

### The story behind the Leibniz PhD Network

Early in 2016, Camille Gaillard and Elisabeth Berger, two doctoral researchers from the Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum Frankfurt (SGN), voiced their realization of a lack of integration between doctoral researchers across Leibniz Institutes. Together with the support of the Leibniz Association, they sought to bring together PhD representatives from all 89 institutes belonging to the Leibniz Association at the time.

As a result, the Leibniz PhD Network was founded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2016. The network is open to all PhD candidates of the Leibniz Association and it aims to promote exchange among doctoral researchers on their research as well as on topics of societal and political importance. Furthermore, the network gives voice to concerns of doctoral researchers within the Leibniz Association. You can find more information about the Leibniz PhD Network on our [official website](#).

### Meet the steering group

To let you know more about us in the Leibniz PhD Network, we want to introduce to you the members of the steering committee of the Leibniz PhD Network.



#### OLGA NAUMOV - Spokesperson

I am Olga Naumov and spokesperson for the PhD Network, together with Martin Schmidt. I studied physics in Leipzig and Marseille and worked at the Lomonosov University Moscow after my Master's degree. Then I came back to Leipzig for a PhD at the Institute of Surface Modification in Leipzig. Currently I work on carbon based catalysts for fuel cells and I will finish my PhD in 2017. Besides working, I'm an active kickboxer and I love hiking and traveling to exotic places.

## MARTIN SCHMIDT - Spokesperson

Hi, my name is Martin and I am one of the current Spokesperson of the Leibniz PhD Network. I studied Agricultural and Soil Sciences in Rostock, Stuttgart and Berlin. Currently, I am doing my PhD on environmental modeling of ecosystem boundaries at the Leibniz Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) close to Berlin. Frankly speaking, I really love science. That's why I am keen on open science and the integrity of it. Besides science, I try to be as much as possible in forests and theaters. Fun fact: as I was born on an island, my most favorite thing is still wind.



## INGA MARIE BAUSE - Section A Officer: Humanities and Educational Research

My name is Inga Marie Bause and I am Section A Officer (Humanities and Educational Research) for the PhD Network. I am a PhD student at the *Leibniz Institut für Wissensmedien (IWM)* in Tübingen since January 2015. For my PhD, I investigate how cognitive biases affect information processing and information exchange with a focus on how potentially detrimental influences can be counteracted through media support. I am fascinated by intercultural experiences and work as a volunteer for a non-profit organization for international youth exchanges. In my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities like hiking and horseback riding and couldn't imagine a life without traveling.

## ANTONIO ARCUDI - Section B Officer: Economics, Social Sciences, Spatial Research

My name is Antonio Arcudi and I'm the Section Officer for Economics, Social Sciences and Spatial Research (Section B) for the Leibniz PhD Network. I studied Political Science, Economics and Peace and Conflict Research. I'm doing my PhD at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (*Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung*) on contestation and development of international norms: I'm interested in the question of how disputes on international norms affect the norm's development. In my free time, I like traveling and doing sports, for example bouldering and football.





### **CAROLINA SCHWEDHELM - Section C Officer: Life Sciences**

My name is Carolina Schwedhelm and I am Section Officer for the Life Sciences (Section C). I come from Mexico and moved to Germany in 2012 to do my Master's. I liked it so much that I'm still here and I'm doing my PhD at the German Institute for Human Nutrition (DIfE). Specifically, I am looking into methods commonly used to derive dietary patterns in epidemiological studies and how such patterns arise. In my free time, I enjoy training for triathlons in Berlin's vast and beautiful green areas and lakes.

### **LYDIA VOGT - Section D Officer: Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Engineering**

My name is Lydia Vogt and I am the Section Officer for Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Engineering (Section D). This year, I am looking forward to finishing my PhD in Chemistry at the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis in Rostock (LIKAT). I have always been interested in novel energy technologies and I am excited about developing new catalysts for the generation of hydrogen from methanol. Besides doing crazy chemical experiments, I enjoy going on bike rides and jumping into the Baltic Sea.



### **FEMKE LUTZ - Section E Officer: Environmental Research**

My name is Femke Lutz and I am section E Officer for Environmental Sciences. I moved from the Netherlands to Potsdam to do my PhD at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Studies. During my PhD I am studying the effect of different agricultural management practices on global greenhouse gas emissions. For this, I am using a global ecosystem model. In my free time I enjoy playing basketball, traveling, and going for bike rides in the surroundings.

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## Facebook

The Leibniz PhD Network is also active on Facebook. Visit the page, meet people from different Leibniz institutes, and get all the info about the PhD Network and upcoming events. You'll find the Facebook page as "Leibniz PhD Network" or via [this link](#).

Come join us: follow, like, and share.

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## N<sup>2</sup> - Network of Networks - foundation on March 1st 2017

The collaboration between Leibniz PhD Network, Max Planck PhDnet and Helmholtz Juniors is official - now known as N<sup>2</sup> or Network of networks.

N<sup>2</sup> will represent the collective interests of more than 16,000 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 first idea of N<sup>2</sup> came in September 2016 at the 1<sup>st</sup> general assembly of the Leibniz PhD representatives, where the Leibniz PhD Network was founded. Together with former spokespersons of the Max Planck PhDnet (PhDnet) and Helmholtz Juniors (HeJu) we wanted to establish a publicly visible platform to strengthen the communication between the different doctoral networks. The first result of our successful collaboration was the rapid build-up of our own PhD Network: PhDnet and HeJus provided an example for the PhD network's statutes and structure. Inspired by our achievements since our founding and enthusiastic participation we will kick-start our collaboration with an event on the state-of-the-art science communication in November. In 2017, we want to become politically active, too - stay excited for new achievements!



1<sup>st</sup> general assembly of the Leibniz PhD representatives, where Leibniz PhD Network, Max Planck PhDnet and Helmholtz Juniors came together for the first time. From left to right: Arvid Diehn, Elisabeth Berger, Antonio Arcudi, unknown, Martin Grund, Martin Schmidt, Olga Naumov, Camille Gaillard, David Edeler, Konstantin Kuhne, Kati Häfner, Mikheil Gogishvili and Michael Annegarn-Gläß.

## Organization

Currently, the elected spokespersons Martin Schmidt and Olga Naumov for Leibniz PhD Network, Giulia Caglio and Konstantin Kuhne for Helmholtz Juniors and Leonard Borchert for PhDnet are the official N<sup>2</sup> representatives. The alumni spokespersons of their respective networks Elias Eckert and Dagmara Rusiecka (Helmholtz Juniors), Martin Grund (PhDnet) and Camille Gaillard (Leibniz PhD Network) serve as advisors and ensure efficient knowledge transfer.

Here's the official statement letter for the founding of N<sup>2</sup>: [link](#)

You can find our statutes here: [link](#)

Save the date for our joint event: 6-8 Nov 2017 - more information will be provided soon.

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## March for Science on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 in Berlin

In the name of science, education, and our future, Leibniz PhD Network participated in the March for Science in Berlin. Science is a common good that supports politics and society. Together with Max Planck PhDnet and Helmholtz Juniors we support the mission of the March for Science: Raise awareness of the importance of evidence-based scientific findings and take action against backward ideologies and “alternative facts”.

‘Germany depends on science, research, technology and education. The growing hostility towards science, especially in western industrial nations, is therefore a serious cause for concern.

Whether it's the denial of climate change or absurd conspiracy theories - increasingly, scientifically proven facts are declared to be untrue while falsehoods are portrayed as “alternative facts”.’

March for Science Berlin (<http://marchforscienceberlin.de/>)

The Berlin March for Science started at the Humboldt-University and finished at the Brandenburg Gate. In Germany, sister marches for science took place in Hamburg, Leipzig, Dresden, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Munich, Göttingen, Tübingen, and Bonn/Cologne.

March for Science online: [webpage link](#)

Follow March for Science Berlin on Facebook [here](#)

Members of the Leibniz PhD Network wrote about their experiences in the marches of Berlin and Bonn, respectively:

## Berlin

by Femke Lutz and Ilyas Saliba

Already at the train traveling to Humboldt University in Berlin we noticed we were not the only ones with the destination 'March for Science': a mixture of international scientists and local people carrying colorful signs with different mottos abounded the train. At the protest sight we were overwhelmed: around 11,000 people (according to the organizers, even more than expected) marched, so much effort had been put in the signs, and the atmosphere was great!

At the Brandenburg Gate, speeches were held by Berlin's major Micheal Müller and prominent scientists such as the director of the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Jutta Allmedinger. We noticed a few disappointed faces in the crowd as not everyone seemed to be able to understand the German speeches. Nevertheless, it was invigorating to see that so many people care about science and would spend their weekend to take the streets sending a clear signal of solidarity with scientists across the world experiencing increasing hostility or even restrictions and persecution such as in Turkey or Budapest. Solidarity with the colleagues in these countries was also emphasized in the speeches and some of the signs at the march.

Although it would be nice to include at least one English speech at the next time, we would both definitely march again for science to support its cause and highlight its relevance for society. We can only encourage everybody to join in next time as well!



March for Science Berlin, Apr.22.2017; demonstrators in front of the Brandenburg Gate. Signs of the Leibniz PhD Network and network of networks ( $N^2$ ) are visible.

## Bonn

by Jeanne Wilbrandt

“Science - not silence!” was written on one of the signs held high at the March for Science in Bonn. About 1,500 people from various backgrounds gathered at the Hofgartenwiese, a historically significant location perfectly fitting the aim of this demonstration: raise awareness for the importance of science and facts.

The demonstration had a brimming program including music (by the Triologische Quartett), engaging speeches - given by the minister of Innovation, Science and Research of NRW; several (vice) presidents of universities; and the president of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) -, and improvisational theater\*.

Scientists from Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, and other cities stood together with students, journalists, and citizens. Focal points of the speeches were the importance of democratic values, responsibility and ability of science to contribute to solutions of global problems with global collaboration, and the self-critical acknowledgement of the need for improved communication of methods and results.

More signs: “Science > Opinion”, “Citation needed”, “Forschen statt faken”, “Grab 'em by the data”, “Science matters”, “Alternative facts are 1”, “Time to react!”

A video by uni-bonn.tv capturing background and impressions of the event can be seen [here](#) (in German).

\*Program source: [program link](#)



March for Science Bonn, Apr.22.2017; demonstrators in front of the Electoral Palace (Kurfürstliches Schloss).