

## Invitation

## Opening Ceremony of the **DFG RTG 2010**



Aula, Greifswald University Domstraße 11, 17489 Greifswald

## **Programme**

16.15 - 16.25 : Musical Performance

16.25 - 16.35 : Welcome address

Prof. Dr. Johanna E. Weber (Rector of Greifswald University)

16.35 – 16.40 : Introduction

Prof. Dr. Klaus Fischer (RESPONSE Spokesperson)

16.40 – 17.30 : Keynote lecture

Prof. Dr. Fritz Trillmich (University of Bielefeld)

Long-term studies in variable environments: problems, frustrations and insights

17.30 – 17.45 : Doctoral Researcher [Cluster A]

17.45 – 18.00 : Doctoral Researcher [Cluster B]

From 18.00: Buffett and poster presentation

Ernst Moritz Arndt University Greifswald Zoological Institute and Museum Prof. Dr. Klaus Fischer (spokesperson) Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Straße 11/12 D - 17489 Greifswald

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The ability to respond to novel and changing environmental conditions, either by phenotypic plasticity, genetic adaptation, or range shifts, is pivotal to the longer-term survival of all organisms. Owing to increasing concerns about the consequences of human-induced global change, such responses have attracted increasing interest in recent years. However, while associated phenological changes and range shifts have been widely documented, other aspects remain largely unexplored. The latter include the plastic and genetic capacities for in situ responses and the factors limiting or facilitating dispersal to and colonisation of unoccupied habitats. The concomitant lack of knowledge on the limits of population persistence hinders reliabe predictions on the fate of populations under rapidly changing conditions. Our research programme thus aims at improving our predictive abilities by using an integrated approach spanning different (1) types of biological responses to changing environments, (2) levels of biological organization ranging from molecular and physiological mechanisms through to ecological population-level responses, and (3) biological disciplines.



