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## *Press Release*

International School of New Media (ISNM) gGmbH  
University of Lübeck  
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## **Psychopaths as CEOs?**

A successful ISNM symposium on the topic 'psychopathology of organizations' at the first pan-European scientific meeting (ESOF) in Stockholm

**Stockholm/Lübeck.** Psychopaths represent the majority of convicted criminals, but still make up only up to 2 percent of the population: "If crime were a job, then psychopaths would be the ideal candidates", said US-economy psychologist Paul Babiak during the symposium 'The Psychopathology of Organizations' at the first pan-European Scientific Meeting 'European Science Forum' (ESOF) in Stockholm.

Extraordinarily intelligent and prototypical Psychopaths are, according to Dr. Babiak, often very successful in high-level managerial positions, because they lack empathy and have an exaggerated sense of self confidence. Companies often misinterpret these as leadership qualities and even encourage unscrupulous managerial behavior. After some time, however, considerable damage to the company would result because Psychopaths react erratically and irresponsibly; and are, for this reason, unsuccessful on the job. They often feign success through lies and manipulation.

Psychopaths in managerial positions or 'snakes in suits,' as Dr. Babiak called them, was only one of six topics that the psychologist and computer scientist, Joachim Hasebrook, professor at the International School of New Media (ISNM) at the University of Lübeck, together with Prof. Stefan Hofman, a renowned Psychologist and Psychotherapist from Boston University, had organized.

The symposium was selected as to be one of the many symposiums offered at the first pan-European Scientific Meeting (ESOF) under the auspices of EuroScience, the Agency of Science of the European Union, from the 25. to 28 of August in Stockholm. Numerous lectures held by Nobel-prize winners and many forums held by renowned scientists and politicians drew around 1,500 researchers and 300 journalists from all over Europe. One quarter of around 800 suggested events had been approved by the organization committee of the ESOF. From these, only 16 Topics were selected to be presented to the media, one of which was an ISNM Symposium: in his introduction, Joachim Hasebrook, professor for Organization Psychology at the ISNM, made an inquiry into the justification of established managerial methods and pointed out in examples, that these were often not scientifically feasible. Results from clinical psychology help us to better understand from what motives managers react and at the same time, how they deal with cultural differences.

The two organizers, Joachim Hasebrook and Stefan Hofmann will publish a book of the talks held at the symposium. Additional authors will also be invited to provide contributions over topics such as Bullying and Harassment, alcohol addiction, stress-caused illnesses, and managerial methods.

The realization of the symposium was funded by the German Foundation for Science (Stifterverband der Deutschen Wissenschaft). Further inquiries to the symposium or specific concerns may contact: Prof. Dr. Joachim Hasebrook, International School of New Media at the University of Lübeck, Telephone +49 451 / 28 03 3000 or e-mail: hasebrook@isnm.de.

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## About ISNM

ISNM is an affiliate institute of the University of Luebeck and part of the European Campus for Digital Media in the Hanseatic City of Luebeck. Its innovative curriculum facilitates interdisciplinary and intercultural studies offering students an 18 month postgraduate degree -  
- Master of Science in Digital Media.  
The school's 14 professors and adjunct faculty as well as its 50 students represent over 20 countries.

For more information, please visit [www.ISNM.de](http://www.ISNM.de)

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