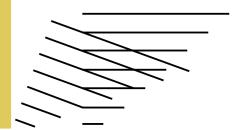
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH **GROUPS**



FRIAS was founded in 2008 with From the start, the programme was the aim of using specialist academic very well received at the university schools to further promote four areas and successfully helped to expand in which the University of Freiburg the academic range at the research excelled, namely modern history, college, attracting outstanding acalinguistics and literary studies, life demics to the institute, particularly sciences and soft matter research, those from subject areas that were and make them more visible to the not represented in the four schools. international community. From the very beginning, and based on the concept of a "New Universitas", the institute has regarded itself as a to become FRIAS fellows. In addimeans for building bridges between disciplines and promoting new research initiatives to cross-link different subject areas. This soon led to the ing outside expertise to Freiburg. university's desire for an additional programme open to all subjects and explicitly aimed at interdisciplinary work based on models similar to the Institute for Advanced Study in disciplinary research groups have Wassenaar, the Netherlands, or the been supported with a 10-month TEMA Department of Thematic fellowship: projects of a conclud-Studies at Linköping University in ing nature, projects which were Sweden. To achieve this purpose, an converted into follow-up projects, annual competition for Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRG) was introduced in 2009, allowing academics from Freiburg, regardless of founded and wanted to test out new their discipline, to apply for a FRIAS fellowship with an interdisciplinary project.

This proved to be an optimal way of recruiting researchers from all eleven faculties at the University of Freiburg tion, many groups made use of the opportunity to involve external academics in the projects thereby bring-Most groups organised at least one international workshop in Freiburg.

Since 2009, a total of nine intersuch as proposals for Collaborative Research Centres (SFBs), as well as initiatives which had only just been academic waters. Having collaborated with linguist Anja Stukenbrock and psychologist Gabriele Luciustopic of "Narrative Coping with Threat, Trauma at Loss" at FRIAS in 2011/2012, physician Carl Eduard Scheidt stresses the significance levance." The aim of the programme of the programme for small open projects that are just starting out: "Although promoting interdisciplinarity is a goal that is frequently cited in science policy, it can usually only be implemented in large funding The programme has enabled FRIAS projects in SFBs or research groups. The structure of the IRGs therefore enables FRIAS to offer a unique development opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration in projects that have either not yet reached this level or because of their nature, do not want to reach it." Scheidt's project partner, Stukenbrock, speaks of the extensive experience she gained 2013 enabled FRIAS to bridge the during the ten months of increasing knowledge in her own discipline and attaining interdisciplinary enrichment in the IRG.

worked on the "Information, Liquidity, and Trust in Incomplete Markets" project at FRIAS in 2009/2010 together with economist Thomas Gehrig, emphasises the additional benefit that emerges from collaborating with others in intensive, interdisciplinary project groups, both in terms of one's own discipline as well as the common research field: "It is immediately clear that combining enables you to deal with problems that could not have been tackled without this joint knowledge. In addition, this interdisciplinary discussion brought questions to light in the first place – questions that would not have been seen in the same way

Mathematician Ernst Eberlein, who

Hoene in a research project on the if only one discipline had been involved. For me, it has repeatedly become clear that interdisciplinary collaboration increases practical refor interdisciplinary research groups was to create a productive framework for precisely this kind of stimulating exchange, extending across discipline boundaries.

to create an explicitly interdisciplinary format that proved its worth as a fifth field alongside and equal to the four schools. It has also become a successful instrument for promoting innovative research projects that transcend boundaries at the University of Freiburg. Four competition rounds between 2009 and gap between disciplines. The range of these combinations included cooperations between mathematics and economics ("Information, Liquidity, and Trust in Incomplete Markets"), psychology and computer science ("Coping with Emergencies"), law and business informatics ("Security and Society"), medicine and microsystems engineering ("Adaptive Optics for an MR-compatible Patient Motion Tracking System"), biochemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry ("Structure-based Epigenetic Drug Discovery"), human geography, political science and human ecology ("Mobility, Climate techniques from different disciplines Change, Governance"), medicine, psychology and linguistics ("Narrative Coping with Threat, Trauma, and Loss"), medicine and theology ("The Support of Psychosocial and Spiritual Needs and Resources in Medicine") and physics and psychology ("When the Chemistry is not Right for Sleep").



