

## PhD students workshop in Cologne IMPROVISATION INSTEAD OF IRRITATION

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The workshop was held on 29th and 30th of November in Cologne. The focus of the workshop was to utilize games and activities to understand human interactions and to provide potential solutions for the daily work/personal challenges. Through a various range of physical and mental activities we encountered (potentially) uncomfortable situations and came up with creative ways to handle them.

The first day of the workshop was mainly on learning how to interact. We were engaged in group activities in which we had to work together as a team, in order to finish a task or win a game. There have been games that winning was possible only by helping everyone else to win. There have been moments in which we had to face failure or rejection (in a controlled environment) and handle it. There have been activities by which we could only contribute by build up on others opinions and

contributions. Through these activities we had to be creative, flexible, positive and accommodating in order to successfully finish the tasks. It was an interesting experience to view a situation from different points of view and "understand before being understood". Additionally, some team-work skills have been practiced to identify problems, propose solutions, put them in to action, assess the outcome and adjust the further actions based on these outcomes.

At the end of the day we moved to activities which were focused on self-understanding and analyzing. We assessed and discussed our individual tendencies while reacting to inner and outer expectations. This theme is also continued to the second day. We spend the second day mostly analyzing our own feelings and thoughts and getting in touch with our personal tendencies and characteristics.



Fig. 7: Some impressions from the interactive group activities during the PhD workshop in Cologne (Photos: Dr. Benjamin Hartwig/Neuroplay).

## MEET THE (AC)<sup>3</sup> FELLOWS



My Name is Benjamin Segger and I am part of sub-project E04 of (AC)<sup>3</sup>.

I obtained my Diploma in Physics with emphasis on Atmospheric Physics and Geophysics at the University of Potsdam. In my Diploma thesis I analyzed extratropical cyclones and their connection to Arctic sea ice. After graduating from university, I worked on stochastic convection parameterizations at the Institute of Meteorology of the Freie Universität Berlin.

Since February 2017 I am at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Potsdam and investigate snowfall, snow cover, and related feedback mechanisms. This means, I study how snowfall influences the growth and melting of sea ice and vice versa. Despite its importance, there are very few circum-Arctic stations measuring precipitation. Moreover, there are almost no observations from the Central Arctic. Therefore, simulations are often the only source to get information about precipitation events.

My first goal is to investigate how reliable model simulations are in terms of precipitation and how different assumptions in the microphysics scheme of the atmospheric models influence the results.