

*Press release second Joint Call FRIAS / USIAS*  
*21 May 2015*

## **Freiburg and Strasbourg continue to join forces: second selection of joint research groups of FRIAS and USIAS**

Three joint research projects have been selected for funding within the second round of the joint fellowship programme of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) and the University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study (USIAS). Starting in the Fall of 2015, three groups from different disciplines (chemistry, history and neuroscience) will conduct their research as joint fellows of FRIAS and USIAS. Each project comprises researchers from both universities and will be funded for a period of two years.

The following three projects have been chosen through a competitive selection process, based on their outstanding quality, combining specific expertise from Freiburg and Strasbourg in novel ways.

- *Bio-based nano-mechano responsive films: A new step towards soft-mechano-chemistry*  
Dr. Pierre Schaaf, Professor of Chemistry, Director of the research unit Biomaterials and Bioengineering, researcher at the Institute Charles Sadron, University of Strasbourg;  
Dr. Stefan Schiller, Group leader of the research group Bionic Chemistry and head of the Biohybrid nanoscience and Materials Lab, University of Freiburg
- *Soldiers out of control? An entangled history of accidents in the French and German military, 1920-1970*  
Dr. Peter Itzen, lecturer at the Department of History at Freiburg University;  
Dr. Anne Rasmussen, Associate Professor at the Department of History of Life Sciences and Medicine, researcher at SAGE, University of Strasbourg
- *Deep brain stimulation of the ventral midline thalamus to boost memory vividness over time*  
Dr. Jean-Christophe Cassel, Professor of Neuroscience, Director of the Laboratory for Cognitive and Adaptive Neuroscience (LNCA), University of Strasbourg;  
Dr. Ulrich Hofmann, Peter-Osypka-Professor for Neuroelectronic Systems, Department of Neurosurgery, University Medical Center Freiburg.

The second FRIAS-USIAS joint call was launched in January 2015, in order to further support collaboration between researchers of the two universities. The aim of the joint Fellowship program is to enable highly original joint research projects in which the strengths of the two universities are optimally combined. The geographic proximity of two large high-quality research universities offers many possibilities for synergies. The applications in the 2015 call again illustrated the great potential of pooling research expertise from both universities, and of the benefits of continued support for cross-border-collaborations.

## About the institutes

FRIAS: The Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) is the international research college of the University of Freiburg. It strives to support high-level research from all disciplines and to strengthen the international visibility of the university.

[www.frias.uni-freiburg.de](http://www.frias.uni-freiburg.de).

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USIAS: The University of Strasbourg Institute for Advanced Study (USIAS) strives to support original, potentially path-breaking research and to enable reflection and synthesis at the highest level, by means of fellowships, seminars and visiting grants.

[www.usias.fr/en](http://www.usias.fr/en).

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