Brave or discouraged?

43rd St. Gallen Symposium announces winners of the “Wings of Excellence Award”

The St. Gallen Symposium is proud to announce the winners of its 25th global student essay competition, the “Wings of Excellence Award”. This year, roughly 1000 graduate and postgraduate students from 380 universities and representing 98 nationalities competed for the award. The jury selected three students who were chosen because of their contributions to the theme of the 43rd St. Gallen Symposium (2–3 May 2013), “Rewarding Courage”. The three winning contributions are available at [www.symposium.org/winners](http://www.symposium.org/winners) as of 20 April 2013.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award, the three winners will join Dr Burton Lee (Stanford University), Chandran Nair (The Global Institute for Tomorrow), and Professor Thomas Pogge (Yale University), in a lively plenary session on the topic “Empowering the next generation” chaired by Professor Yoko Ishikura (Keio University). This session will be held on Thursday, 2 May 2013, from 5:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. CET, broadcasted live at [www.symposium.org/live](http://www.symposium.org/live).

1st place: Kilian Semmelmann, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany

Kilian Semmelmann is German and a Master's student of psychology in Munich, Germany. After training as an industrial management assistant, he worked as a purchasing agent while simultaneously obtaining his German Abitur at evening school. Fascinated by the mind and brain, he decided to study cognitive science in Osnabrück, concentrating on psychology, computer science and neurobiology. In 2011, he started his graduate work in neuro-cognitive psychology at the LMU Munich, focusing on visual attention and possibilities for using the Internet as a research method. He is currently finishing his degree at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and is trying to answer the question whether human visual search is comparable to animal foraging behaviour.

In his winning essay “Stop being the current”, Semmelmann calls for a new way to view the young generation. He shows from a neuro-science perspective why they cannot be blamed for who they are. The author suggests a new approach to how young people can be encouraged and empowered.

2nd place: Radoslav Dragov, Rotterdam School of Management, Netherlands

Radoslav Dragov is Bulgarian by nationality but a proud citizen of the world by conviction. He completed his Bachelor's degree in management at Warwick Business School and is now pursuing a Master's degree in organisational change and consulting at Rotterdam School of Management. He is a man of many intellectual appetites – history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology and their intersections. Dragov considers himself an optimistic pessimist who actively seeks out creative endeavours. His main goals in life are to help others, acquire erudition and have fun while doing it.

Dragov’s essay “Think Different: Why We Don’t Think Differently” agrees with the proposition that younger generations settle for a highly streamlined social and economic world. Dragov
recognises that intergenerational differences are born by changes in the incentives and conditions which have shaped them.

3rd place: Bree Romuld, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Bree Romuld is Australian citizen and has completed a double bachelor’s degree in International business and development politics at the University of Melbourne. Following this, she spent two years working in management consulting and business media in Stockholm, Sweden, before returning to a position in public sector consulting in Australia. Bree is currently completing a Master’s programme in international affairs and governance at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

Romuld’s contribution “Global Institutions and Followership: Relearning that courage sits in the crowd” explains why courageous followership is just as important as courageous leadership. The absence of strong leadership lies as much with individuals and nation states failing to remember what it means to be a good follower in times of turmoil – how to trust, respect and stand behind our leaders.

Please find further information about the Jury of the St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award here

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University of St. Gallen (HSG)
Internationality, practical relevance and an integrative perspective have been the trademarks of education at the University of St.Gallen in Switzerland ever since it was established more than a century ago. Today, the University of St.Gallen (HSG) educates 7300 students from 80 nations in the fields of Business Administration, Economics, Law and Social Sciences. The HSG has shown itself to be highly successful, having been consistently ranked among Europe’s leading business universities. Its holistic education, which meets the highest academic standards, has earned it the seal of approval of the EQUIS and AACSB accreditations. Academic degrees can be obtained at the Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral Levels. In addition, the University of St.Gallen offers first-class and comprehensive courses in Executive Education. Thanks to an increasing number of programmes taught in English, the HSG has shown itself to be attractive to international students. The focal points of research at the University of St.Gallen are crystallized in its 43 institutes and research centres, which constitute an integral part of the University. The institutes, which are largely autonomous and mostly self-financing, still remain closely connected to university operations.

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