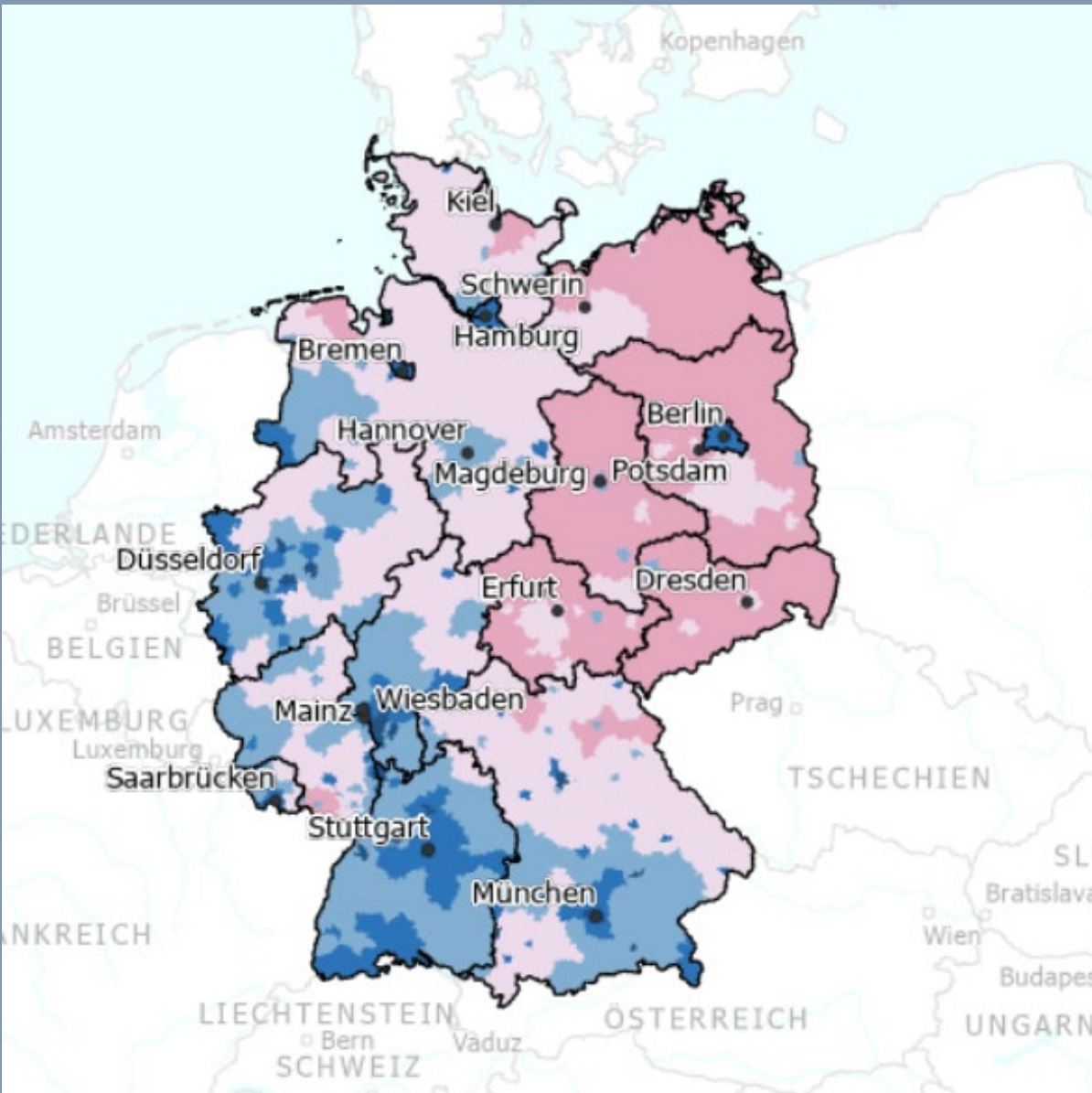
Did you experience culture shock when you first came to Germany?

What typically German things do you like and dislike?

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

Source

[https://www.deutschlandatlas.bund.de/DE/Karten/Wer-wir-sind/033-Auslaenderanteil.html#\\_a8b1qtsyj](https://www.deutschlandatlas.bund.de/DE/Karten/Wer-wir-sind/033-Auslaenderanteil.html#_a8b1qtsyj)

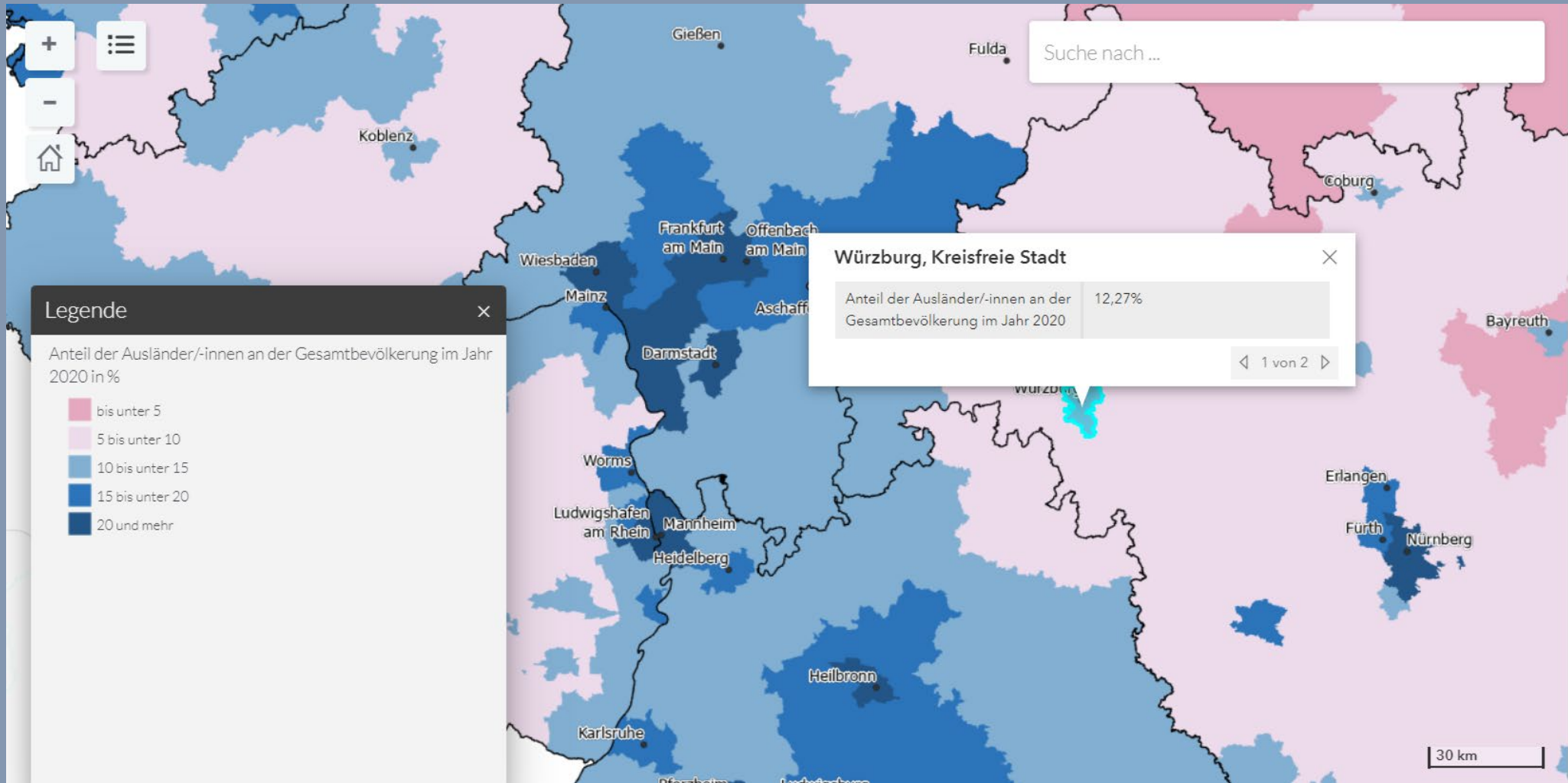


## Legende

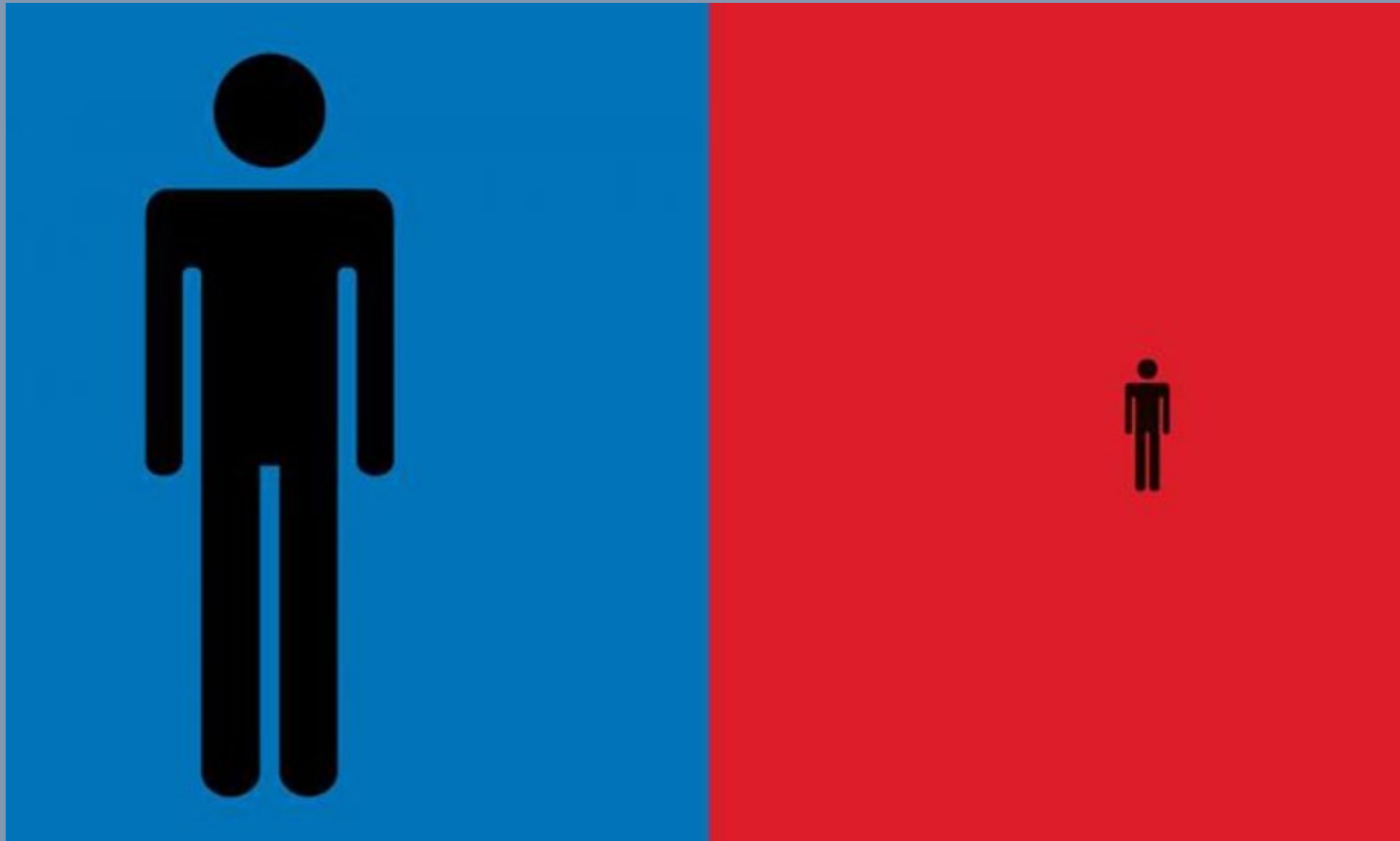
Anteil der Ausländer/-innen an der Gesamtbevölkerung im Jahr 2020 in %

- bis unter 5
- 5 bis unter 10
- 10 bis unter 15
- 15 bis unter 20
- 20 und mehr

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap



# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Behaviors & Communication

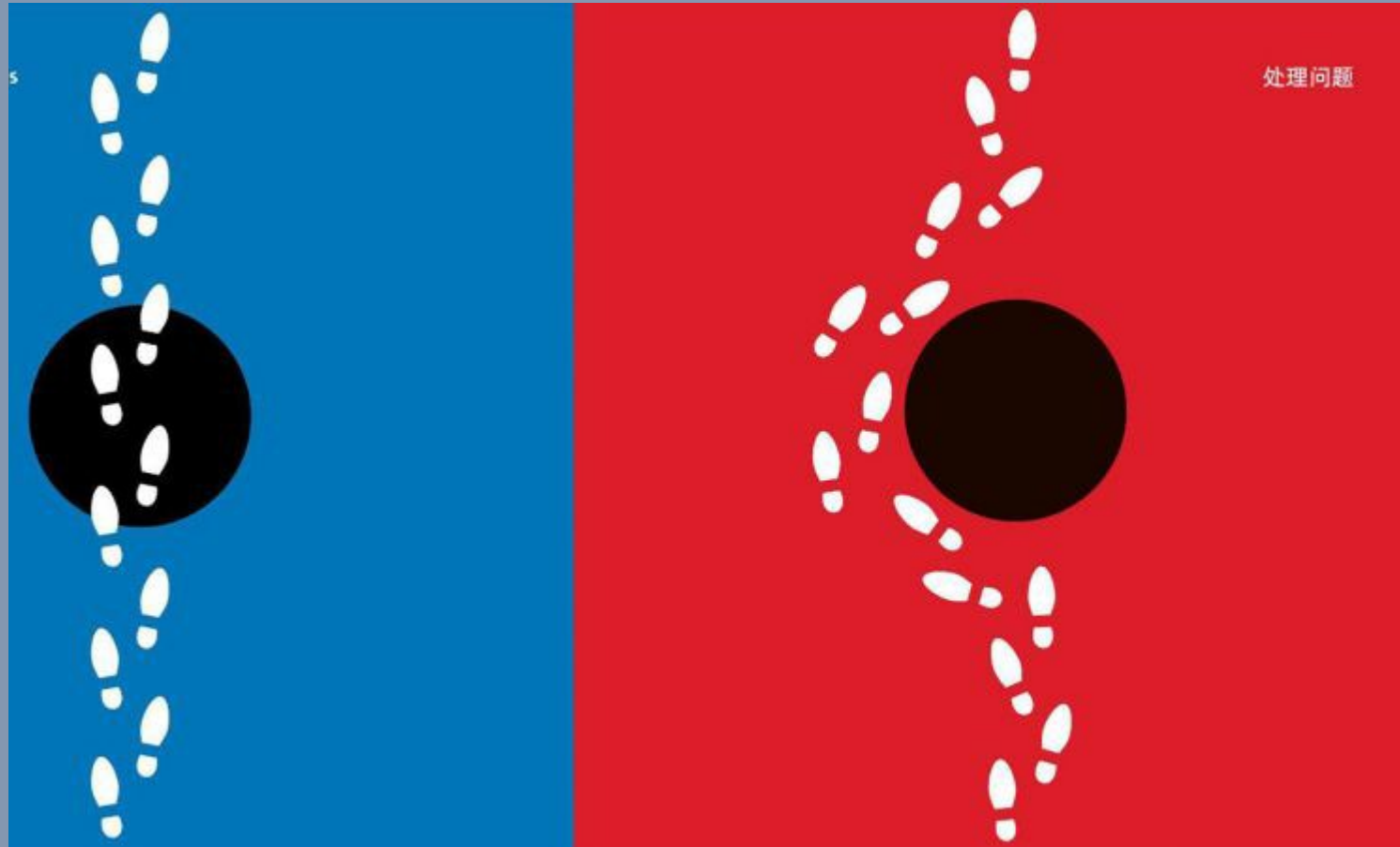


Yang Liu.

Das „Ich“ im Westen und im Osten

Source: <https://www.deutschland.de/de/topic/leben/expats-in-deutschland-interkulturelle-unterschiede>

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Behaviors & Communication



Yang Liu.

Der „Umgang mit Problemen“ im Westen und im Osten

Source: <https://www.deutschland.de/de/topic/leben/expats-in-deutschland-interkulturelle-unterschiede>



# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Behavior & Communication



Did you ever have a (funny) misunderstanding with someone German? Was it based on language or intercultural differences?

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Language & Dialects



Everyone in my department speaks English.  
Is it really necessary to learn German?

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Learning German as a foreign language

- To be competitive in the German-language context of academia
- To widen your horizon as a researcher
- UniWüe helps with learning German as a Foreign language:

<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/zfs/sprachen/deutsch-als-fremdsprache/kurstermine-anmeldung/studienbegleitende-deutschkurse/>

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Learning German as a foreign language

- Other useful links to learn German as a Foreign Language:
- [www.fadaf.de](http://www.fadaf.de)
- [www.mintalente.de](http://www.mintalente.de)
- [www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen](http://www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen)
- [www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen/deutsch-warum-nicht](http://www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen/deutsch-warum-nicht)
- [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)
- [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## German university system

### Types of Universities

- Universities of Applied Sciences
- Technical Universities
- Public Universities
- Private Universities
- Dual Career Programs

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## German academic ranks

	Faculty	Teaching only	Part-time
<b>Permanent positions</b>	Universitätsprofessor (Pay grade: W3 or W2), Professor (W3)	Lehrprofessor	Honorarprofessor (honorary title)
	Professor (W2)		
	Professor (W1), Akademischer Oberrat, Akademischer Rat, Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter (tenured)	Lehrkraft für besondere Aufgaben (LfbA) (tenured)	
<b>Temporary positions</b>	Akademischer Rat auf Zeit, Akademischer Oberrat auf Zeit (AR/AOR a.Z.), Juniorprofessor (W1 non-tenured), Professor auf Zeit (W2 non-tenured)	Lehrkraft für besondere Aufgaben (LfbA) (non-tenured)	Lehrbeauftragter
	Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter		
	Wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft		

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Comparison: North American academic ranks

### North American system

#### Tenure track:

Assistant professor · Associate professor · Professor (full) · Endowed Chair

#### Non-tenure track:

Adjunct professor · Instructor · Lecturer

# Career options

- Academia
- Research
- Other job positions based on personal skills and professional experience (consulting, management, mentorship, coaching etc.)

The workshop *How to advance your career in research and get funded by Dr. Thomas Koch* is highly recommended: [mail@academic-futures.de](mailto:mail@academic-futures.de) [www.academic-futures.de](http://www.academic-futures.de)



- Successful research career
- Career aspirations
- Longer-term research goals



Mind the (Cultural) Gap

Teaching and Learning

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Teaching and Learning



Think of your home country and Germany.  
Do you notice a difference in teaching and  
learning styles?

## My ideas = a research proposal(s)

- To write a research proposal is similar to squeezing a glass of juice.
- You need special tools and techniques, time spent, a certain order of steps taken, purification of your ideas, etc.
- A glass of juice may be served in different ways, as well as your research proposals may vary.
- Transform and adapt your innovative ideas.



Sources of  
funding are  
not only at  
the  
Universities...

- Industry: business enterprises, government, higher educational institutions, private non-profit organization, foreign institutions. Total sum exceeded 100 billion Euros.

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Funding Information

Download [a free leaflet of all funding opportunities in German academia:](#)

<https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/your-goal/phd/funding-organisations.html#:~:text=The%20largest%20organisations%20that%20award,the%20Alexander%20von%20Humboldt%20Foundation.>

Download Funding Opportunities for  
Early-Stage Researchers, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Scholarship  
Programs:

[https://www.th-koeln.de/mam/downloads/deutsch/forschung/booklet\\_in\\_english.pdf](https://www.th-koeln.de/mam/downloads/deutsch/forschung/booklet_in_english.pdf)

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Funding Links

- Visit the website of the largest funding organization in Germany, DFG: <https://www.dfg.de/en/>  
Important information for scholarship applicants:
- <https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/>

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap Jobs and Positions:

- A useful resource with instructions and details about job opportunities in German academia:  
<https://www.academics.de>
- An explanatory resource for job position search in Germany:
- [https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/your-goal/research-position.](https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/your-goal/research-position)

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Simple German CV templates

- Write your CV in German following the examples:
- <https://www.simplegermany.com/german-cv-in-english/>
- <https://www.en.lebenslaufmuster.biz/>



# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Useful links for researchers at JMU

Welcome Center of JMU helps you with daily issues, documents, and settling down in Würzburg:

<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/universitaet/gaeste-stadt-region/>

<https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/welcomecentre/startseite/>

# Mind the (Cultural) Gap

## Activity: My Values



- **Choose 10 values, which are the most important in your life.**
- **Cross-out 5 values out of 10 values, chosen before**
- **Choose 3 values out of 5 values, chosen before.**

Quality  
Security  
Status  
relationships  
Honesty  
work  
Helping  
Working  
others  
Pleasure  
Recognition  
Leading  
Creativity  
Personal  
challenge  
Innovation  
Practice  
Privacy  
Fame  
Loyalty  
Efficiency  
Knowledge  
Friendships  
Nature  
Competition  
Ecological  
Reputation  
Ecological  
love  
Cooperation  
Inner  
promotion  
variety  
Time  
Wisdom  
Public  
Adventure  
Independence  
Achievement  
Truth  
Order  
Responsibility  
Merit  
Effectiveness  
Decisiveness  
Arts  
Close  
caring  
Change  
alone  
Economic  
Growth  
Integrity  
Serenity  
Power  
harmony  
Tranquillity  
Challenges  
Advancement  
Financial  
under  
Religion  
Sophistication  
Family  
Ethical  
Excellence  
gain  
Influencing  
respect  
awareness  
Money  
society  
development  
Self-respect  
Location  
Meaningful  
Excitement  
Community  
freedom  
Democracy  
Physical  
Purity  
Competence  
Working  
Openness  
accountability  
authority  
Stability  
Intellectual  
pressure  
Affection