

Author biographies

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil. Klaus M. Beier studied Medicine and Philosophy at the Freie Universität Berlin. He is a specialized physician for psychosomatics and psychotherapy and since 1996 director of the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (University Clinic). In 2005, he initiated a meanwhile nationwide prevention network in the Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (www.kein-taeter-werden.de), which has been extended in 2014 with a program for adolescents (www.du-traeumst-von-ihnen.de) and in 2017 with an Internet-based self-management service (www.troubled-desire.com).

Sebastian Büchner, Senior Public Prosecutor at the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office. Since May 2004 in the judicial service of the State of Berlin, initially as a probationary judge, since 2007 as a public prosecutor in various departments of the Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office. From February 2017 to January 2021 vice-deputy head of the department for sexual offenses.

Jenny Felser, M.Sc., received her B.Sc. in General and Digital Forensic Science in 2021 and her M.Sc. in Cybercrime/ Cybersecurity in 2023 from Mittweida University of Applied Sciences. Her research interest is especially in forensic text mining.

Stefanie Fächner, M.A., works as a media literacy officer for the German Safer Internet Centre (www.klicksafe.de) and was a member in the SELMA project against online hate speech (www.hackinghate.eu). Fächner holds a master's degree in Media Education, Communication Studies and American Literature and previously worked as a research/teaching fellow.

Zeev Hille, M.Sc., is working as a sexual scientist and sexual therapist at the institute of sexology and sexual medicine in Berlin. His clinical and scientific work focuses both on sexual minority health as well disorders of sexual preference and behavior.

Prof. Dr. Maria Ioannou is a Full Professor of Forensic and Investigative Psychology and the Director of the Cyberpsychology Research Network at the University of Huddersfield, a Chartered Forensic Psychologist (British Psychological Society), a Chartered Scientist (British Psychological Society), a HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologist (Forensic), an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a Chartered Manager (Chartered Management Institute), and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Katharina Kärgel, M.A., is a sociologist with a focus on social psychology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Laws at the SRH University Heidelberg. She conducts research on violence, for example in the context of the project “HUMAN: Developing recommendations for dealing with sexualized violence using digital media” for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany.

Birgit Kimmel is the Coordinator of the German Safer Internet Centre klicksafe and Head of the Department for Media Competence of the Media Authority Rhineland Palatinate. She studied educational science with research emphasis on media education, intercultural education, and adult education. She worked as an educator in child and youth institutions; since 2002 she is specialist for media literacy.

Dr. rer. medic. Laura F. Kuhle, Dipl.-Psych., works as clinical psychologist and research assistant at the Berlin site of the Prevention Network “Kein Täter werden” at the Institute for Sexology and Sexual Medicine at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. She wrote her doctoral thesis on the risk of people with a pedophilic/hebephilic sexual preference disorder for child sexual abuse image offending. She also works as a licensed psychological psychotherapist and sexual therapist and provides supervision and gives lectures about sexual disorders.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dirk Labudde has been Professor of Bioinformatics at Mittweida University of Applied Sciences since 2009 and Professor of Forensic Science since 2014. He heads the FoSIL (Forensic Science Investigation Lab) research group and the Fraunhofer Academy's Cybersecurity Learning Lab.

Dr. rer. medic. Janina Neutze, Dipl.-Psych., is research assistant at the German Forensic-Psychiatric District Hospital in Ansbach, sexual therapist and training supervisor. She co-established and coordinated the “Prevention Project Dunkelfeld” at the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and was head of the research project MIKADO (Sexual abuse of children: etiology, Dunkelfeld and victims) at the department of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Regensburg. Her clinical and scientific focus is on etiology and impact of child sexual abuse. Since 2019 she does research on granting leave to patients in forensic-psychiatric hospitals.

Svenja Preuß, M.Sc., received her B.Sc. in General and Digital Forensic Science from Mittweida University of Applied Sciences in 2021. In 2023, she obtained her M.Sc. degree in Forensic Sciences and Engineering at BTU Cottbus. She currently works as an expert of forensic image and video analysis.

Stefanie Rack is a teacher and media pedagogue. She works as media literacy officer for the German Safer Internet Centre klicksafe. She is author of several publications in the fields of media literacy and youth media protection.

Prof. Dr. Martin Rettenberger is the Director of the Centre for Criminology (Kriminologische Zentralstelle – KrimZ) in Wiesbaden, Germany, and is Professor at the Department of Psychology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU), Germany. Since 2021, he is President elect of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders (IATSO) and editor of the open access journal “Sexual Offending: Theories, Research, and Prevention” (SOTRAP). He has published more than 250 research articles, book chapter, and books about risk assessment, sexual and violent offending, and about several other aspects and topics in criminology and forensic psychology.

Dr. sc. hum. Halina Schmid, Dipl.-Psych., is a research assistant at the Forensic-Psychiatric District Hospital in Ansbach and an external lecturer at the University of Regensburg. She qualified for a PhD at the Ruprecht-Karls-University of Heidelberg in 2016. Her research focus deals with online sexual abuse and has been extended to granted leave in forensic psychiatry since 2019. She also works as a psychological consultant in criminal proceedings.

Prof. Dr. Alexander F. Schmidt is a supernumerary Professor in Legal Psychology at the University of Mainz in Germany. He is a licensed cognitive-behavioral therapist and does forensic expert assessments in court. His research interests focus on the indirect assessment of sexual interests as well as atypical/paraphilic interests and how these are linked to sexual offending. He also works on the stigmatization of pedohebephilia and risk factors for online sexual offending. He currently serves as Associate Editor for the Archives of Sexual Behavior.

Dr. Petya Schuhmann, Dipl.-Psych., is a practicing psychological psychotherapist and works as a lecturer at the Training Institute for Behavior Therapy Regensburg (AVR). Her scientific focus is on sexual preference, offline and online child sexual abuse and child sexual abuse images. She coordinated the prevention project “Dunkelfeld” at the Department of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Regensburg. Since 2019 she has been working in her own practice as a psychological psychotherapist with a focus on sexual therapy.

Dr. rer. medic. Miriam Schuler studied psychology and clinical neuroscience in Maastricht, NL and Hong Kong. Miriam works as research associate at the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and wrote her doctoral thesis on empathy in pedophilia and child sexual abuse within the NeMUP research initiative (<http://www.nemup.de>). She is enrolled in a postgraduate psychotherapy training at the Psychologische Hochschule Berlin.

Dr. rer. nat. Anja Schulz, Dipl.-Psych., works as a lecturer for the Society of Behavioral Modification (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Verhaltensmodifikation, AVM) and is involved as the clinical manager of the AVM outpatient-treatment center in Regensburg in training future psychological psychotherapists. She also works in her own practice as a licensed psychological psychotherapist. She has focused her prior research and clinical work on forensic psychology. As member of the MiKADO project (Sexual abuse of children: etiology, Dunkelfeld and victims), she has conducted studies on online child sexual abuse and sexual preference at the Department of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Regensburg. She further worked as a clinical psychologist at the forensic clinic of Parsberg with a focus on violent crimes and addiction.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Michael Spranger was appointed Professor of Forensic Text Mining and Computational Linguistics at Mittweida University of Applied Sciences in 2023. He is particularly interested in knowledge-based systems for forensic science support and has co-authored a research book, chapters, and scientific publications in this field.

Dr. rer. medic. Daniela Stelzmann, M.A., hold/has held academic positions at the Freie Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, and Technische Universität Ilmenau. She studied communication science and psychology. Her research interests include CSA prevention, help-seeking behavior of persons who suffer from mental health problems, stigma reduction of mental disorders as well as pathological (social) media usage.

Dr. John Synnott is an Associate Professor of Forensic and Investigative Psychology at the University of Huddersfield, a Chartered Psychologist (British Psychological Society), an Associate Fellow of the British Psychology Society, a Chartered Scientist (British Psychological Society), and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Prof. Dr. Frederic Vobbe is Professor of Social Work at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Laws at the SRH University Heidelberg. He conducts research on deviance, especially sexualized violence using digital media, for example in the project “HUMAN: Developing recommendations for dealing with sexualized violence using digital media” for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany.

Jennifer Vogel, M. Ed., studied at the University of Education in Ludwigsburg and completed a bachelor's (2019) and master's (2021) degree in elementary school education. She currently works as a primary school teacher. Her bachelor's thesis focused on researching prevention concepts for primary school children to protect them from SOG.

Julia von Weiler, Dipl.-Psych., studied psychology at New York University and at the Freie Universität – Berlin. She previously worked at the “Children’s Safety Project” in New York City, at the “Mädchenvilla” in Germany and at a specialized counseling center with survivors of child sexual abuse. She was also head of psychology at “Kind in Düsseldorf”. Since 2003, she is managing director of “Innocence in Danger e.V.”, fighting against sexual violence using digital media – especially against the distribution of child sexual abuse material. Since 2010 she has served on different advisory boards to the German government. Currently she is also an expert member of several working groups of the German “National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People”. She participated in various international research projects and is the author of various (specialist) articles and book chapters.