

# Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Programmes



# What is the DFG?

# Germany's largest research funding organisation

#### The DFG

- serves all branches of science and the humanities by funding research projects and facilitating cooperation among researchers
- supports the education and advancement of young scientific researchers
- promotes equality between men and women
- advises parliaments and public authorities on scientific matters
- fosters relations between research and the private sector and between scientists and academics at home and abroad



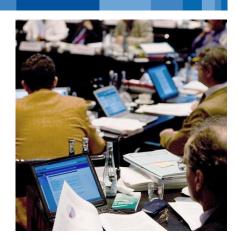


# What is the DFG?

# Germany's central, self-governing research funding organisation

#### Member institutions include

- German universities (69)
- non-university research institutions (16)
- German academies of sciences and humanities (8)
- scientific associations (3)



List of members: www.dfg.de/dfg\_im\_profil/struktur/gremien/mitgliederversammlung/mitglieder.html



# What is the DFG?

# An association under German private law

# The DFG is funded by

- German federal government (67%)
- German states (32.7%)
- ► Private sources (0.3%)\*



The DFG's 2011 budget totalled € 2.4 billion (= \$ 3.1 billion)



<sup>\*</sup> Figures refer to revenues in 2011

# What does the DFG fund?

# The DFG funds interdisciplinarity through programmes such as

- Collaborative Research Centres and CRC/Transregios
- DFG Research Centres
- Research Training Groups and International Research Training Groups
- Priority Programmes
- Research Units and Clinical Research Units

Coordinated programmes are national, international and/or interdisciplinary. They provide opportunities for cooperation with other universities and non-university research institutions (e.g. partners in industry) and bundle expertise at a university or several university locations.



# What does the DFG fund?

# The DFG funds the three pillars of the Excellence Initiative

- graduate schools
- clusters of excellence
- institutional strategies



further information: www.dfg.de/en/research\_funding/coordinated\_programmes/excellence\_initiative/index.html



# What does the DFG fund?

# The DFG funds interdisciplinary doctoral training through

# ~ 230 Research Training Groups

- 10 15 PhD students, ~ 10 Pl
- Focused research area
- Similar to IGERT (NSF)
- Can be / should be interdisciplinary

#### 45 Graduate Schools

- 50 500 (and even more) PhD students, 25 + x PI
- Broad research field
- Overarching generally some departments
- Have to be interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary



# **Interdisciplinarity** in real life Does it works?

# What makes a doctoral programme interdisciplinary?

- Interdisciplinary supervision?
- Interdisciplinary thesis / project?
- Joint publications?



# Interdisciplinartity in real life

# Does it works?

## In Graduate Schools

- In most cases a disciplinary thesis is better for the careers
- No demand for hundreds of interdisciplinary projects in one research area
- Interdisciplinary discussions help PhD students to find their disciplinary identity
- Better projects and better research because of exchange of methods, theory, and even results
- Ideas for new projects in the own discipline / field



# Interdisciplinartity in real life

# Does work

# Conclusion

- Interdisciplinary doctoral education does makes sense
- The success depends on the goals / the benchmarks





# Thank you for your attention

## For more information

- ▶ on the DFG: www.dfg.de/en/
- on DFG-funded projects: www.dfg.de/gepris/
- on over 17,000 German research institutes: www.dfg.de/research\_explorer/

