

Press release

## Dr. Jakub Bijak wins Allianz European Demographer Award

**The Polish researcher examines issues such as the refugee problems caused by armed conflict - award ceremony at the start of the Berlin Demography-Forum (BDF) in the presence of Federal Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière.**

**Berlin, March 18th 2015** – Polish researcher Dr. Jakub Bijak will receive the Allianz European Demographer Award 2015. Bijak, born in 1977 and a researcher at the University of Southampton, is to be recognised for his work in the area of probability theory, demography and migration, here in particular with reference to refugee problems caused by armed conflict.

"My research revolves around uncertainty in a variety of ways: how do we cope with developments whose consequences cannot be predicted? In examining such questions I try to come up with views to current issues, for instance around international migration in Europe."

The award was open to application from young academics all over Europe who wish to contribute to the debate with the experience and insights gained from their research. Their work focuses on demographic shifts in the 21st century such as the emergency of new family structures, growing mobility pressure, flexibilisation of professional careers and the problems of securing an income in old age.

Dr. Andreas Edel of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research / Population Europe and member of the jury: "Since gaining his doctorate at the Warsaw School of Economics in 2008, Dr. Jakub Bijak has become one of the most promising young scientists. He is able to draw on theoretical insights to describe complex social phenomenon more effectively. This particularly applies to the question of what makes people emigrate. His book "Forecasting International Migration in Europe: A Bayesian View" has attracted great interest. He has also looked into population developments in crisis-stricken areas as well as examining epistemological issues relating to demography."

The award ceremony will take place on the first day of the Berlin Demography-Forum (BDF) in the presence of Federal Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière. Some 300 international experts from the areas of politics, business, science and civil society will be attending the BDF from March 18th - 20th 2015 to present and discuss their analyses. This year the BDF will be focusing on the theme "Activity – Health - Participation". In collaboration with the Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung (Federal Institute for Population Research, BiB) it has compiled a collection of indicators to create a kind of demography-compass. This provides data which experts can use as a basis to assess the current situation and exchange insights.

**For further details see [www.berlinerdemografieforum.org](http://www.berlinerdemografieforum.org)**

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**These assessments are, as always, subject to the disclaimer provided below.**

#### **About the Berlin Demography Forum**

The Berlin Demography Forum is a cross-partisan, international platform for debate on the topic of demographic change. The Forum brings together international stakeholders from government, industry, academia and civil society to jointly discuss possible solutions and to contribute to sustainable development. At the same time, the importance of demographic factors should be anchored in the broader public debate. Since the inaugural event in January 2012, the Forum is held once a year. Initiators are the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and Allianz. The conference is led by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Prof. Jörg Rocholl, PhD. The Forum is hosted by ESMT European School of Management and Technology. The Vodafone Foundation Germany is this year's partner of the Berlin Demography Forum. More information is available at: <https://www.berlinerdemografieforum.org>

#### **About Allianz**

Together with its customers and sales partners, Allianz is one of the strongest financial communities. About 85 million private and corporate customers insured by Allianz rely on its knowledge, global reach, capital strength and solidity to help them make the most of financial opportunities and to avoid and safeguard themselves against risks. In 2014, around 147,000 employees in over 70 countries achieved total revenues of 122.3 billion euros and an operating profit of 10.4 billion euros. Benefits for our customers reached 104.6 billion euros. This business success with insurance, asset management and assistance services is based increasingly on customer demand for crisis-proof financial solutions for an aging society and the challenges of climate change. Transparency and integrity are key components of sustainable corporate governance at Allianz SE.

#### **About the Vodafone Foundation Germany**

The Vodafone Foundation is one of the large company-related foundations in Germany. As an independent, non-profit institution and socio-political think tank, it supports and initiates programmes with the goal of providing impetus for social progress. Focusing on the fields of education, integration, and social mobility, the foundation's mission is to recognise challenges and chances, to give support and eventually to make a difference.

The Vodafone Foundation sponsors the "Young Expert Panel", which consists of twelve international young experts who will participate in the BDF. Thereby members of the next generation get involved in the discourse. This may have positive effect on the BDF's diversity.

#### **About ESMT**

ESMT European School of Management and Technology was founded in October 2002 by 25 leading global companies and institutions. The international business school offers a full-time MBA, an executive MBA, a master's in management as well as open enrollment and customized executive education programs. ESMT focuses on three main topics: leadership and social responsibility, European competitiveness, and the management of technology. Additionally, the business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. ESMT is based in Berlin, Germany, with Schloss Gracht as an additional location near Cologne. ESMT is a private business school, accredited by the German state, AACSB, AMBA, and FIBAA. Since 2013 ESMT has the right to grant PhDs. [www.esmt.org](http://www.esmt.org)

#### **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

The statements contained herein may include prospects, statements of future expectations and other forward-looking statements that are based on management's current views and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual results, performance or events may differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. Such deviations may arise due to, without limitation, (i) changes of the general economic conditions and competitive situation, particularly in the Allianz Group's core business and core markets, (ii) performance of financial markets (particularly market volatility, liquidity and credit events) (iii) frequency and severity of insured loss events, including from natural catastrophes, and the development of loss expenses, (iv) mortality and morbidity levels and trends, (v) persistency levels, (vi) particularly in the banking business, the extent of credit defaults, (vii) interest rate levels, (viii) currency exchange rates including the Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate, (ix) changes in laws and regulations, including tax regulations, (x) the impact of acquisitions, including related integration issues, and reorganization measures, and (xi) general competitive factors, in each case on a local, regional, national and/or global basis. Many of these factors may be more likely to occur, or more pronounced, as a result of terrorist activities and their consequences.

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