

## Reminder - 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Leibniz PhD Network

There are only a few weeks left till the second general assembly of the Leibniz PhD Network takes place! This time, we will meet in Rostock at the [LIKAT](#) from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. Two PhD representatives from every Leibniz institute are welcome to attend the meeting.

We will elect the spokespersons and section officers for the next term and vote on the standing rules of our network. Moreover, there will be much time to get into contact with other Leibniz PhD students to broaden your network. Join us in a fruitful discussion over a nice barbecue and drinks!

We also want to remind you that if you're traveling to Rostock by car and have some free spots, to use our [car-pool-sheet](#)! Likewise, if you need a ride, you might find some friendly carpools there.

As to accommodation, you can find a list of hotels and hostels in Rostock in the attachment.

If you haven't registered yet, you can still send an e-mail to Lydia Vogt ([lydia.vogt@catalysis.de](mailto:lydia.vogt@catalysis.de)) with your name and affiliation. We are looking forward to see you there!



Side view of the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis (LIKAT), Rostock, Germany. Hosting institution of the second General Assembly of the Leibniz PhD Network.

## Leibniz PhD Network - doctoral researcher survey 2017

Soon you will be requested to participate in the first joint survey for all doctoral researchers at Leibniz Institutes and Research Museums. The survey will give us an overview of working conditions of about 4,000 Leibniz doctoral researchers. It includes the methods and amount of payment, the impact of work responsibilities on private life, and the situation of international doctoral researchers.

With this survey we aim to assess the situation of Leibniz doctoral researchers and whether there is room for improvement. The results will serve as a basis for suggestions to the Leibniz Association and the institutes concerning working conditions, career development, and equal opportunities.

The survey has been compiled by the working group “Diversity, Equal Opportunities, Working Conditions” of the Leibniz PhD Network consisting of doctoral researchers from all 5 sections:

### ***Section A – Humanities and Educational Research***

Christina de Paiva Lareiro, LIfBi

### ***Section B – Economics, Social Sciences, Spatial Research***

Verena Ott, IfL

Christa Gotter, IAMO

Tom Konzack, GIGA

Antonio Arcudi, HSFK

### ***Section C – Life Sciences***

Richard Höchenberger, DIfE

### ***Section D – Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering***

Friedrich Anders, AIP

### ***Section E – Environmental Research***

Martin Schmidt, ZALF

Yusuf Nadi Karatay, ATB

We want to thank in advance all the above mentioned contributors for the thorough work and thought they put into the questions that will help us understand and improve the situation of doctoral researchers of the Leibniz Association.

## Call for workforce - We want you!

Keeping the Leibniz PhD Network alive means a lot of work. We work in various [groups](#) on the many aspects of our thriving network and the requirements of PhD life. In the text section below, we introduce the main activities of each working group. If you are interested in helping out, get in touch!

To give a specific example, the communication working group would like to launch a blog, where we can archive our newsletters and post other relevant information, as well as a Wikipedia page about our network. We need your help to realize these plans!

If you are more into organizing events, we have the perfect opportunity for you: the organization of our interdisciplinary conference – taking place next spring – has to start soon!

Another hot topic is the plan to form a working group to create a PhD agreement. Working conditions differ greatly across institutes and even across departments. Ideally, we want to increase the commitment of supervisors towards the fulfillment of their responsibilities to doctoral researchers through such an agreement, which would be signed by both parties. Contact our spokespersons to get involved in this project!

We are looking forward to welcoming enthusiastic participants who want to actively work towards a more integrated doctoral researchers' community!

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## Learn more about our working groups!

Currently, the Leibniz PhD Network has four different [working groups](#). Here is some information about what each one is involved with. Feel free to contact the working groups if you're interested in joining or have questions or suggestions!

***Communication group*** The tasks of this group initially consisted of establishing structures and platforms intended for the network's online presence and visibility, and working towards higher inclusion and participation rates from Leibniz institutes. Currently, the communication group is in charge of tasks such as keeping an up-to-date list of PhD representatives, managing our Facebook account, and issuing our monthly newsletter. We try to make the work of every working group and our Spokespersons visible, for example by promoting the events that the event group organizes. We hope to work on a blog and Wikipedia page in the next term of the network!

**Contacts:**

Martin Wolff

Carolina Schwedhelm

[mwolff@fz-borstel.de](mailto:mwolff@fz-borstel.de)

[carolina.schwedhelm@dife.de](mailto:carolina.schwedhelm@dife.de)

***Diversity, equal opportunities, and working conditions group***

The working group aims at establishing a culture of diversity and inclusion and thus improving working conditions. The main goal is to ensure that all Leibniz doctoral researchers benefit from equal opportunities throughout their professional development, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental health. We are currently evaluating the position of doctoral researchers in relation to these topics and plan to use the results to formulate recommendations for the Leibniz Association. We invite all Leibniz doctoral researchers to share their ideas and raise their concerns.

**Contacts:**

Christa Gotter [gotter@iamo.de](mailto:gotter@iamo.de)  
Verena Ott [v.ott@fli-leipzig.de](mailto:v.ott@fli-leipzig.de)

***Event group***

The Leibniz Association is very diverse in its scientific portfolio. Doctoral researchers should benefit from this diversity by getting together in interdisciplinary conferences.

This working group is subdivided by event: as of today, we have a team for the organization of:

- the N<sup>2</sup> joint event of Science Communication (November 6-8<sup>th</sup>), organized by the doctoral researchers' networks of the Leibniz Association, Max Planck Society, and the Helmholtz Association (**contact:** [i.bause@iwmm-tuebingen.de](mailto:i.bause@iwmm-tuebingen.de));
- an interdisciplinary 2-day conference planned for next Spring, which aims to bring together Leibniz doctoral candidates, foster exchange and collaboration (**contact:** [femke-lutz@pik-potsdam.de](mailto:femke-lutz@pik-potsdam.de));
- the network's annual general assembly, which marks the end of a term within the Leibniz PhD Network and to which 2 PhD representatives of every Leibniz Institute are invited. Next meeting is September 7-8<sup>th</sup> in LIKAT in Rostock (**contact:** [Lydia.vogt@catalysis.de](mailto:Lydia.vogt@catalysis.de)).

***Cooperations group (N<sup>2</sup>)***

The Leibniz PhD Network formed a collaboration with the Max Planck Phdnet and with the Helmholtz Juniors; this collaboration bears the name of N<sup>2</sup> (network of networks). N<sup>2</sup> will represent the collective interests of doctoral researchers within the non-university research organizations in Germany and we will work closer together on following topics:

- Working conditions and equal opportunities for doctoral researchers in non-university organizations and beyond;
- Career opportunities for doctoral researchers in Germany;
- Science policy in Germany and Europe

The elected spokespersons of Leibniz PhD Network, Helmholtz Juniors and Max Planck Phdnet are the official N<sup>2</sup> representatives

**Contacts:**

Olga Naumov [olga.naumov@iom-leipzig.de](mailto:olga.naumov@iom-leipzig.de)  
Martin Schmidt [martin.schmidt@zalf.de](mailto:martin.schmidt@zalf.de)

## #n2sciencecomm: N<sup>2</sup> Science Communication Event in November

*How is the digital age changing the way we communicate science to society? How open is science itself and towards the public? Taking these questions as a landmark we want to celebrate a science festival with workshops, performances, exhibitions, talks, and presentations. The goal is to have an outreach to scientists by informing and encouraging doctoral researches to try new ways of communication.*



On 27th of July, the main responsible persons of the N<sup>2</sup> Science Communication Event organization team, coming from the [Leibniz PhD Network](#), [Helmholtz Juniors](#) and [Max Planck PhD Net](#), met at the [MPI for infection biology](#) to finalize the agenda, marketing strategy, and finances.



N2 Science Communication Event meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. From left to right: Daniel Meza, Teresa Hollerbach, Sophie Arana, Caroline Coch, Ana Rita Teixeira da Costa, Olga Naumov, Benjamin Hanf. Copyright: Olga Naumov.

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## Agenda highlights:

### Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

- Art contest and science lounge, where you can bring your own scientific art piece, video or science-slam-style poster
- [Sam Illingworth](#) connecting science and entertainment
- Prof. Dr. Vogel from the [Museum für Naturkunde](#) talking about the Evolution of Science

### Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

- Dr. Tobias Maier from [WeiterGen](#) will talk about the role of researchers as science communicators
- Workshops on data visualization and the art of presenting science
- Pubquiz at the Café Hardenberg Berlin

### Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

- Panel discussion with Stephan Balzer who is the European TEDx ambassador and Prof. Jule Specht from [jule schreibt](#)

## Practical information:

### Conference date and venue:

The event will be held in Berlin from 6th to the 8th November at the Leibniz Naturkundemuseum and EUREF Campus.

### Contact:

[n2event@gmx.de](mailto:n2event@gmx.de)

### Registration:

Opens in August

Registration fee: 50 €.

### Accommodation:

A hotel contingent will be provided for the duration of the conference. Hotel expenses have to be covered by the participants.

### The registration fee for a regular participant includes:

Admission to the plenary sessions, symposia and workshops, entry to the Naturkundemuseum's Sauriersaal, lunches, snacks and refreshments during breaks, registration for social events.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Leibniz PhD Student Symposium at the IZW, Berlin

After the great success of the last PhD symposium at the [IZW](#), themed "Scientific Communication" - including poster session and awards, a body language workshop, and input from various, highly interesting corners of the realm of scientific communication, we look forward to the next event of this series.



**Leibniz Institute for Zoo  
and Wildlife Research**

IN THE FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN E.V.

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This time, the symposium revolves around our future as scientists, under the title: **“What future do we have as scientist? Rethinking scientific publishing and careers”**. The full program on September 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 includes plenary talks about publishing opportunities, what and where to publish, career paths, as well as insights into the Leibniz PhD Network and the benefits of it. Other exciting activities in the schedule include workshops involving scientific communication (already booked out), funding opportunities, and implications of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning in our professional lives!

Furthermore, the obligatory barbecue offers a lot of possibilities to broaden your horizon and get in touch with fellow doctoral researchers as well as to get involved in interesting discussions with the speakers.

Visit Berlin and the Tierpark (usually, there is time to take a walk) and share this experience with us. We are looking forward to see you there!

The participation fee is 30 € including both BBQ and the Poster & Pasta session. You can find out more at the event's [website](#).