

Independent Research

- How Much Academic Freedom is Needed to Become a Successful Researcher?

We would like to invite all fellows of the Ruhr-University Research School to our second Science College. We will start on June 11th, 2008 at 11 a.m. in the "Veranstaltungszentrum" and will finish on June 12th, 2008 at 1 p.m.

Exchange Across Disciplinary Boundaries

First of all we would like to re-emphasize the intended purpose of the idea of the "Science College": Most of the scientific conferences offered are strongly disciplinary and only few events provide an insight into research topics and research careers of other disciplines. Last year's overall theme of the Science College "Interdisciplinary Dialog or Clash of Cultures" with Prof. Dr. Dr. Gerhard Vollmer as key speaker has shown the necessity, the productivity and sometimes the difficulty to pursue an exchange across disciplinary boundaries. Again, this year's Science College is supposed to bring together doctoral fellows from all disciplines to discuss scientific topics relevant for all research areas.

Science College 2008

The overall theme of the event will be the question of academic freedom and its relevance for successful research. The programme of the Science College 2008 offers and calls for an inter- and transdisciplinary discussion on aspects such as personal responsibility and research conditions for independence in science.

During the two days we had scheduled two "role models" for excellent and successful research - the two German Nobel Prize winners of 2007 Prof. Dr. Peter Grünberg and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Ertl. Unfortunately Prof. Dr. Ertl had to cancel his talk for health reasons. We are very glad we have won Prof. Dr. Ferdi Schüth, Director at the MPI for Coal Research and Vice-president of the DFG for the second keynote lecture.

To reach a metalevel of the reflection and discussion we have invited two renowned researchers in Philosophy of Science raising additional questions of academic freedom and academic success.

On Wednesday the first keynote lecture will be held by Prof. Dr. Peter Grünberg from the field of Physics focusing on the personal responsibility of an independent researcher. Following this lecture Prof. Dr. Andreas Bartels will give a talk on independence in research from the perspective of Philosophical Science and raise a discussion about freedom of choice and methods in science.

In the afternoon of the first day we will focus on a more personal reflection of the question on how to become a successful researcher. You will be able to discuss this in parallel workshops, each accompanied by a scientist of the RUB: Jun. Prof. Dr. Lars Reichert, Jun. Prof. Dr. Claudia Trepmann, Jun. Prof. Dr. Henning Schütte and Dr. Marc Spehr (Emmy Noether-Group Leader). The discussions will be moderated by a doctoral fellow on the basis of questions like:

- What would my ideal career look like?
- What does independence mean to me?

In the end of the scientific program on Wednesday the RUB-scientists will give a short lecture on their personal experiences of doing research and planning their careers.

On Thursday the second keynote lecture will be held by Prof. Dr. Ferdi Schüth from the field of Chemistry focusing on institutional and financial conditions for independent research. Again, this lecture will be followed by a talk and discussion from the perspective of Philosophical Science held by Prof. Dr. Stephan Hartmann with regard to the impact of research outcomes. To sum up this event the results and conclusions of the workshops will be shortly presented and discussed including the information of today's lectures. With this event we want to encourage you to think open minded, to support your self-conception as an early stage researcher, and to stimulate your career-planning as an independent scientist.

Ceremony and Social Evening on Wednesday

Furthermore this Science College gives you the opportunity to meet all doctoral fellows. In the Ceremony on Wednesday evening we will welcome the new fellows and award the first certificates of the Research School. The evening will close with a common dinner and music - supporting you "very unscientifically". We would be very happy about a lively participation.

Take Part

The training programme of the Research School regulates one participation within three years but you are welcome to take part in the Science College several times.

Please attend the whole meeting including the social evening. It is not possible to take part in specific agenda highlights except the first and second key note lectures which are open to the public.

Programme

Wednesday, June 11th		
10:30	Registration Research School Fellows	Foyer
11:00	Welcome Prof. Dr. Roland Fischer (Dean of Research School)	2b
11:15	1. Keynote Lecture (public) Personal Responsibility of Independent Researchers Prof. Dr. Peter Grünberg (Research Center Jülich) Prof Dr. Andreas Bartels (University Bonn)	2b
13:00	Lunch	3
14:00	Parallel Workshops 1 Moderator (Fellow of Research School) and 1 Scientist (Lars Reichert, Claudia Trepmann, Henning Schütte, Marc Spehr (Ruhr-University Bochum), Andreas Bartels, University Bonn))	1, 2a, 2b, 3, 04/82
16:15	Coffee break	Foyer
16:30	Evening Talks Lars Reichert, Claudia Trepmann, Henning Schütte and Marc Spehr (Ruhr-University Bochum)	2b
18:00 (open end)	Ceremony and Social Evening Elmar Weiler (Rector of Ruhr-University) Reception and Certificates Dinner and Music (DJ)	Bistro
Thursday, June 12th		
10:00	Welcome Prof. Dr. Roland Fischer (Dean of Research School)	2b
10:15	2. Keynote Lecture (public) Institutional and Financial Conditions for Independent Research Prof. Dr. Ferdi Schüth (MPI for Coal Research, Mülheim) Prof. Dr. Stephan Hartmann (Tilburg University, NL)	2b
12:00	Coffee break	Foyer
12:15	Workshop Reports and Final Discussion Prof. Dr. Roland Fischer (Dean of Research School) and Moderators (Fellows of the Research School)	2b
13:00	Lunch (optional)	Mensa