



DECLARATION

For over fifteen years we have developed an increasingly close collaboration between

- *The Computational Quantum Field Theory Group*, Institute of Theoretical Physics, Universität Leipzig, Germany;
- *Groupe de Physique Statistique*, Institut Jean Lamour, Université de Lorraine, France;
- *Laboratory for Statistical Physics of Complex Systems*, Institute for Condensed Matter Physics, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Ukraine;
- *The Statistical Physics Group*, Applied Mathematics Research Centre, Coventry University, England.

The collaboration was initiated through common research in the field of Phase Transitions and Critical Phenomena in Condensed Matter and Field Theory. Over time, the span of our collaborative research has expanded to the field of statistical physics of complex systems and the cooperation between our individual groups has strengthened.

Our collaboration has multiple forms including: joint publications, regular workshops, externally-funded projects (e.g., supported by Marie Curie, Humboldt, and Leverhulme Trust grants), migration of staff and students between groups; visiting professorships; joint and co-tutelle supervision of PhD students. The *International Doctoral College for the Statistical Physics of Complex Systems* comprises all four research groups and is funded by the Franco-German University.

Inspired by the above successes and desirous of enhanced cooperation at an even higher level, we declare the creation of the

L⁴ International Collaboration on Statistical Physics of Complex Systems.

This organisation (to be known as L⁴) will formally fix the existing state of our relations and will be used in future to foster, promote and improve our collaboration. Participants of L⁴ are primarily (but not necessarily) staff members and students of the four above-named research groups.

Specifically, the aims of L⁴ are to


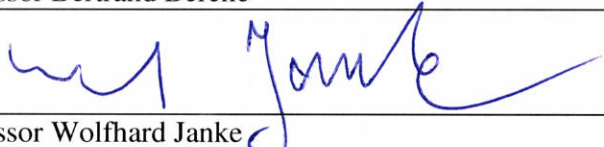
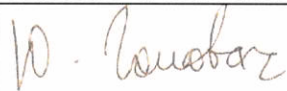
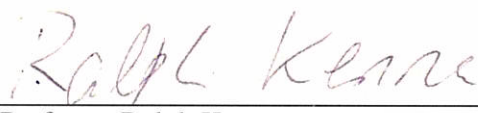
- (i) Provide critical mass to facilitate the best possible collaborative research by making available a wide range of knowledge and trusted expertise to each member of L⁴;
- (ii) Enhance visibility on the world stage and thereby to enhance the impact of our research for the benefit of humankind;
- (iii) Provide world-leading PhD and graduate-student experience for research students by offering a comprehensive set of taught modules and a stimulating international research environment in the International Doctoral College for the Statistical Physics of Complex Systems.
- (iv) Secure external funding for the long-term buoyancy and viability of the collaboration;

Besides providing a platform and focus for the above-mentioned collaborative activities at an amplified level, L⁴ will

- Promote and encourage greater levels of joint funding applications;
- Deliver a greater volume of co-tutelle PhD completions;
- Provide mutual cooperation and joint identity for research evaluation exercises;
- Provide joint identity, promote and record activities through a common website;
- Establish joint positions at post-doctoral level;
- Explore and develop cooperation at an undergraduate level;
- Provide and deliver shared modules at postgraduate level;
- Develop and provide joint Masters Degrees, delivered via Access Grid or similar.
- Run common weekly seminars via video link;
- Produce annual joint reports and coordinate annual research plans;
- Deliver on our respective universities' internationalisation agendas.
- Buffer individual groups against political turbulence such as that anticipated by Brexit.

The four Founding Directors of L⁴ are Professor Bertrand Berche (Lorraine); Professor Wolfhard Janke (Leipzig); Professor Yuriy Holovatch (Lviv); and Professor Ralph Kenna (Coventry).

Signed

	01 December 2016
Professor Bertrand Berche	
	01 December 2016
Professor Wolfhard Janke	
	01 December 2016
Professor Yuriy Holovatch	
	01 December 2016
Professor Ralph Kenna	