



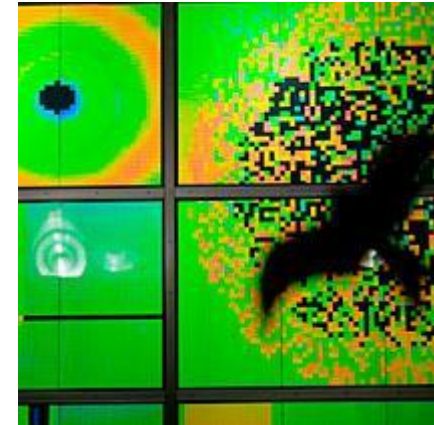
25 years of experience with the Ombudssystem and Ombudspersons in Germany

What has been achieved and what still needs to be achieved

25 years of experience with the Ombudssystem in Germany

1. What has been achieved

- ✓ Foundation of the ombudsperson system
- ✓ Establishment of a nationwide ombudsperson system
- ✓ Role and visibility of ombudspersons
- ✓ Professional support for the work of ombudspersons



2. What still needs to be achieved ?

25 years of experience with the Ombudssystem in Germany

Foundation of the ombussystem

1998: Memorandum - Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

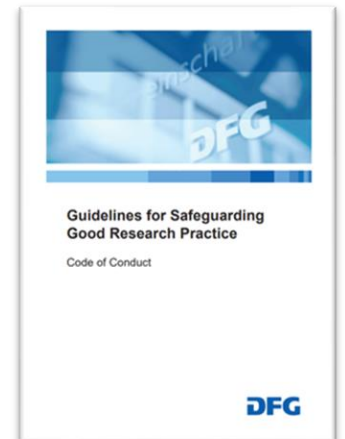
- 17 Recommendations for safeguarding good scientific practice
- Ombudspersons shall be appointed at all universities and research institutes as local contact for questions regarding good scientific practice and indications of suspected scientific misconduct
- National Board "German Research Ombudsman" established by the DFG

2013: Memorandum – Revision and supplement

- Importance of ombudswork and visibility of ombudsperson within academic institutions is emphasized

2019: Code of conduct - Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

- Encouraging recommendations for further strengthening and focusing the ombudsman system



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Implementation of a nationwide ombudsman system

Since the early 2000s, universities and non-university research institutions have been implementing the guidelines of the DFG Code in a legally binding manner in order to receive funding from the DFG. Institutions that do not implement the guidelines do not receive funding.



Establishment of a nationwide ombudsman system based on the implementation of the DFG memorandum and the DFG Code in the German research system.



At least there is one ombudsperson (and a deputy) at every university or non-university research institution.

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Role of ombudspersons

Ombudspersons

- ✓ are researchers of integrity
- ✓ exercise their office neutrally and independently
- ✓ may not serve as members of a central governing body of their institution
- ✓ mediate and advise on issues of good scientific practice
- ✓ contribute to the clarification and resolution of conflicts in an objective manner
- ✓ advise the institution's leadership on RI-related matters

Ombudspersons do not deal with

- issues of labor and disciplinary law
- conflicts relating to equality, bullying, discrimination, advice on sexual harassment
- examination matters



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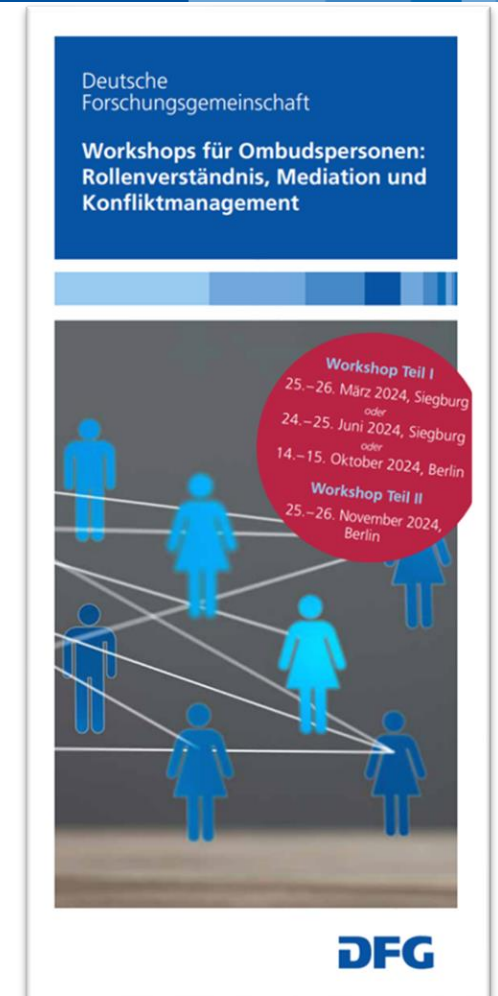
Professional support for ombudspersons

Workshops for ombudspersons

- Since 2012, initiated by the DFG, content: awareness of role concepts, mediation and conflict management

National und regional network

- Since 2005 every 2-3 years symposium for German ombudspersons by the Ombuds Committee for Research Integrity in Germany
- Since 2016: regional network of ombudspersons
- Since 2020: launch of the “Network of ombudsperson offices”



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Professional support for ombudspersons

Teaching Good Scientific Practice

Since 2009 development of **Curricula** in cooperation and on behalf of German research Ombudsman and German Research Foundation (DFG)

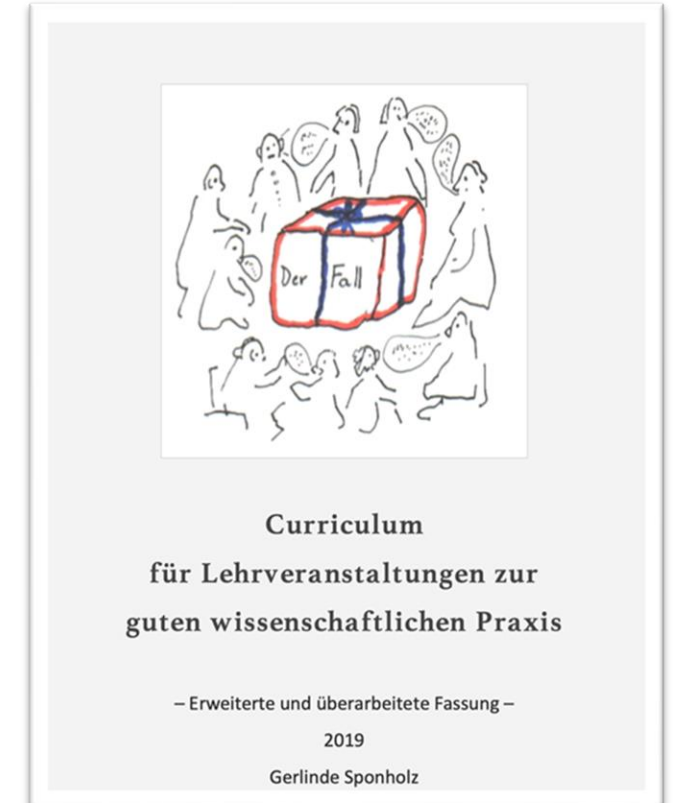
Revisions and extensions in 2012 and 2019

https://ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Curriculum_Gute_wissenschaftliche_Praxis_Sponholz.pdf

English versions in 2011 and 2013

<https://enohe.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ENOHE-occasional-paper-8.pdf>

English translation in cooperation with OASO Office of the Austrian Student Ombudsman
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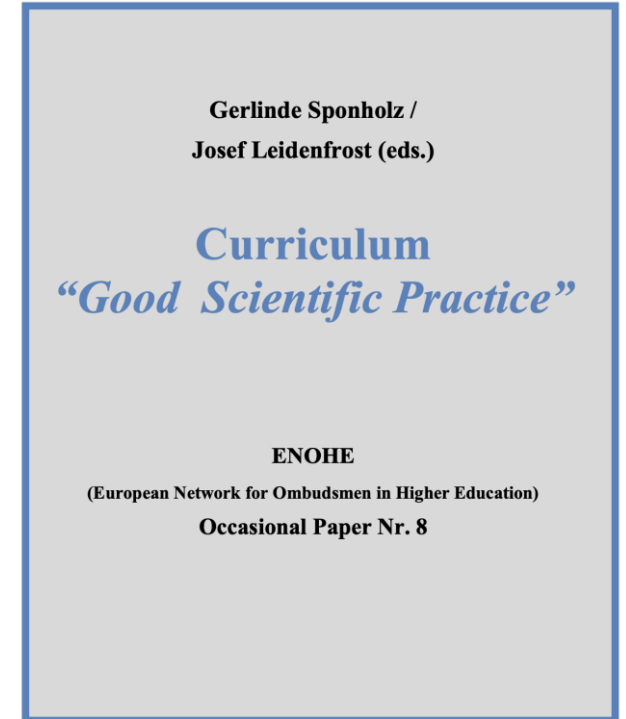
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Professional support for ombudspersons

Objectives and Contents of the Curriculum

- ✓ Basis for developing and running GSP courses for students (part 1) and doctoral candidates (part 2).
- ✓ Main objective: development and training of competencies to stay honest in practicing research and to know about structures to get help/support in difficult situations.
- ✓ Basics in didactics and research integrity. Background information (national and international development), literature, sources and links.
- ✓ Specific proposals for implementation. General planning assistance and checklist.

Additional set of slides can be used as template for development of GSP-courses
[https://ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de/2895/lehrmaterialien-zur-gwp/#Foliensaetze zur GWP in der Medizin und den Naturwissenschaften](https://ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de/2895/lehrmaterialien-zur-gwp/#Foliensaetze_zur_GWP_in_der_Medizin_und_den_Naturwissenschaften)



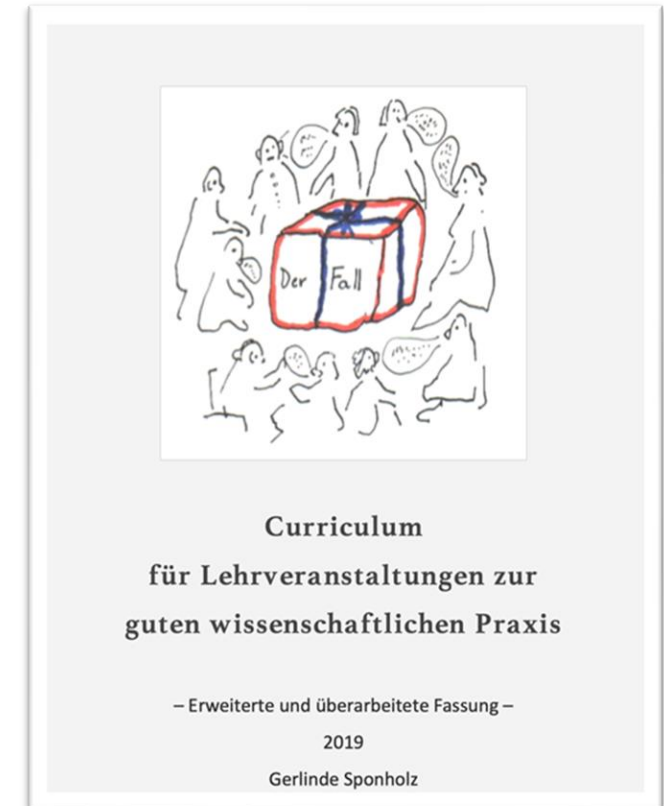
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Professional support for ombudspersons

Moduls for training doctoral candidates

- Introduction in research integrity
- Misconduct in research
- Data and documentation
- Process of publication and authorship
- Responsibilities of supervisors and students
- Research with human beings
- Research with animals
- Conflict of interest
- Dealing with conflicts

Since 2013 **Teachers' Training Courses** Good Scientific Practice
Establishment of a **network of GSP Teachers**
<https://www.uniwind.org/netzwerke/netzwerk-trainerinnen-gwp>



25 years of experience with the Ombudssystem in Germany

What still needs to be achieved

What still needs to be achieved

- Researchers at all career levels regularly update their knowledge about the standards of good research practice and the current state of the art → **More/regular trainings courses are needed**
- Experienced and early career researchers support each other in a process of continuous mutual learning and ongoing training and maintain a regular dialogue → **RI-dedicated workshops in retreats and conferences**
- Continuous support and acceptance of the ombudspersons and their work → **Increasing internal visibility, set-up of ombudsman offices**
- Institutions may initiate additional measures to help facilitate the work of an ombudsperson → **Relief from other tasks, compensation if necessary**
- Training for all ombudspersons → **To strengthen them for this valuable and responsible task**



Thank you for your attention.

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Further information:

- ▶ DFG: <https://www.dfg.de/en/principles-dfg-funding/basics-and-principles-of-funding/good-scientific-practice>
- ▶ Team Scientific Integrity: <http://scientificintegrity.de/>