

**Dienstag, 18.12.2012**

**Hörsaal D, Chemie Zentralbau, 17:15 Uhr**

**Sprecher:** **Jérémie Léonard**  
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**Thema:** **Ultrafast, Coherent Dynamics of  
Biomimetic Molecular Switches**

**Abstract:**

Within the Department of ultrafast Optics and Nanophotonics (DON) at IPCMS, the BIODYN team (for « BIOmolecular DYNamics ») applies femtosecond spectroscopy to investigate photoinduced ultrafast processes in organic molecules in condensed phase. After introducing shortly our different subjects of interest (organic photovoltaics, biomolecular interactions), I will focus on our work on ultrafast coherent photoisomerization in biomimetic photoswitches.

Coherent photoisomerization is a rare, ultrafast process in which the photon energy activates a selected set of reactive vibrational modes, thus ensuring efficient photomechanical energy conversion. We combine experimental and theoretical approaches to investigate this process in a model molecular switch. Transient absorption reveals signatures of a quantum vibrational wave packet that drives the molecular motion from the electronic excited S<sub>1</sub> to the ground S<sub>0</sub> states, thus mimicking energy conversion in rhodopsin. Quantum chemistry and semi-classical trajectory computations allow us to unravel the mechanistic origin of the observed oscillations.

**Organisation:** ***P. Nürnberger***

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