

REPORT 2025 THE GLOBAL MEETING FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION LEADERS

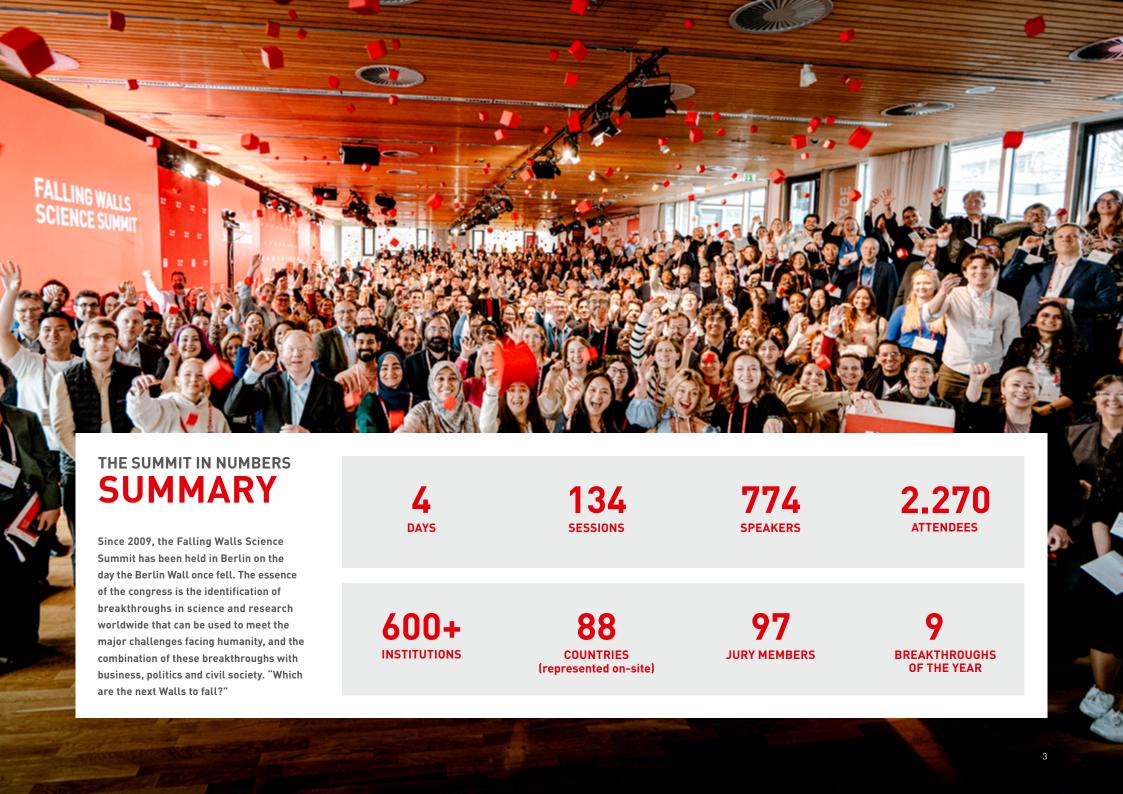
PARTNERSHIP OFFER 2026

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

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THE FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT CONCEPT

FOUR DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH THINKING

Explore countless opportunities to connect, network and engage across scientific disciplines. Participate in person or join virtually from anywhere in the world.



World-class pitch competitions in Emerging Talents, Science Start-Ups and Science Engagement welcome their Finalists to pitch their projects live on stage. The winners in these categories and the winner of the Women's Impact Award receive the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year title and present their scientific breakthroughs on the final day of the Summit.

FALLING WALLS LAB An international pitch competition for the next generation's leading scientists.

FALLING WALLS
FEMALE SCIENCE
TALENTS

Promoting female leadership in science, business and society. FALLING WALLS ENGAGE A global platform for science engagers who actively involve the public in science.

FALLING WALLS VENTURE An international platform for the most promising science start-ups.



The Gipfel für Forschung und Innovation 2025 brings together politics, science and business to debate research and innovation policy. Under the theme "Time to act—For greater competitiveness in Germany and Europe," it explores solutions for transformation, cooperation and security.



BCG's Climate &
Sustainability Summit
examines how evolving
economic systems,
informed by climate
science, political realities,
and business leadership,
can overcome shorttermism and turn
sustainability challenges
into opportunities.

THE FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT CONCEPT



Falling Walls bridges science and society by bringing together global leaders from research, business, policymaking and media to discuss solutions to today's most pressing issues.

FALLING WALLS PLENARY TABLES	FALLING WALLS IMPACT DIALOGUES	FALLING WALLS INSIGHTS CAFÉ	FALLING WALLS GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
FALLING WALLS ROUND TABLES	FALLING WALLS EXECUTIVE TABLES	FALLING WALLS SYMPOSIUM	



On the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Falling Walls showcases outstanding research in inspiring talks. Every 9 November, "the brightest minds on the planet" [BBC] gather to ask: Which are the next walls to fall in science and society?

FALLING WALLS BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

FALLING WALLS BREAKTHROUGH FORUM

SUMMARY | THE FALLING WALLS WORLD MAP 2025

128 COUNTRIES—A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE

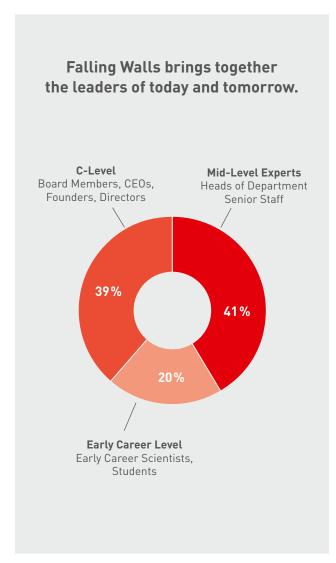
Participants from all over the world gather—online and on-site—for the Falling Walls Science Summit.

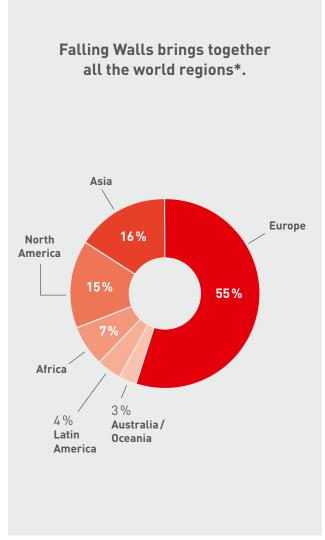


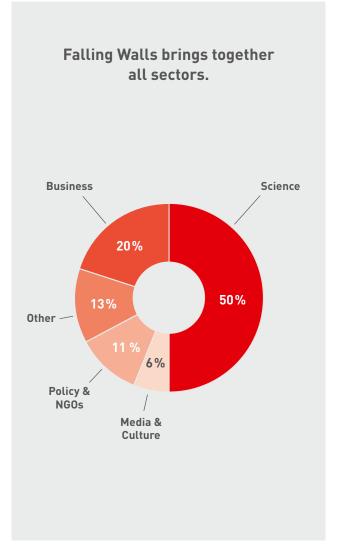
SUMMARY HIGH LEVEL

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS BY REGION

ALL SECTORS







^{*}International participants not including those from Germany.



"THIS IS THE BEST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SUMMIT ANYWHERE. I THINK IT'S A BIT LIKE THE MODERN DAY DAYOS FOR SCIENCE."

David Gann Chair of UK Industrial Fusion Solutions, GB





"THE CONTENT IS ALWAYS FRESH.
THE SPEAKERS ARE ALWAYS NEW.
YOU NEVER GET BORED. THIS IS
THE ONLY SCIENCE CONFERENCE
I COME EVERY YEAR."

Evrim Bunn Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), US

FALLING WALLS PITCHES

PITCH COMPETITIONS

The next generation of global talent takes the stage with breakthrough ideas for the future.



FALLING WALLS LAB

Falling Walls Lab is a global pitch competition that brings together an interdisciplinary pool of students and early-career professionals, providing a stage for their breakthrough ideas in three-minute pitches. Leading academic institutions send a total of 100 winners to the Global Finale in Berlin, where they compete for the prestigious Breakthrough Winner title in the Emerging Talents category.



FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

The Female Science Talents programme encourages early-career women researchers to take a step forward in their career through tailored workshops, peer-to-peer coaching, global networking and high-level events. The programme seeks to both broadly promote female talents and elevate exceptional female researchers.



FALLING WALLS ENGAGE

Falling Walls Engage highlights the most inspiring Science Engagement projects worldwide. Supported by the Hannover Re Foundation, the programme builds bridges between science and society, focusing on projects that address climate change, sustainability and innovation. The 15 Finalists presented their 5-minute project pitches on stage at the Falling Walls Science Summit.



FALLING WALLS VENTURE

Falling Walls Venture is a pitch competition for the most promising science start-ups, nominated by outstanding academic institutions from around the world. Pioneering founders who have turned science into business demonstrate how entrepreneurial solutions can help solve today's most pressing challenges.

FALLING WALLS LAB PITCHES

INNOVATIVE IDEAS FROM EMERGING TALENTS





FALLING WALLS LAB

2,750+

INTERNATIONAL **LABS**

100 INTERNATIONAL LAB WINNERS AT THE GLOBAL FINALE

9100 +**SINCE 2011**











SPRINGER NATURE SYLLYLING

Falling Walls Lab is an international and interdisciplinary pitch competition where students and early-career scientists present their breakthrough ideas on stage. In 2025, renowned institutions around the globe hosted 82 international Labs in 60 countries and sent their 100 Winners to compete at the Global Finale at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin.

Together with its partner DAAD, Falling Walls Lab curated an inspiring multi-day experience for these young innovators. Programme highlights included a welcome event at the Italian Embassy and a deep dive into the German research ecosystem during Research Insight Day—offering participants first-hand information on the opportunities for them in Germany.

How to get involved

- > Apply to a Lab: You have a breakthrough idea, are over the age of 18 and are currently enrolled at university or already have a degree? Our local Labs look forward to your application.
- > Launch a Lab: Contact us if you want to bring an international science competition to your institution and join the Falling Walls Lab family.
- > Become a partner: Get in touch with the next generation's leading scientists and help create opportunities for them to excel.

Visit: falling-walls.com/lab

FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

PROMOTING FEMALE LEADERSHIP



FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

471
APPLICATIONS
FROM
82 COUNTRIES
Intensive Track

85
APPLICATIONS
FROM
41 COUNTRIES
Women's Impact Award









The programme empowers visionary women with a strong research background to take up a leadership role in science, business or society. Falling Walls promotes responsible leadership, diversity of talent, and encourages participants to become part of an international network of outstanding female science talents.

OUR ACTIVITIES:

- > Leadership skills webinar series
- > Career talks
- > Peer-to-peer exchange
- International Spring Gathering in Berlin workshops and talks
- International Fall Gathering in Berlin workshops and talks

- The Women's Impact Award including celebratory dinner
- Executive Table and/or other direct involvement in the Falling Walls Science Summit

Visit: falling-walls.com/female-science-talents

FALLING WALLS ENGAGE PITCHES

THE MOST INSPIRING SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



FALLING WALLS ENGAGE

236
APPLICATIONS
FROM
84 COUNTRIES

30 SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS FROM 25 COUNTRIES

15 FINALISTS 10
INTERNATIONAL
FALLING WALLS
ENGAGE HUBS

3,500+

COMMUNITY

MEMBERS FROM
150+ COUNTRIES

Hannover Re Foundation

Falling Walls Engage is an international pitch competition that showcases the most impactful projects that actively promote public participation in science. The programme is dedicated to advancing solutions for climate adaptation through best practices in science engagement, emphasising innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration to make a real difference. 15 Finalists

from 15 countries presented their projects in five minutes at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin. In addition to the pitch competition, Falling Walls Engage builds hubs for science engagement globally. Ten hubs across Argentina, Australia, Canada, Greece, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, South Africa and Sweden connect scientists and the public with events throughout the year.

How to get involved

- Apply: You run a science engagement initiative and are over the age of 18? We are looking forward to your application.
- Join a hub: Become part of our local networks and connect with science engagers worldwide or contact us to launch your own Engage Hub.
- Become a partner: Help science engagers compete, connect globally and create impactful initiatives together with us.

Visit: falling-walls.com/engage

FALLING WALLS VENTURE PITCHES

THE MOST PROMISING SCIENCE-BASED START-UPS







300+ NOMINATIONS +55% compared to 2024 187
SHORTLISTED
START-UPS
+62% compared
to 2024

37

S

CLUSTERS

- · Sustainability
- \cdot Engineering of the Future
- · Health Solutions









Falling Walls Venture is a pitch competition for the most promising science start-ups nominated by outstanding academic institutions around the world. These include, among others, MIT, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, Oxford University, ETH Zürich and the University of Adelaide. Pioneering founders who have turned science into business demonstrate how entrepreneurial solutions can help solve today's most pressing challenges. Venture's mission is to spotlight the most groundbreaking science-based start-ups from around the world. In 2025, the Advisory Board carefully selected 25 start-ups from eight countries, and the esteemed Jury—chaired by Stefan von Holtzbrinck—faced the difficult task of choosing the winners in the

categories Sustainability, Engineering of the Future and Health Solutions. Beyond the competition, Venture is part of Falling Walls Science-preneurs and fosters a network of scientific institutions, incubators and investors to create an ecosystem that helps science-based startups succeed. In several cases, Venture has helped start-ups with both investments and exits.

How to get involved

- Are you a research institution? Nominate your best start-up(s) and encourage them to apply.
- > Work with Venture on tailoring a programme for science start-ups that connects them to the people who will help them succeed.

Visit: falling-walls.com/venture

THE CONFERENCE INSIDE THE CONFERENCE

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR SCIENCEPRENEURS

Our Sciencepreneurs Forum's mission is to build connections that help science-based start-ups succeed. We create events that connect spin-offs, industry leaders, research organisations, venture capital and policy makers for success.

Business leaders and VCs flock to the Falling Walls Science Summit to meet with esteemed scientists and the next generation of science start-ups for the most cutting-edge insights into deep tech. The Sciencepreneurs Forum creates opportunities for them to unite forces, including meet-ups, panel discussions and a pitch competition at the Science Summit and year-round.

440

BUSINESS LEADERS 35
SCIENCE-BASED
START-UPS FROM
OVER 10 COUNTRIES

VENTURE CAPITALISTS

100+

NOMINATING ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

"THERE'S SO MUCH ENTHUSIASM, SO MUCH BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATION IN SCIENCEPRENEURSHIP THAT'S REALLY INSPIRING."

Andreas Zaby Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation (SPRIND), DE







"IT'S AMAZING, THE ENTHUSIASM, THE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOWING THE WAY. SO WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE PART OF THIS."

Violeta Vázquez-Rojas Maldonado Undersecretary at the Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and innovation, Secihti, MX







PROGRAMME SPECIAL

IG NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

The Ig Nobel Prize is an annual award honouring scientific research that is unusual, imaginative and surprising, works that make people laugh and then think. While the prizes are a playful counterpart to the prestigious Nobel Prizes, real Nobel laureates often take part in the ceremonies, and at least one scientist has won both an Ig Nobel and a Nobel Prize.

At the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025, the Ig Nobel Face-to-Face brought together past and current Ig Nobel laureates to discuss their unconventional findings. The winners gathered on stage to ask each other questions about their work alongside Ig Nobel Prize founder Marc Abrahams.

Featuring:

Marc Abrahams Founder of the Ig Nobel Prize

Kees Moeliker 2003 Ig Nobel Biology Prize winner

Vincenzo Maria Schimmenti 2025 Ig Nobel Physics Prize winner

Ivan Di Terlizzi 2025 Ig Nobel Physics Prize winner



"FIRST MAKE THEM LAUGH, THEN MAKE THEM THINK."

Marc Abrahams Founder of Ig Nobel Prize, US





"IT'S THAT SENSE OF OPTIMISM THAT MAKES FALLING WALLS SO GOOD."

Brian Schmidt, Nobel Laureate in Physics, AU





"THE SCIENCE SUMMIT IS UNIQUE FOR ITS MIX OF SCIENTISTS, POLITICIANS, MEDIA AND INDUSTRY—ALL COMING TOGETHER OVER COFFEE OR WINE. THAT'S WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS."

Daniel Chamovitz, President of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, IL

DEBATES & SYMPOSIA

Falling Walls offers dynamic discussion formats for leaders in science, policy and industry to tackle pressing issues, foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and shape the future of innovation. Ministers, Nobel laureates and experts explore the topics defining our era.

FALLING WALLS SUMMITS



This year, the Stifterverband presented the "Gipfel für Forschung und Innovation" and BCG presented its "Climate and Sustainability Summit"—unique conferences for high-level scientific debate. — page 22/23

FALLING WALLS ROUND TABLES



From presentations to open discussions—drawing attention to topics from broader issues in science and society to specific scientific developments. — page 28

FALLING WALLS PLENARY TABLES



Plenary Tables are the most prestigious format offered by Falling Walls Circle. International experts, ministers, CEOs and presidents debate global challenges and strategies in a TV talk show-style setup. — page 24

FALLING WALLS INSIGHTS CAFÉ



The "Insights Café" turns a public space into a hub of innovation. It simplifies complex scientific concepts, with interactive and compelling presentations. — page 38

FALLING WALLS IMPACT DIALOGUES



Impact Dialogues offer dynamic, engaging scientific discussions across multiple venues. They encourage movement and audience interaction, fostering impactful discourse. — page 40

FALLING WALLS GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



Global Connections is a bespoke, interactive format that highlights national or international research and innovation agendas, science networks or initiatives and connects them globally. — page 44

WILHELM & ELSE HERAEUS SYMPOSIUM BREAKTHROUGHS IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation and Falling Walls hosted this unique format to bring together international researchers in such fields as quantum physics and chemistry. — page 42

FALLING WALLS EXECUTIVE TABLES



Invitation-only events with a strong focus on networking, bringing global science leaders together to connect and develop new ideas. — page 48

GIPFEL FÜR FORSCHUNG UND INNOVATION



The Gipfel für Forschung und Innovation (Summit for Research and Innovation) offers a forum for politics, science and business to debate current developments in research and innovation policy. This highlevel summit addresses our time's key challenges: transformation, cooperation and security.



KEYNOTE

Dorothee Bär Minister of Research, Technology and Space, DE



PANEL 1: STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEM

This panel examined how the research and innovation system must adapt to new challenges by reshaping its structures, strengthening collaboration and improving fund and labour division. It explored how science, industry and politics can work together more effectively to accelerate innovation and drive the necessary transformations.

Holgar Hanselka Fraunhofer Society, DE Reinhold Geilsdörfer Dieter Schwarz Foundation, DE / Sabine Klauke Airbus, DE / Wolfgang Wick German Science and Humanities Council (Wissenschaftsrat), DE / Thomas Jarzombek German Bundestag, DE

Moderator: Irene Bertschek Chairwoman of the Expert Commission for Research and Innovation (EFI). DE



PANEL 2: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COOPERATION IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

This panel explored how international scientific cooperation can be maintained despite a more fragmented global order, and what this means for research security, data flows and knowledge exchange. It discussed how Germany and Europe can attract top talent and reinforce their role as centres of open, free science, while examining how industrial research should position itself within the shifting geopolitical landscape.

Astrid Lambrecht Forschungszentrum Jülich, DE / Stefan Asenkerschbaumer BOSCH, DE / Hugh Brady Imperial College London, GB / Thierry Coulhon Institut Polytechnique de Paris, FR / Maria Leptin European Research Council. BE

Moderator: Bettina Rockenbach President of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, DE



PANEL 3: INNOVATION FOR SECURITY - INNOVATION THROUGH SECURITY

This panel examined Europe's current position in security-relevant research and the extent of existing collaboration between business and science. It addressed the cultural, structural and regulatory barriers that hinder cooperation and discussed which new structures and responsibilities are needed to strengthen joint efforts in this field.

Tanja Brühl Technical University Darmstadt, DE / Thomas Mason Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), US / Christian Hummert Cyberagentur, DE / Nils Schmid Ministry of Defence, DE / Chiara Pedersoli OHB System AG, DE

Moderator: **Georg Schütte** CEO of the Volkswagen Foundation, DE

BCG CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



BCG's Climate & Sustainability
Summit, Back to Square Zero
for Sustainability? From Evidence to Earnings: Breaking
the Wall of Economic ShortTermism, brings the business
lens to the challenges of sustainability, scientific urgency
and climate action, with highlevel panels examining how
sustainable leadership can
foster a competitive advantage.

"[FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT] IS A PLACE TO LEARN TO TEAR DOWN SILOS AND THINK HOLISTI-CALLY. BECAUSE ONLY IF WE BRING ALL DISCIPLINES TOGETHER WILL WE SOLVE THE BIG PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME."

Marcus Pleyer State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, DE



PART 1: POLITICS MAY HAVE CHANGED, THE SCIENCE HASN'T

This opening chapter brought together Johan Rockström, Maria Leptin and Nobel Laureate Brian Schmidt to discuss the stark realities of climate science and the urgency for action. Despite shifting political priorities, the facts remain unchanged. A policy perspective from Frank Wetzel highlighted how governments can drive real progress.

Michael Brigl Boston Consulting Group, DE / Johanna Pütz Boston Consulting Group, DE / Johan Rockström Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, DE / Brian Schmidt Australian National University, AU / Maria Leptin President of European Research Council, BE Michael Bröcker Table.Briefings, DE / Frank Wetzel Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, DE

Moderators: Michael Brigl, Johanna Pütz, Michael Bröcker



PART 2: HOW CLIMATE ACTION CAN BE A BUSINESS CASE

BCG's Patrick Herhold and Jens Burchardt reassessed the business case for climate action. They showed that the economics of decarbonisation are shifting fast—across many sectors, green solutions can drive growth and resilience as the green economy benefits from the second highest growth rate across sectors.

Jens Burchardt Boston Consulting Group, DE / Patrick Herhold Boston Consulting Group, DE

Moderators: Jens Burchardt & Patrick Herhold

SPEAKER AND CEO DINNER AT STUDIO OLAFUR ELIASSON

Selected guests were invited to an exclusive dinner in this unique artistic setting.



PART 3: MARGIN WITH MISSION—WHAT COMPANIES CAN ACCELERATE

Executives from leading companies, green tech innovators and senior economic experts explored how to turn climate ambition into measurable progress. Three deep dives looked at scaling green tech and steering the energy transition.

Saskia Bruysten Carbon Equity and Yunus Social Business, DE / Veronika Grimm Technische Universität Nürnberg, DE / Stefan Kapferer 50Hertz Transmission, DE / Michael Karrer ZF Group, DE / Guido Kerkhoff Klöckner & Co, DE / Frank Meyer Robert Bosch GmbH, DE / Lucio Milanese Proxima Fusion, DE / Georg Stamatelopoulos EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG, DE / Katharina Tomoff DHL, DE / Ulf Zillig Mercedes-Benz AG, DE / Kai Monheim, CEMUNE (Centre for Multilateral Negotiations), DE / Lilian Schwich cylib GmbH, DE

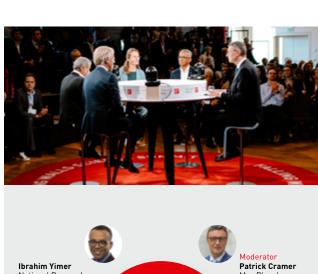
Moderators: Johanna Pütz, Jens Burchardt, Patrick Herholdt

PLENARY TABLES

The centrepiece of the Falling Walls Circle are the Plenary Tables, where global challenges are debated publicly, in a series of moderated panel discussions. We invite leading international experts to share their perspectives on how science can be employed to better benefit humanity and the world around us. To further extend the discourse to the audience, we invite participants at the venue to contribute their questions. Together, we set new topics on the international scientific agenda.

"[WHAT'S] PARTICULARLY **ENCOURAGING FOR ME IS THE** INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: THE CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WE COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER ACROSS THE WORLD IN TERMS OF THE SCIENCE WE'RE DOING."

Paul Kearns Director Argonne National Laboratory, US











frontiers

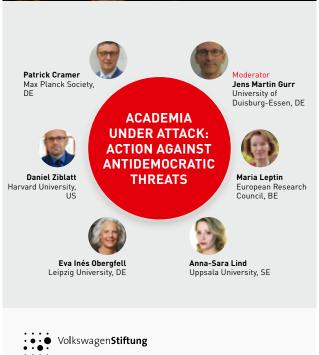
planet prize













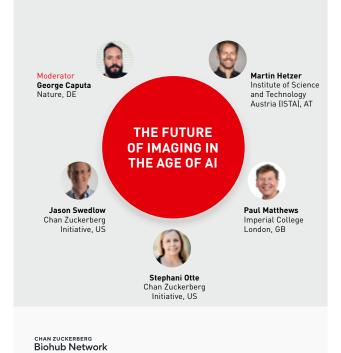




SPRIN-D







FALLING WALLS CIRCLE KEY RESULTS



ROUND TABLES

Round Tables are a discussion format that allows for presentations, interviews and open debate. The topics can range from broader issues in science and society to very specific aspects of scientific developments, which are addressed by international experts in their respective fields. In many cases, the audience is invited to actively participate, and most Round Tables are also available to watch via livestream.

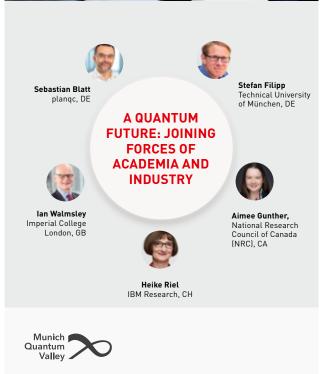
"I'M DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE ATMOSPHERE, THE PANELS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF VERY INTERESTING PEOPLE."

Rolf-Dieter Jungk State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, DE













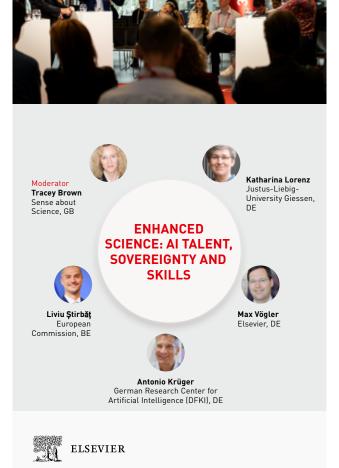
Joël Mesot

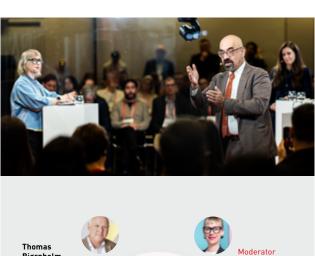
ETH Zurich, CH

Volkswagen**Stiftung**



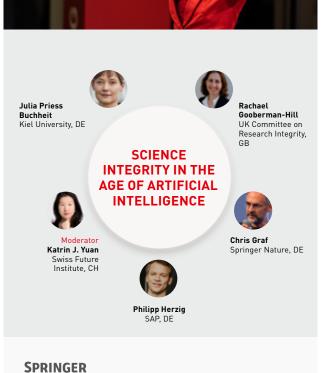


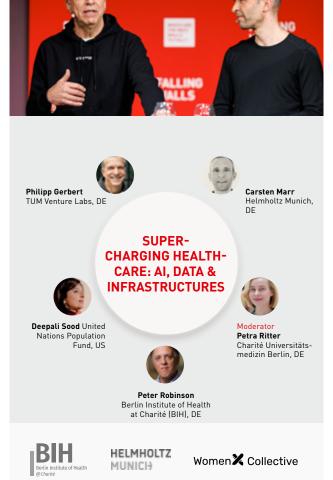












FALLING WALLS





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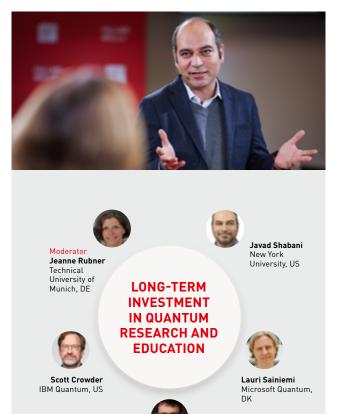
HELMHOLTZ

MUNICH)









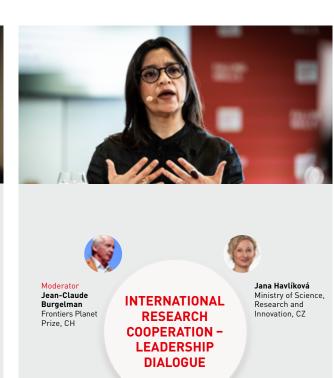
Peter Leek

Oxford Quantum Circuits, GB

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Alliance







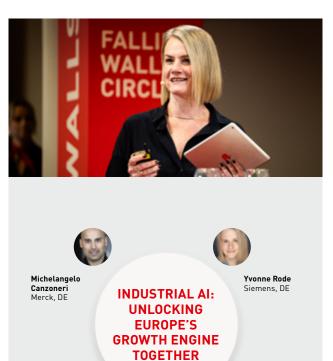
Andrzej Szeptycki Ministry of Science and Higher Education,

FALLING WALLS **FOUNDATION**















SARTURIUS





Stiftung







ALFRED LANDECKER FOUNDATION





Else **K**röner

Fresenius Stiftung





Moderator Hadas Erel Reichman University, IL Irit Hadar

University of

Haifa, IL

FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE: AI, ETHICS **AND GLOBAL** INNOVATION



VDI Technologie-

zentrum, DE

Poznan University of Technology, PL

FALLING WALLS **FOUNDATION**



"THIS SUMMIT IS **BRILLIANT** ... REALLY IMPRESSIVE, **REALLY EXCITING!"**

Mark Thomson Director General of CERN, CH





"THE SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER POLITICIANS, SCHOLARS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE, BUT ALSO YOUNG RESEARCHERS WHO DISCUSS TOGETHER HOW TO ADVANCE SCIENCE AND INNOVATION."

Andrzej Szeptycki Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, PL





"WE DISCUSSED INTER-NATIONAL COLLABORATION. IT WAS CONCRETE, IT WAS CLEAR, IT REVEALED NEW PERSPECTIVES."

Thierry Coulhon President of the Management Board of Institut Polytechnique de Paris, FR



INSIGHTS CAFÉ



The "Insights Café" brings scientific discourse into the heart of the venue, turning an ordinary public space into a hub of innovation and exchange.

UNLOCKING INNOVATION POTENTIAL: STRATEGIES AND MEASURES

Natascha Eckert Academia-Business Advisor, Senior Fellow UIDP, DE / Tove Rømo Grande Kristiania University of Applied Sciences, NO / Laura Sager Director Science Talents & Entrepreneurship, Falling Walls Foundation, DE / Rosanna West EIT Higher Education Initiative, ES





UNLOCKING INNOVATION POTENTIAL: A SCIENCEPRE-NEURSHIP GAME

Eva Kirchner Young Entrepreneurs in Science, Falling Walls Foundation, DE / **Katharina Rosin** Young Entrepreneurs in Science, Falling Walls Foundation. DE





BUILDING THRIVING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

Andrea Tüttenberg ActiTrexx, DE / Philippa Köhnk BRYCK Startup Alliance, DE / Balzhan Orazbayeva UIIN, NL / Sarah Scheck Falling Walls Foundation, DE

FALLING WALLS VENTURE





INSIGHTS CAFÉ: FLEXIBLE MINDS, INCLUSIVE LEADER-SHIP—REIMAGINING SCIENCE THROUGH COGNITIVE OPENNESS

Leor Zmigrod University of Cambridge, GB / Moderator: **David Patrician** RTL Nord, DE

FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

BEYOND THE PARIS PROMISE: INSIGHTS FROM CLIMATE SCIENCE

Martin Keller Helmholtz Association, DE / Katja Matthes GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, DE / Antoine Petit CNRS, FR / Julia Vismann radioeins/rbb. DE

HELMHOLTZ KLIMA Dialog-Plattform

HIDDEN STRUCTURES: THE SECRET LIFE OF YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Monika Frech HPI d-school, DE / Anja Lehmann Hasso Plattner Institute, University of Potsdam, DE / Felix Naumann Hasso Plattner Institute, University of Potsdam, DE



START-UP NATION: BUILDING A WORLD-CLASS START-UP ECOSYSTEM

Allison Dring MADE OF AIR, DE / Julia Scheerer Bertelsmann Stiftung, DE

Bertelsmann Stiftung

IMPACT DIALOGUES



Impact Dialogues introduce a dynamic approach to scientific discourse, with diverse sessions unfolding across multiple venues throughout the day. Unlike other formats confined to a single room and style of exchange, Impact Dialogues encourage movement and feature a structure that fosters audience engagement. Whether it's a panel discussion, an open forum, or a workshop, Impact Dialogues pave the way for meaningful discourse.

FALLING WALLS PITCHES: MEET THE 2025 SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

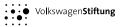
Science Breakthrough of the Year, Science Start Ups Breaking the Wall of Inefficient AI Computation Lumai, James Spall Lumai, GB

Science Breakthrough of the Year, Science Engagement Breaking the Wall of Restoration with Indigenous Knowledge Nondas Ferreira da Silva, Seeds of Change, BR

Science Breakthrough of the Year, Emerging Talents
Breaking the Wall of Molecular Monotony
Karen de la Vega-Hernández Institute of Chemical Research
of Catalonia (ICIQ), ES

AI AGE & TRUST: ETHICS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR SCICOMM

David Caswell StoryFlow, GB / Alice Henchley Springer Nature, DE / Volker Stollorz Science Media Center, DE / Moderator: Dagmar Schuller audEERING. DE



UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS MEETING

Falling Walls invited the 51 university presidents from 13 countries present at the summit to discuss key challenges in higher education, academic freedom and global collaboration in times of geopolitical tensions and a rapidly changing world.





WATER MANAGEMENT IN DECISION THEATER - LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Patrick Bräutigam University of Stuttgart, DE / Jochen Büttner Max-Planck-Institut für Geoanthropologie, DE / Nicole Cox Arizona State University Decision Theater, US / Karol Gonçalves Ben-Gurion University, IL / Manfred Laubichler Arizona State University and Santa Fe Institute, US / Rosa M. Roman-Cuesta European Commission, Joint Research Centre, IT / Lina Schwab Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology, DE / Shuang Song Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology, DE / Moderator: Jürgen Renn Max-Planck Institut für Geoanthropologie, DE



LEADERSHIP DIALOGUES: INNOVATING AT INTERFACES

Sixty thought leaders from industry and science discussed the pressing challenges to leadership stemming from AI and possible solutions.





Trans-Nation Co-Creation

DEEP-UV INNOVATION: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PHOTONICS

Åsa Haglund Chalmers University of Technology, SE / Tanja Mehlstäubler Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, DE / Martina Meinke Charité, DE / Michael Kneissl DE



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY BY EUROPE: SHAPING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Thierry Damerval French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, FR / Jan Marco Müller European Commission, DG / E.M. Mouhoud PSL University, FR / Simone Schwanitz Generalsekretärin, Max Planck Society, DE



THE CHANGING ROLE OF SCIENCE IN DIPLOMACY

E. William Colglazier AFAvH, US / Ona Ambrozaite British Consulate-General Boston, US / Martin Wählisch University of Birmingham, GB / Moderator: Tim Gabel Table.Briefings, DE



WILHELM AND ELSE HERAEUS SYMPOSIUM FOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES



The Symposium for Breakthroughs in Physical Sciences offered an update on progress in the field. In partnership with the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, it gathered speakers, including emerging talents, thought leaders and Falling Walls Global Call Finalists.

GLOBAL CALL 2025 FINALISTS: PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Tanja Mehlstäubler Breaking the Wall of Time & Frequency Standards, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, DE / Martin Harmer Breaking the Wall of 100 Years of Superalloys, Lehigh University, US / Claudio Emma Breaking the Wall of Intense Particle Beams, Slac National Accelerator Laboratory, US / Henry Chapman Breaking the Wall of Observing Molecules in Action , Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (Desy), DE / Richard Norte Breaking the Wall of Miniaturisation in Nanotechnology, Delft University Of Technology, NL

NEXT GENERATION RESEARCHER PITCHES

Mattia Cesaro Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics,
DE / Anahita Khammari Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of
Complex Technical Systems, DE / Svetlana Vasileva Max Planck
Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, DE / Aditya
Tamar Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy, DE / Joppe
Widstam Max Planck Institute for Physics of Complex Systems, DE

Stefan Jorda Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, DE Brian Schmidt Australian National University, AU Miho Janvier European Space Agency, NL

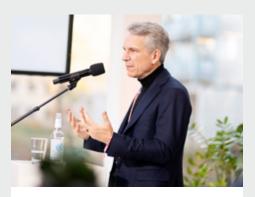
Moderation:

Thomas Elsaesser Max-Born-Institut für Nichtlineare Optik und Kurzzeitspektroskopie, DE Cigdem Issever Humboldt University Berlin, DE



FIRESIDE CHATS

Hosted by the Falling Walls
Board, the Fireside Chat is an
intimate format during which
five of our time's leading minds
from science, business and
academia share their ideas,
experiences and perspectives
on a specific topic, engaging
directly with the audience.



FIRESIDE CHAT: PETER KÖRTE

Peter Körte Siemens AG, DE



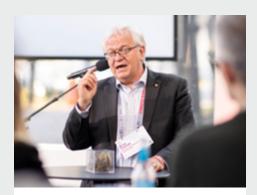
FIRESIDE CHAT: PERMJOT VALIA

Permjot Valia Nava Develop Inc, CA



FIRESIDE CHAT: MARC ABRAHAMS

Marc Abrahams Improbable Research, US



FIRESIDE CHAT: BRIAN SCHMIDT

Brian Schmidt Australian National University, AU



FIRESIDE CHAT: CYRIAC ROEDING

Cyriac Roeding Earli, US



FIRESIDE CHAT: ELENA BARBA SARASUA

Elena Barba Sarasua Complutense University of Madrid, ES

"WHAT MAKES FALLING WALLS IMPORTANT FOR ME, IT'S OBVIOUS, IT'S THE PEOPLE I MEET HERE."

Patrick Cramer President Max Planck Society, DE

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS – BUILDING BRIDGES FOR SCIENCE BEYOND BORDERS



Science thrives on international collaboration, and Global Connections is where it starts. The programme showcases national and international research and innovation initiatives to science and business leaders, diplomats and policy makers worldwide. Together with our partners, we design bespoke, interactive formats that create meaningful connections. Contact us to learn more: global-connections@falling-walls.com

BREAKING THE WALLS OF TRAUMA: PSYCHEDELICS AND RECOVERY

Dimitris Repantis Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, DE / Eric Vermetten Leiden University Medical Center, NL / Roy Salomon University of Haifa, IL / Moderator: Anat Brunstein Klomek Reichman University, IL

60 YEARS AND BEYOND - ISRAELI-GERMAN SCIENCE COLLABORATION

Katja Becker German Research Foundation, DE / Christian Doeller Max Planck Society, DE / David Harel Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Weizmann Institute of Science, IL / Ron Milo Weizmann Institute of Science, IL / Daniel Zajfman Israel Science Foundation, IL / Moderator: Helga Nowotny European Research Council, BE

SCIENCE REBUILDS: ASYLUM LABS AND CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

Daniel Chamovitz Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, IL / Christian Doeller Max Planck Society, DE / Ron Milo Weizmann Institute of Science, IL / Moderator: Marie Wildermann Diplomatisches Magazin, DE

MOBILITY IN SCIENCE, PATHWAY TO INNOVATION AND PEACE

Menahem Ben Sasson Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL / Violeta Vázquez-Rojas Maldonado Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (SECIHTI), MX / Beate Wagner Global Young Academy, DE / Moderator: Annette Julius German Academic Scholarship Foundation, DE



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: CAN SCIENCE PAVE THE WAY FOR PEACE?

H.E. Ahmed Alattar United Arab Emirates Embassy Berlin, DE / H.E. Jiří Čistecký Embassy of the Czech Republic Berlin, DE / H.E. Ron Prosor Embassy of the State of Israel, DE / Edelgard Bulmahn Humboldt University Berlin, DE / Moderator: Christoph Markschies Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Union of German Academies of Science, DE

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AT SESAME: LIGHT BEYOND BORDERS

Britta Redlich DESY, DE / Antje Vollmer Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie HZB, DE / Murat Kazanci Istanbul Medeniyet University, TR / Moderator: Rolf-Dieter Heuer CERN, CH

Gilady Elisra, IL / Jan Heine Twin Photonics GmbH, DE / Joern Hoepfner Quantum Machines, DE / Disha Mandaliya QubeDot GmbH, DE / Nissan Maskil Qarakal, IL / Oded Melamed Quantum Source, IL / Eugene Oleynik Kipu-Quantum, DE / Naz Pourmalek QVLS, DE / Marcel Quennet Quantistry GmbH, DE / Christian Schmitz EvolutionQ, DE / Nir Sharon Quantum X Labs, IL / Nikola Strah Classiq Technologies, DE / Daniel Thürk anabrid GmbH, DE / Lucas Wetzel anabrid, DE / Janik Wolters Advanced Quantum Light Sources, DE / Moderator: Jeanne Rubner Technical University of Munich, DE



UNIVERSITIES WITHOUT BORDERS: ADVANCING GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Gur Alroey University of Haifa, IL / Daniel Chamovitz Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, IL / Thierry Coulhon Institut Polytechnique de Paris, FR / Walter Rosenthal German Rectors' Conference, DE / Moderator: Laura Hassink Elsevier, NL

NEXT GEN FRONTIERS: EMERGING VOICES IN SCIENCE

Hamid A. Abud Russel Universität Heidelberg, DE / Shira Baror Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, DE / Ziv Ben-Zion University of Haifa, IL / Johanna Koehler Wageningen University, NL / Nour Mahmoud Eldabah Benha Faculty of Engineering. Benha University, EG / Shohya Matsuda The University of Osaka, JP / Mouna Sellami Mineralogy, RO / Raíza Tourinho Lima Centre for Data and Knowledge Integration for Health (CIDACS), BR / Teodora Žižak Astronomical Observatory of Belgrade, RS / Moderation: Elad Arad Columbia University, US / Asya Svirinovsky Arbeli Columbia University, US

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: INTRODUCING ITALY'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABILITY





MUSA—Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action is an Innovation Ecosystem funded by the Ministry of University and Research under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of Italy. At Global Connections, the MUSA researchers presented their results and connected with our international community on innovations and technologies shaping the cities of tomorrow.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: ITALY - OPENING

H.E. Fabrizio Bucci Embassy of Italy, Berlin, DE / **Gianluca Marchi** University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, IT / **Salvatore Torrisi** University of Milano-Bicocca, IT

DESIGNING TOMORROW: PROTOTYPES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Oscar Azzimonti University of Milano-Bicocca, IT / Marco Boffi
Università degli Studi di Milano, IT / Matteo Colleoni University of
Milano-Bicocca, IT / Beatrice De Santes University of MilanoBicocca, IT / Andrea Doldi University of Milano-Bicocca, IT /
Luca Ferrero University of Milano-Bicocca, IT / Paolo Galli University
of Milan-Bicocca, IT / Marco Giustra University of MilanoBicocca, IT / Gabriele Stancato Politecnico di Milano, IT

MEET THE RESEARCHERS: ETHICS, ECOSYSTEMS AND INNOVATION

Marco Boffi University of Milan, IT / Margherita Herold University of Milano-Bicocca, IT / Gianluca Marchi University of Modena, IT / Costanza Nardocci University of Milan, IT / Claudio Tebaldi Università Bocconi, IT

RESEARCH TO REALITY: ITALIAN STARTUPS FOR GLOBAL INNOVATION

Tommaso Castelli i²d, IT / Andrea Faviere GeneSys Bio, IT / Alessandro Franzese The Paac, IT / Pierluigi Freni LIFFT, IT / Andrea Orlando Vado. IT

INNOVATION PATHWAYS: FROM RESEARCH TO REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Nicola Redi Obloo Capital, IT / Valentina Tartari Stockholm School of Economics, SE / Norbert Holtkamp Stanford University, US / Moderator: Antoine Petit CNRS, FR





"EVERYONE THAT HAS TO DEAL WITH SCIENCE IS HERE—THIS IS QUITE UNIQUE."

Jean-Claude Burgelman Director of the Frontiers Planet Prize, CH



"SOME STRONG STATEMENTS WERE MADE, SOME OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE. AND THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE MEETINGS TO GO TO FOR ME."

David Harel President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, IL



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE EXECUTIVE TABLES

Executive Tables are private discussions between high-level experts who review the current state of specific challenges, identifying future strategies.

MEDICINE OF THE FUTURE: PRECISION HEALTH AND PRECEPTIVE CARE

An invite-only think-and-do session where cross-disciplinary experts explored how deep, multimodal data beyond basic omics—such as proteoforms, PTMs, glycosylation, spatial context, and dynamic structure—can unlock AI's full potential in precision medicine.



HELMHOLTZ



EU TECH LEADERSHIP: ALIGNING RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICIES

An invite-only discussion that brought leaders together to explore how Europe can strengthen tech sovereignty by better aligning EU and national innovation policies, valuing fundamental research across the full innovation chain and designing inclusive, flexible, impact-driven funding strategies.



EIT Higher Education Initiative

SPRIN-D

WHICH FUNDING SCHEMES **CAN SUPPORT EUROPEAN COLLABORATION?**

This Executive Table, organized by Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW), All European Academies (ALLEA), and Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften (Akademieunion), explored European funding for cross-border scientific cooperation.









DEEP DIVE STARTUPS: INNOVATION POLICY BEHIND THE SCENES

A confidential session that brought together founders, policymakers and innovation experts to examine how political strategy translates into effective innovation support, where the federal startup and scaleup strategy can have real impact, and what challenges arise in its implementation.



ADVANCING INNOVATION AT ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

An exclusive Executive Table that examined how Academic Medical Centers can strengthen their role in biomedical innovation by integrating clinical data, expertise and research infrastructures, and by leveraging key success factors to build open, collaborative innovation ecosystems.



THE TRANSATLANTIC BIG **SCIENCE CONFERENCE**

An invitation-only table that addressed the challenges and perspectives in global research alliances amid shifting realities, while advocating for the Transatlantic Big Science Initiative and the strengthening of existing partnerships. This exchange highlighted key ideas, current successes, potential new collaborations and relevant topics for the TTBSC 2026 conference in North America.





THE FUTURE OF CYBER **CHALLENGES AND COUNTER-MEASURES**

An exclusive session that explored the promise and risks of rapidly advancing Al-generated deepfake technology, bringing participants together to discuss its benefits and develop ethical frameworks for its safe and transparent use.

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

GLOBAL BIG SCIENCE: SHAPING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

An exclusive session where participants explored how largescale science infrastructures can evolve through new partner ships and institutional models to meet the challenges posed by their growing scale, complexity, and global context.



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: RESILIENT RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

This invitation-only discussion examined how fluctuations in US federal research funding influence global scientific collaboration—affecting mobility, facility access, and partnerships—while exploring alternative funding models and cross-border strategies to build resilient, future-proof research networks.



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

DATA INFRASTRUCTURES – CONNECTED & RESILIENT AI ENABLERS

An invite-only table that examined how research data infrastructures—key enablers of Al and Europe's digital sovereignty—can ensure resilience and sustainability by addressing their legal, technical, and social conditions.



DUAL USE RESEARCH SIDE BY SIDE OPEN SCIENCE: LESSONS LEARNED

An elite session that explored how dual use research can be conducted alongside open science, drawing on lessons from the U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories and fostering discussion to strengthen transatlantic collaborations.

HELMHOLTZ

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE AND FAIR AFRICA-EUROPE RESEARCH NETWORKS

During this exclusive discussion, experts explored how to strengthen Africa-Europe academic and research collaborations, overcome barriers to joint projects, and foster new connections in areas such as climate, health, sustainability, and food security.



REBUILDING SCIENCE IN UKRAINE

At this exclusive table, participants discussed the challenges facing Ukrainian science due to the war, exploring urgent support needs, international aid, research funding, and strategies to strengthen long-term resilience and global integration.

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PREVENTION: TURNING HEALTH INTO ECONOMIC VALUE

In this exclusive session, leaders from science, industry, and finance explored how research, entrepreneurship, and systems thinking can create scalable, investable business models for cancer prevention that deliver both health and economic value.



UNLOCKING GROWTH CAPITAL FOR EUROPE'S DEEPTECH SCALEUPS

At this elite table, start-up, investment, and policy experts discussed how to overcome the structural lack of growth capital for Europe's deeptech start-ups and explored solutions to build a resilient financing ecosystem for scaling innovation.



PROTOTYPING A NEW PARADIGM IN SECURE QUANTUM COMMUNICATION

At this exclusive session, experts explored how current ion trap quantum computers can enable novel security paradigms for future quantum communication, providing protection grounded in the laws of nature—even with few qubits and imperfect operations—beyond PQC and QKD.



PHILANTHROPY IN SCIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD

In a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the role of philanthropy in science is evolving. This invite-only session invited leaders of foundations to reflect on how global shifts shape their focus areas and strategies.

Heraeus

S I **6** 40



"IT'S GREAT WHEN ALL THESE PEOPLE COME TOGETHER-SCIENTISTS AND BUSINESS-MEN AND ARTISTS."

Katalin Karikó Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, University of Szeged, HU



"THERE COULD BE NO MORE MEANING-FUL WAY TO MARK THIS DAY, THE 9TH OF NOVEMBER, THAN BY BRINGING TOGETHER BRILLIANT MINDS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD."

Friedrich Merz Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, DE



SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

THE MOST GROUNDBREAKING **DISCOVERIES OF THE YEAR IN** 9 FIELDS:

LIFE SCIENCES PHYSICAL SCIENCES **ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES** ART AND SCIENCE **WOMEN'S* IMPACT AWARD EMERGING TALENTS SCIENCE START-UPS** SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

NOMINATE YOUR **SUPERSTARS**

Global Call 2026 opens **FEBRUARY 1ST**

> https://falling-walls.com/ global-call





Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

HOW DO WE FIND THEM? GLOBAL CALL

Leading individuals and institutions in science, research and innovation worldwide are asked to nominate the most pioneering discoveries.

GLOBAL FINALE BREAKTHROUGH DAY

On November 9, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the winners in all categories present their breakthroughs on stage, answering the question "What are the next walls to fall in science and society?".

PL · Advanced Biomedical Instrumentation Centre, HK · Africa Nazarene U., KE · African Alliance for Partner ship (AAP), US · African Inst. for Mathematical Sciences, GH · AgricFresh, CM · Al Proteins, US · Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, DE - Alcon CIBA VISION GMBH, DE - Alfaisal U., SA - alterR-studio, US - Alufacade world KE, KE - Amadeus Capital Partners, GB assade de la République fédérale d'Allemagne Rabat, MA • Ana Rajcevic, DE • Ana Rajcevic Studio (Berlin, DE) / Massachusetts Inst. of Technoogy - MIT Media Lab (USA), US - Ankur Capital, IN - Architectural Association, GB - ArgenTag, ÚS - Argonne National Lab., US - Arizona State U., US - Art Lab. Berlin, DE - Arya VC, TR - Assiut U., EG - Associação Native Scientist, PT - Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, CA - Atlantic Labs, DE - Australian Academy of Science, AU - Australian National U. AU - Azerbajan Technical U., AZ - b. value AG, DE - Badr U, in Cairo, EB - Barranquilla - 20, CO - BASF SE, DE - Ba kent U. - Faculty of Communication, TR - Beetananomaterials Pvt Ltd, IN - Bertin Innovation Agency, DE - Bertin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie, DE - Bertin U. Alliance, DE - Berner Fachhochschule, CH BHC Consulting, DE - Bielefeld U., DE - Bio 21 Molecular Science & Biotechnology Inst., AU - BioMed X, DE - Bionome Inovasyon ve Teknoloji Ltd., TR - Block Research Group, ETH Zurich, CH - BMBF, DE - BMW Found, Herbert Quandt, DE - Bocconi U., IT - Boehringer Ingelheim, DE - Bosch Research Fnd., DE - Boston U., US - BostonGene, US - Breathe MN, MN - build! Gründungszentrum Kärnten GmbH, AT - Bundesanstalt für Materjalforschung und - prüfung, DE - Business Kuopio, FI - C1 Green Chemicals AG, DE - Ca' Foscari U. of Venice, IT - California Inst. of Technology, US Zentrum Karinten limiter, J. - Bunnesanstati, tur Materiantorschung und - prutung, DE - Business kungen, Pt - Cl breder in Lemman, Pt - Cambridge Enterprise Limited (U. of Cambridge, E. G. - Gord Davils U. of Medicine and Pharmacy, R0 - Case Western Reserve U. _U.S. - Catalan Association of Scientific Communication, ES - Catalytic Communities, BR - CEDIA, EQ: - Center for Quantum Information and Quantum Biology, The U. of Daska, JP - Central European Inst. of Technology (EETTEC), C2 - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages and Inter-Communication BU. of Cambridge - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of Engineering, 6B - Centre for Languages - Departm of E FR - COLIPI GmbH, DE - College of Global Futures, US - Columbia U., US - Comenius U. 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Inc., Li - Dr. Trish Leigh & Co., US - DTU - Technical U. of Demark, DK - East CN Normal U., Handelskammer, SE - Diego Ramirez Revilla, ES - Digital Innovation Hub Düsseldor/(Rheinland GmbH, DE - Dr Claudia Schnugg, AT - DR Utlight Corp. Inc., IL - Dr. Trish Leigh & Co., US - DTU - Technical U. of Denmark, DK - East CN Normal U., CN - Ecoxytem Venture Builder, ID - Edelweiss Innovation GmbH, DE - Enhabagia de la Republica Federal Rep. of Dermany Bangkok, TH - Emhassy of the Federal Rep. of Dermany Ready of Leight (The Company Bangkok) The Federal Rep. of Dermany Ready of the Federal Rep. of Dermany Wellington, NY - Emmerge Brais, IBR - Empa Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, OH - Environmental Transformation Movement of Flimit [ETM Finit], US - Ersamsum Mc, NL - Ersamsum V. Rotherdam, NL - ERCIYES TEXNOPARK AS, TR. - ESMT Berlin, GA - ESPIC Paris - PSL, FR - ETM Zürich, CH - EURÄXESS - Researchers in Motion, BE - European Commission, BE - European Molecular Biology Laboratory [EMBL, DE - Extantis Capita, DE - Fabolage de Ciências, University of Uskop, PT - Faculdade (Ciencias, University) of Uskop, PT - Faculdade (Ciencias Flixfounders 3 GmbH & Co. KG, DE - Forman Christian College Pakistan - School of Management, PK - Forrest Research Found., AU - Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, DE - Found. for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID), IN - Founderland gUG, DE -Fraunhofer Inst. Austria, AT - Free U. of Brussels, BE - Freelancer International Pty Ltd, AU - Freie U. Berlin, DE - French Embassy in Germany, FR - French National Center for Scientific Research, FR - Friedrich Naumann Found. - Global Innovation Hub Taiwan, TW - Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, DE - Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, DE - Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, DE - Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Deart-Stiftung, DE - Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Stiftung, DE - Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit, ZA - Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung für d German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), DE - German Academic Exchange Service Benin, BJ - German Academic Exchange Service China, CN - German Academic Exchange Service Greece, GR - German Academic Exchange Service Taiwan, TW - German Academic Exchange Service Tunisia, TN - German Acedemic Exchange Service Czech Republic, CZ - German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), DE - German Center for Research and Innovation San Francisco, US - German Center for Research and Innovation San Francisco, U Centre for Research and Innovation [DWIH] New York, US - German Centre for Research and Innovation [DWIH] Tokyo, JP - German Chamber of Commerce in China – South & Southwest, CN - German Consulate General Hong Kong, HK - German Embassy of Madrid, ES -German Embassy Tbilisi, GE - German Jordanian U., 10 - G-Force, SK - GMIT - German-Mongolian Inst. for Resources and Technology, MN - Goethe-Inst., DE - Goethe-U. Frankfurt, DE - Government of Canada, CA - Government of Queensland, AU - Green Africa Youth Organization, GH - green dream, Iraq - Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID), VN - greenCHEM, DE - GRIDX, AR - Grown in Haiti, HT - Grünhof GmbH, DE - SSI Helmholtzzentrum fuer Schwerionenforschung GmbH, DE - Hamburg U. of Fine Arts, DE - Hanai, US - Hanai, US - Harnainya larvard U., US - Hashemite U., KE - Heidelberg Center para América Latina, DE - Heidelberg Karlsruhe Research Partnership, DE - Heidelberg U., DE - HEIG, CH - Hellenic Open U., GR - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, DE - Helmholtz Zentrum München, DE - Helve tia Institute for Science and Innovation, CH - Hesotech GmbH automatisieren - visualisieren - visualisieren, DE - High Tech Campus Villach, AT - High-Tech Gründerfonds, DE - HK U. of Science and Technology Guangzhou, CN - Hochschule der Medien / Verpackungstechnik, DE - Hokkaido U. Inst. for the Advancement of Graduate Education, JP - Howard Hughes Medical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. Hughes Hedical Inst. - U of Chicago - Inst. - U of C Inst. für Materialchemie, Technische U. Wien, A. T. Inst. für Medizinnische Mikrobiologie und Hygiene, UNIVERSITÄTSENDIZIN der Johannes Gutenberg-U. Mainz, DE - Inst. of Health Care Engineering with European Testing Center of Medizin Center of Medizin Schwische U. Wien, A. T. Inst. für Medizinnische Mikrobiologie und Hygiene, UNIVERSITÄTSENDIZIN der Johannes Gutenberg-U. Mainz, DE - Inst. of Health Care Engineering with European Testing Center of Medizinal Devices, A. T. Institute of Zoology, Department of Ecosystem Management, Climate and Biodiversity, BOKU U. Vienna, A.T. Inst. Superior Técnico, PT - Invest Nova Scotia, CA - INIVES- International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists, DE - Isparta Sileyman Demirel U., TR - Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, IT - TÜ Çekirdek Acceleration Program, TR - Izmir Sciencepark, TR - Jamieson Trauma Inst. / Oueenstand U. of Technology, Au - Jilin u., C. N. - Johannes Gutenberg U., Mainz, DE - Joy Offere - RW, JP - External Trade Org., DE - Kartsruhe Inst. of Technology, DE - Kützerbe Network of Science and Technology, SA - King George's Medical U., IN- KMITL - King Mongkut's Inst. of Technology, Ladkrabang, TH - Körber-Stiftung, DE - KIT Innovation, KTH Royal Inst. of Technology, SE - KUL usewn, BE - Kua'äina Ulu'Auamo (KJUA), US - Kuopio Region Finnchamps, FI - L'OT ENTREPRISE, CM - Lamu County Government, KE - Laura Benetton, BB - Leibniz Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Benetton, BB - Leibniz Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Technology, Laura Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Crystal Growth, DE - Leibniz Inst. of Crystal Gr Sciences Ontario, CA - LIFTT, IT - LIFTT Venture, IT - Lightchain Capital, US - Linköping U., SE - London School of Economics, GB - LOOP For Science & Technology, MA - LPICM, CNRS, Ecole polytechnique, IP Paris, FR - LUANAR Lilongwe U. of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MW -Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft, AT - LYBOTICS, LY - Mais Diferenças, BR - Makuru Glean Stoves, KE - Maranhão Inst. of Education, Science and Technology - IEMA, BR - Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, US - MassVentures, US - Max Planck Inst. for the Science of Light, DE - Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften e. V., DE - Max-Planck-Inst. für Astronomie, DE - McGill U., CA - McMaster U., CA - McCAM - Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb, TN - Medical U. of Vienna, AT - Medizinische U. Wien, AT - Middle East Technical U. (Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesil, TR - Midlands State U., ZW - Milner Therapeutics Inst., U. of Cambridge, GB - Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (H. kina Whakatutuki), NZ - Ministry of Économy and Development (Government of Mongolia), MN - Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, Oman, OM - MIT, US - MITO Technology, IT - Moblasted Oy, FI - Modern College of Business & Science, OM - Mongolia Press, MN - Mount Saint Vincent U., CA - Museum of Science, Boston, US - Nam-Hai Hoang, DE - National Academies Press, US - National Library of Technology, CZ - National Museum of Natural Sciences Madrid [MNCN], ES - National U. of Science and Technology "MISIS, RU - National U. of SG, SG - Natural History Museum, GB - Nazarbayev Intellectual School of Physics and Mathematics in Almaty, KZ - Nazarbayev Intellectual School Olraisk, Nazarbayev Intellectual School Olraisk, KZ - Nazarbayev Intellectual School Olraisk, Nazarbayev GmH, AT - Ontario Technical U., CA - Open Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, U.S - Startup International, U.S - Oregon Science Teachers Association, Christian U. [PCU], ID - Physical Society of Hong Kong, HK - Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, DE - Pietro Ciriache, GB - Planet A Ventures, DE - Polithub, IT - Politecnico di Bari, IT - Polo - Research Laboratories for Emerging Technologies in Cooling and Thermophysics BR - Pontificia U. Catolica de Chile, CL - Pontificia U. Catolica de Valparaíso, CL - Potsdam Inst. for Climate Impact Research, DE - Potsdam Science Park - Standortmanagement Golm GmbH, DE - Presidential School in Termez, UZ - pro science, PL - Pro2Future GmbH, P Queen's U., D.A. Queenstall U. of Technology, AT -RCCC - Rubinstein Center for Constitutional Challenges, I. - REACH Euregio Start-Up Center, DE - Reichman U.y, IL - Research and Health Science Education, CA - Research For Interdisciplinary Studies & Epidemiologica Network, US - Riga Technical U., UY - RMIT U., AU - Robertina Selajance, I Robbit S & MORE, MA - Royal Society Technology, NZ - Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, SZ - Royalume du Marc. - Ademie Hassaan II des Sciences est Techniques, MA - Ruby II. Swedish Academy of Sciences, SZ - Sastamonical U., III. A SAMIRA & LAUOUA, ISC - Samira Allacual Beginn, ES - Sasta, SZ - Sastamonical U., III. - Saladardiu U.- ETALL, IU. C. SAMIRA & LAUOUA, ISC - Samira Allacual Beginn, ES - Sasta, SZ - Sastamonical U. of Technology, III. SAMIRA & LAUOUA, ISC - Sastamonical U. of Technology, III. SAMIRA & LAUOUA, eru, PE - School of Management Fribourg, CH - Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald Landesverband Hamburg e. V. (International Sustainability Academy), DE - Science & Startups for Future / Freie U. Berlin, DE - Science Abroad, IL - Science Creates Ventures, GB v Hub, AT - Scientifica Venture Capital, IT - SCVC, GB - SEBBM, ES - Sequerciani Arte Clima, CH - SF500, AR - SGInnovate, SG - Shanghai Jiao Tong U., CN - Sharifah AlEssa Trading, AE - She-Innovate Initiative for Women and Girls, RW - Sheno ogy, PL - Slovak Organisation for Research and Development Activities, SK - Social Innovation Teams, IT - SOWA, SK - Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), ES - Springer Nature, DF - SRM Marging U.G. - Stanford U., US - Stanf more U., KE - Studio Chantal Pisarzowski, DE - Studio Molga, G. BB - Study Adelaide, AU - Study Queensland, AU - Sutsain 287, BW - Sustain DE - Technische U. Braunschweig, DE - Technische U. Darmstadt, DE - Technische U. Dramstadt, DE - Technische U. Breaden, DE - Technische U. Wien, AT - TechnoValley - U. of Business and Technology (UBT), SA - Tel-Aviv U., IL - Temerty Faculty of Medicine – U. of Toronto, CA - The 22 Fund, US - The Actuator Operations Ltd., AU - The Chinese U. of HK, HK - The Hashemite U., JO - The HK Polytechnic U., HK - The Hong Kong U. of Science and Technology (Guangzhou), CN - The Inga Fdn., US - The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, IL - The Israel Young Academy, IL - The Leadership Forum - Empowering Future Leaders, PL - The New York Academy of Sciences, US - The Scripps Research Inst., US - The U.of Adelaide, AU - The U. of HK, HK. The U. of Manchester, GB - The U. of Manitoba, CA - The U. of Pretoria, ZA - Thermulon, GB - TIIAME MTU, UZ - Tohoku Forum for Creativity, JP - Tohoku U., JP - Tohoku U. Research Management Center, JP - Tokyo Electron Lim [TEL], JP - Tournal - Trier U., DE -Tsinghua U., CN - TTI Jordan, JO - TU Dortmund U., DE - TU Dresden, DE - TU Graz, AT - TUM Venture Lab FAB, DE - TUM Venture Labs Food/Agro/Biotech, DE - TUM Venture Labs Management gGmbH, DE - UC Davis, US - URBH - Euromed U. of Fes, MA - ULUTEK TECHNUPARK, TR - Unicorn Factory Lisboa, PT - United States international U., UEU-JAPRICA, RE - U. Andrés Bello, CL - U, Cientifica del Sur Lima, PE - U. Complutense de Madridi, ES - U. de Costa Rica, CR - U. de San Andres, AR - U. Politècnica de Madrid and Centro de Innovacion y local coloration (per local ventre), US - U. de Santal ventre de de Unite UISFO, US - U. de Santal ventre de de Unite UISFO, US - U. de Santal ventre de de Unite UISFO, US - U. de Santal ventre de de Unite UISFO, US - U. de Santal ventre de Vision (per local ventre de Vision Federal de Itajubá, BR · U. Federal de Minas Gerais, BR · U. Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, IT · U. Rey Juan Carlos, ES · Ú. di Pavia, IT · U. Airlangga, ID · U. Indonesia, ID · U. Kristen Petra, ID · U. Bremen, DE · U. Duisburg-Essen DE · U. Fribourg, CH · U. Heidelberg, DE · U. Klagenfurt, AT · U. Konstanz, DE · U. Münster, DE · U. Siegen, DE · U. Stuttgart, DE · U. Chouaib Doukkali, MA · U. de Genève, CH · U. de Montréal, CA · U. de Neuchâtel, CH · U. de Tunis El Manar, TN - U. Mohammed V - Faculté des Sciences Rabat, MA - U. Malaya, MY - U. College London, GB - U. Duisburg-Essen, DE - U. for Development Studies, GH - U. Fnd. for Innovation, IT - U. Malaya, MY - U. Medical Center Göttingen, DE - U. Medical Center Groningen, NL - U. of Adelaide, AU - U. Of Alberta, CA - U. of Alicante, ES - U. of Antananarivo, MG - U. of Augsburg, DE - U. of Bergamo, IT - U. of Bonn, DE - U. of Botswana, BW - U. of Bristol, GB - U. of California Berkeley, US - U. of Cambridge – Department of Engineering, GB - U. of Cologne, DE - U. of Colorado-Boulder, US - U. of Copenhagen, DK - U. of Dodoma, TZ · U. of Eastern Finland, FI · U. of Edinburgh and CNRS Sorbonne U., GB · U. of Erfurt, DE · U. of Freiburg, DE · U. of Galway, IE · U. of Ghana, GH · U. of Göttingen, DE · U. of Güelph, CA · U. of Hertfordshore, GB - U. of Ibadan, NG - U. of Icelend, IS - U. of Johannesburg - 20 Years Our Future. Reimagined., ZA - U. of Konstanz, DE - U. of Manchester, GB - U. of Manitoba, CA - U. of Melbourne, AU - U. of Milano-Bicocca, IT - U. Of Minnesota, US - U. of Padua, IT - U. of Port Harcourt, NG - U. of Potsdam, DE - U. of Rajshahi, BD - U. of South Australia, AU - U. of South Queensland, AU - U. of Stuttgart, DE - U. of Sulaimani, IQ - U. of Sussex, GB - U. of Tartu, EE - U. of Tasmania, AU - U. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, US - U. of Toronto, CA - U. of Tsukuba, JP - U. of Victoria, CA - U. of Vienna, AT - U. of Winnipeg, CA - U. of Wroclaw, PL - U. of Wuppertal, DE - U. of Zurich, CH - U. POLITEHNICA Bucharest, RO - UnternehmerTUM, DE - UR Inst., HR - UTFPR, BR - Vale Inst. of Technology, BR - Valerie Schuster, Falling Walls Advisory Board, CH - VIB, BE - Visionaries Tomorrow, DE · Volkswagen Fdn., DE · VU Amsterdam, NL · Wadhwani Inst.for Artificial Intelligence, IN · Western Balkans U., AL · Wilhelm und Else Heraeus-Stiftung, DE · Women in Nuclear Australia, AU · Woven Fdn., NL · Wroclaw Academic Hub, PL · Wroclaw Medical U., PL · Wroclaw U. of Economics, PL · Wroclaw U. of Science and Technology, PL · XISTA Ventures, AT · Yissum, The Technology Transfer Company of The Hebrew U., IL · Youth Climate Council Ghana, GH · Youth In Sustainable Agroallied Empower Zero Carbon Capital, GB · Zürcher Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW), CH · Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHAK), CH · ZOLLHOF Tech, Incubator, DE · ZWI

Zentrum für Wissens- und Innovationstransfer GmbH. AT

Aalborg U., DK · AATec Medical GmbH, DE · Academia Nacional de Ciencias Costa Rica, CR · Academy of Medical Sciences in Vietnam, VN · ACCESS Benin BJ - Act of Hope community organization, KE - Acutte Energies, KE - Adam Mickiewicz U. in Poznar

RESULTS OF THE GLOBAL CALL 2025 4.272 **NOMINATIONS**

from 137 countries and 641 institutions

WHO CHOOSES THE **BREAKTHROUGHS?**

INTERNATIONAL **JURIES**

Nine juries comprised of prominent scholars and academics select the Science Breakthroughs of the Year in each category.

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

JURY MEMBERS ALL CATEGORIES

96 judges—prominent experts in their fields—identify the most exceptional contributions in each category.

LIFE SCIENCES

Amy Bernard — Kavli, US

Yoke-Fun Chan — University Malaya, MY

Chuan He — University of Chicago, US

Ricarda Gaentzsch — IQVIA, US

 ${\bf Sirpa\ Jalkanen}-{\bf University\ of\ Turku,\ FI}$

Rob Knight — UC San Diego, US

Michael Platten — German Cancer Research Center, DE

Nicole Rinehart — Monash University, AU

Michael Schütz — Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, AU

Peter Seeberger — Max Planck Institute, DE

Matthias Tschöp — Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, DE

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Ricky Ang — Singapore University of Technology and Design, SG

Thomas Elsaesser — Max-Born-Institut, DE

Erna Frins — University of the Republic Uruguay, UY

JoAnne Hewett — Brookhaven National Lab, US

Stefan Jorda — Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, DE

Tammy Ma — Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, US

Suzana Nunes — KAUST. SA

Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop — The University of Queensland, AU

Cather Simpson — University of Auckland, NZ

Saw Wai Hla — Ohio University / Argonne National Laboratory, US

Ian Walmsley — Imperial College London, GB

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Kai Bongs — German Aerospace Center / Ulm University, DE

Hui-Ming Cheng — Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials

Science, CN

Norbert Holtkamp — SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, US

Jinxing Li — Michigan State University, US

Faith Njoki Karanja — University of Nairobi, KE

Rokia Raslan — University College London, GB

Jamie Paik — EPFL, CH

Tamlyn Sasha Naidu — University of Copenhagen, DK

Cao Thang Dinh — Queen's University, CA

Guihua Yu — University of Texas at Austin, US

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

Rajeev Bhargava — Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, IN

Pablo Boczkowski — Northwestern University, US

Emilie Caspar — Ghent University, BE

Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln — WZB Berlin Social Science Center, DE

Martin Kahanec — Central European University, AT

Nora Kottmann — Volkswagen Stiftung, DE

Genoveva Martí — University of Barcelona, ES

Louise McNally Seifert — Universitat Pompeu Fabra, ES

Dilip Menon — University of Witwatersrand, ZA

Rafael Prieto-Curiel — Complexity Science Hub, AT

Anu Realo — University of Warwick, GB

Yasemin Soysal — WZB Berlin, DE

ART & SCIENCE

Kat Austen - Studio Austen / UCL. GB

Elaine Chew — King's College London, GB

Carsten Hucho — Paul Drude Institut, DE

Christophe de Jaeger — Gluon, FR

Yuko Hasegawa — 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art,

Kanazawa, JP

Daniel Jay — Tufts University, US

Bettina Kames — LAS Art Foundation, DE

Juliet Koss — Scripps College, US

Christina Landbrecht — Schering Stiftung, DE

Marcus Lobbes — Academy for Theatre and Digitality, DE

Tiange Wang — IDEO. US

LAB

Alice Aiken — Dalhousie University, CA

Gabriele Hermani — BMFTR. DE

Barbara Ischinger — University of Cologne, DE

Nesrine el Abed — RAK Art Foundation, AE

Kathrin Kohs — DFG. DE

Pewee Koluhba — KAUST. SA

Valerie Makoge — IMPM, CH

Wolfgang Marguardt — RWTH Aachen University. DE

Swati Meherishi — Springer Nature, DE

Céline Nauer — Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, DE

Ursula Paintner — DAAD. DE

Eusebio Scornavacca — Arizona State University, US

Sven Wagner — Sartorius, DE

VENTURE

Mali Baum — WLOUNGE, DE

Luca Beverina — University of Milano-Bicocca, IT

Klemens Brunner — Heraeus Group, DE

Iris ten Have — Visionaries Tomorrow, NL

Stefan von Holtzbrinck — Holtzbrinck, DE

Inga vom Holtz-UnternehmerTUM, DE

Pawel Konzal — Chevron Technology Ventures, US

Detley Mennerich — Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund, DE

Cyriac Roeding — EARLI, DE

Milena Stoycheva — The Edge – Research & Business Development, BG

Andrew Tauhert — XPRIZE Foundation, US

Andrea Tüttenberg — Actitrexx, DE

Andreas Zaby — SPRIND, DE

ENGAGE

Olaf Brock — Hannover Re Foundation, DE

Badin Borde — Siemens Stiftung, DE

Evrim Bunn — U.S. Fire Administration / FEMA / DHS. US

Apple Chui — The Chinese University of Hong Kong, HK

Mario Andres de Leo Winkler — Metropolitan Autonomous University, MX

Abraham Mamela — Alliance for African Partnership, US

Jeanne Rubner — Technical University of Munich, DE

Svenja Seefeldt — Hannover Re Foundation, DE

Jylana Sheats — Tulane University, US

Melanie Smallman — University College London, GB

WOMENS IMPACT AWARD

Rana Dajani — Hashemite University, JO

Domiziana Francescon — Elsevier Foundation, NL

Annabella Hüfler-Fick — Volkswagen Foundation, DE

Fiona Moejes — Mawazo Institute, KE

Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades — RSL Revolutionary Labs Ltd /

Promed Bioscience Ltd, GB

Ylann Schemm — Elsevier Foundation, NL

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

JURY CHAIRS



LIFE SCIENCES
Jury Chair
MICHAEL SCHUETZ
Queensland University of
Technology, AU



PHYSICAL SCIENCES
Jury Chair
IAN WALMSLEY
Imperial College London, GB



ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Jury Chair
ROKIA RASLAN
University College London, GB



SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

Jury Chair
GENOVEVA MARTI
University of Barcelona, ES



ART & SCIENCE
Jury Chair
JULIET KOSS
Scripps College, US



FALLING WALLS VENTURE Jury Chair STEFAN VON HOLTZBRINCK Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, DE



FALLING WALLS LAB Jury Chair WOLFGANG MARQUARDT Forschuungszentrum Jülich, DE



WOMEN'S IMPACT AWARD YLANN SCHEMM Elsevier Foundation, NL



AWARD
ANNABELLA HÜFLER-FICK
Volkswagen Foundation, DE



FALLING WALLS ENGAGE Jury Chair MELANIE SMALLMAN University College London, GB



FALLING WALLS ENGAGE Jury Co-Chair OLAF BROCK Hannover Re Foundation. DE

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2025

LIFE SCIENCES



BREAKING THE WALL OF INVISIBLE OVULATION

MELINA SCHUH, Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences, DE

Melina Schuh has developed the first live-imaging platform to visualise ovulation in real time at the cellular level. Her breakthrough reveals the molecular mechanisms of this process, opening new paths in fertility research, women's health and the development of non-hormonal contraceptives. **Jury Chair: Michael Schuetz** Queensland University of Technology, AU

About the Life Sciences category: The Life Sciences jury focuses on recognising the most ground-breaking advancements in the field. This category celebrates the pioneering contributions to the understanding of living systems, encompassing areas such as biology, neuroscience and zoology, with a strong emphasis on addressing the world's most critical challenges through innovative research.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES



BREAKING THE WALL OF PRACTICAL SATELLITE QKD

JIAN-WEI PAN, University of Science and Technology of China, CN

Jian-Wei Pan and his team developed the world's first quantum microsatellite for real-time quantum key distribution (QKD) using mobile ground stations. This innovation overcomes the limitations of terrestrial QKD and enables secure global communication networks for the future. **Jury Chair: Ian Walmsley**, Imperial College London, GB

About the Physical Sciences category: The Physical Sciences jury focuses on identifying the most groundbreaking advancements in the field. The category celebrates pioneering contributions to the understanding of natural phenomena, encompassing areas such as chemistry, physics and astronomy, with a strong emphasis on addressing the world's most critical challenges through innovative research.

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2025

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY



BREAKING THE WALL OF HIGH-POWER AI NEEDS

LU FANG, Tsinghua University, CN

Lu Fang paved the way for photonic AI with the "Taichi" chip—a breakthrough architecture offering extreme energy efficiency and computational power for AI. Her approach transforms the shift from electronic to photonic data processing, laying the groundwork for a sustainable, intelligent future. **Jury Chair: Rokia Raslan** University College London, GB

About the Engineering & Technology category: The Engineering & Technology jury focuses on identifying innovative solutions and transformative technologies that address global challenges and revolutionise industries. This category celebrates groundbreaking advancements that redefine technological boundaries and create impactful solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES



BREAKING THE WALL OF WAR AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN

MYRIAM DENOV, McGill University, CA

Myriam Denov breaks the silence surrounding children born of sexual violence in war. Her participatory approach involves affected youth as co-researchers and develops strategies for policy and practice to strengthen the rights and opportunities of these children worldwide.

Jury Chair: Genoveva Marti University of Barcelona, ES

About the Social Sciences & Humanities category: The Social Sciences & Humanities jury focuses on recognising groundbreaking advances in understanding human society and interpersonal relationships. This category highlights pioneering contributions in fields such as politics, economics and philosophy, emphasising innovative research that addresses the world's most significant challenges.

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2025

ART & SCIENCE



BREAKING THE WALL OF ECOLOGICAL HEALING THROUGH SOUND

MARCO BAROTTI, Marco Barotti Studio, IT

With the artwork Coral Sonic Resilience, Marco Barotti merges art and science: 3D-printed, solar-powered sculptures emit the sounds of healthy coral reefs into damaged ecosystems to support their regeneration. This project transforms art into an active tool for environmental protection. **Jury Chair: Juliet Koss** Scripps College, US

About the Art & Science category: The Art & Science jury focuses on recognising groundbreaking projects at the intersection of artistic expression and scientific discovery. This category celebrates innovative works by artists whose creations, inspired by science, illuminate societal issues, explore natural phenomena or capture the wonder of scientific breakthroughs, highlighting the profound connection between these complementary disciplines.

WOMEN'S IMPACT AWARD



BREAKING THE WALL OF HEALTHY AGEING IN WOMEN

ÂNGELA GONÇALVES, GERMAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER (DKFZ), PT

Ângela Gonçalves leads research on healthy ageing and the evolution of somatic mutations to improve cancer outcomes. Combining AI, molecular biology and clinical insight, she develops treatment for endometriosis, ovarian cancer and menopause. Jury: Ylann Schemm Elsevier Foundation, NL; Domiziana Francescon Elsevier Foundation, NL; Annabella Hüfler-Fick Volkswagen Foundation, DE; Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades RSL Revolutionary Labs Ltd, CY; Fiona Moejes Mawazo Institute, KE; Rana Dajani Hashemite University, JO

About the Women's Impact Award: The Women's Impact Award recognises women in science whose research aligns with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting ground-breaking research and advancing gender equality in science.

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2025

SCIENCE START-UPS FALLING WALLS VENTURE



BREAKING THE WALL OF INEFFICIENT AI COMPUTATION

WINNER: JAMES SPALL, Lumai, GB

James Spall is co-founder and CTO of Lumai, an Oxford University spinout developing a 3D optical processor for AI acceleration that offers orders-of-magnitude improvements in energy efficiency. Their technology not only enables but vastly accelerates a whole range of AI-driven applications at scale and is based on many years of groundbreaking research.

Jury Chair: Stefan von Holtzbrinck Holtzbrinck, DE

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT FALLING WALLS ENGAGE



BREAKING THE WALL OF RESTORATION WITH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

WINNER: NONDAS FERREIRA DA SILVA, Instituto New Era, BR

This year's Falling Walls Engage Breakthrough of the Year is Nondas Ferreira da Silva from the Instituto New Era in Brazil. His community-driven initiative Seeds of Change empowers traditional communities and indigenous Xacriabá people to restore degraded ecosystems in Brazil's Cerrado biome, integrating agroforestry, citizen science and sustainable economic models to enhance climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. Through hands-on training, participatory research and local partnerships, the project bridges science and community action to create environmental and social impact.

Jury Chair: Melanie Smallman University College London, GB

EMERGING TALENTS FALLING WALLS LAB



BREAKING THE WALL OF MOLECULAR MONOTONY

WINNER: KAREN DE LA VEGA-HERNÁNDEZ, Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), ES

Karen de la Vega-Hernández has developed a novel reagent and skeletal editing strategy that enables the structural and functional diversification of drug molecules at late stages. This breakthrough accelerates drug discovery, allowing rapid and sustainable modification of molecular cores to create new and improved therapeutic candidates.

Jury Chair: Wolfgang Marquardt Forschungszentrum Jülich, DE

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

BREAKTHROUGH FORUM



During the Breakthrough
Forum, top scientists discuss
with the audience questions
such as: "What are the social
and societal consequences of
these advances?"



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES: SOCIETAL DIMENSIONS OF BREAKTHROUGHS

John Sutherland Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, UK / Alicia Johnson Baker Institute for Public Policy, US / Moderator: Elodie Chabrol Pint of Science, GB





FUTURE PERSPECTIVES: SOCIETAL DIMENSIONS OF BREAKTHROUGHS

Christine Custis Institute for Advanced Study, US Stephen Quake Stanford University, US / Moderator: Elodie Chabrol Pint of Science. GB





FUTURE PERSPECTIVES: SOCIETAL DIMENSIONS OF BREAKTHROUGHS

Anastasia Khvorova, UMass Chan Medical School, US / Erica Palma Kimmerling Association of Science and Technology Centers, US / Moderator: Elodie Chabrol Pint of Science, GB





BREAKTHROUGH SPEAKERS IN DIALOGUE

SPACE BUSINESS LUNCH TALK









This Lunch Talk with ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer and ESA astrophysicist Miho Janvier gave a selected group of participants the chance to discuss the future of space travel, economic opportunities, and the connection between science, business, and society.

in cooperation with





FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

THOUGHT LEADERS AND BREAKTHROUGH SPEAKERS



BREAKING THE WALL OF GENETIC BARRIERS KATALIN KARIKÓ University of Szeged / University of Pennsylvania (Emerita), HU/US



BREAKING THE WALL OF LIFE'S ORIGIN JOHN SUTHERLAND Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, GB



BREAKING THE WALL OF MAPPING THE BODY STEPHEN QUAKE Stanford University, US



BREAKING THE WALL OF OUR SUN'S MYSTERIES MIHO JANVIER European Space Agency, NL



BREAKING THE WALL OF TRADITIONAL EDUCATION PETER SCHLOSSER Arizona State University, US



BREAKING THE WALL OF FUTURE CITIES CARLO RATTI Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sensible City Lab / Carlo Ratti Association, US



BREAKING THE WALL OF RNA THERAPEUTICS ANASTASIA KHVOROVA UMass Chan Medical School, US



CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES

ZAHRA KALANTARI

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, SE

BREAKING THE WALL OF



IN CONVERSATION WITH MATTHIAS MAURER
MATTHIAS MAURER European Astronaut Centre, Cologne, DE
URMILA CHADAYAMMURI Nature, DE

Moderated by Urmila Chadayammuri, the Astronomy & Astrophysics Editor at Nature, German astronaut Matthias Maurer shares firsthand the emotional, scientific and personal impacts of living and working in orbit.



"PEOPLE AND SCIENCE WORKING TOGETHER—THAT IS THE FUTURE."

Matthias Maurer Astronaut, European Space Agency and European Astronaut Centre, Cologne, DE



"IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF MANY, MANY IDEAS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SHAPE THE FUTURE."

Wolfgang Marquardt Lab Jury Chair, RWTH Aachen, DE





MEDIA COVERAGE

REPRESENTED MEDIA FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

alex <u>a</u> ndria	WABC	Capital	Deutschlandradio	Deutsche Welle
DIE	DGP Dziennik Gazeta Prawna	Dnews	Forschung & Lehre	Frankfurter Allgemeine zeitung für deutschland
Handelsblatt	Klimafakten	Le Nouvelliste	manager magazin	Neue Zürcher Zeitung
POLITICO	Qiio Magazin	гЬЬ	(rnd) RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland	SCIENCE BUSINESS [®]
SPACE 18	Spektrum der Wissenschaft	SPRINGER NATURE	SZ DOSSIER	TABLE BRIEFINGS
TAGESSPIEGEL BACKGROUND	VentureTV	DER WIARDA BLOG	ZME SCIENCE	

OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS THANK YOU!





Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care





















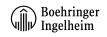






















CHAN ZUCKERBERG
Biohub Network































































































































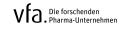






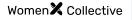
















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andreas.kosmidera
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SCIENCEPRENEURSHIP AS A DRIVER FOR TRANSFER AND INNO-VATION IN SCIENCE

Young Entrepreneurs in Science (YES) is a training and education programme that imparts entrepreneurial thinking and acting in science. The initiative contributes to a cultural shift towards greater enthusiasm for startups and the entrepreneurial spirit, promoting impactful research in Germany and beyond.

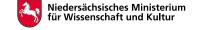
YES works with a clear impact logic and follows a systemic, participatory and needs-based approach. We offer interactive online and in-person workshops that foster entrepreneurial mindsets and skills among PhDs, postdocs and master's students. For academic institutions, we train entrepreneurship and transfer officers to become qualified trainers in entrepreneurship education and idea scouting.

With funding from the:











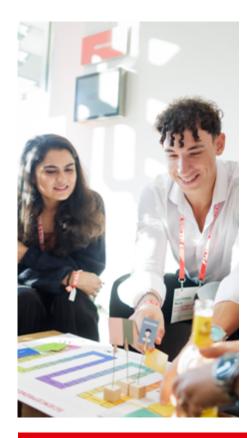
CREATING IMPACTFUL INNOVATION—ACROSS BORDERS

Building on seven years of experience, Young Entrepreneurs in Science (YES) has recently scaled its positive impact to the international level. Through tailored workshops and training programmes, YES unlocks entrepreneurial potential, turns promising ideas into impactful solutions, and empowers academic staff to support sciencepreneurial careers—while building an international network for innovation and sciencepreneurship.

Unlock the innovation potential of your scientists and elevate sciencepreneurship within your institution. Join us in shaping a future where research creates real-world impact.

Let's amplify our impact—together!







"YES NOT ONLY OFFERS HANDS-ON TRAINING AND INSPIRATION—IT ALSO BUILDS A CROSS-UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY WHERE PHDS CONNECT WITH PEERS AND MENTORS BEYOND THEIR OWN DISCIPLINES AND INSTITUTIONS. THAT KIND OF EARLY, EMPOWERING EXPOSURE IS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED MORE OF."

Dr Isabelle Schiffer YES Advisory Board



Falling Walls Science Summit is a part of Berlin Science Week

BERLIN SCIENCE WEEK-THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Berlin Science Week breaks science out of institutions and into the city. Every year from 1—10 November, it transforms Berlin into a playground of scientific ideas with hundreds of free events.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the 2025 festival edition brought together more than 200 partner organisations with 35,000 festival participants. Guided by the theme "Beyond Now," the festival explored how science could help overcome the crises of the present and open up new perspectives for the future.

Through a citywide programme of over 350 events at more than 80 locations, including the two Festival Hubs — CAMPUS (1–2 November) at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin and FORUM (7–9 November) at Holzmarkt 25 — Berlin Science Week invited participants to experience cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary exchange, and artistic engagement.

10 DAYS 200+
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

350+

700+

35,000 VISITERS

40M+

2M SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

2025 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



Exhibition: Beyond Us

For its 10th anniversary, Berlin Science Week presented Beyond Us, its debut exhibition featuring the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year 2025 in Art & Science, Marco Barotti. The exhibition showcased works exploring the precarity of coral reefs and the need for harmony with the underwater world, including his award-winning project, Coral Sonic Resilience.



Festival Hubs

At the festival's heart were two hubs: CAM-PUS, a hands-on science space at the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, and FORUM at Holzmarkt 25, a transdisciplinary hub. Both offered exhibitions, workshops, stages, and networking, allowing visitors to experience science up close while giving scientific institutions the opportunity to test interactive ways of presenting their work.



Inspiration Stage

New this year was the Inspiration Stage at CAMPUS, featuring short popular science talks on topics ranging from inequality research and healthy ageing to quantum physics. Designed for early-career researchers looking to present their work to an engaged, non-specialist audience, these TED-talk style sessions connected the public with emerging voices driving the international science scene in Berlin and beyond.



Citywide Programme

The Citywide Programme showcased
Berlin's vibrant science scene, with over 100
institutions opening the doors to universities, research centres, museums, and cultural venues. Featuring exhibitions, talks, workshops, performances, and bar nights, the events transformed Berlin Science
Week into a citywide celebration, engaging diverse audiences across the city.





"YOU'LL LEAVE FEELING SO ENERGISED AND SO HOPEFUL ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE AND WHAT IT CAN DO FOR OUR PLANET."

Carrie Boyce Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Institute for Science, CA

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VOICES IN SCIENCE, POLICY AND INNOVATION

SHAPE THE FUTURE

What shapes the future? We posed this question to some of the most influential voices in science, policy and innovation—and their answers are as diverse as they are insightful. Through thought-provoking statements and symbolic constructions, these leaders share what drives progress in their fields: ideas, people, questions, risks, failures, collaboration, imagination.

Each contribution reflects how the future is shaped—not in isolation, but through bold thinking and shared responsibility. This collection is both visual and intellectual: a gallery of perspectives that challenge, inspire, and expand how we think about change. We invite you to reflect on the question: **HOW DO YOU SHAPE THE FUTURE?**









VOICES IN SCIENCE, POLICY AND INNOVATION

Thank you to the visionary thinkers and scientific leaders who took part in our Shape the Future project. Your openness to play and creative expression gave bold ideas about shaping the future a visceral impact. Our sincere thanks go to the photographer Dominik Butzmann, and Katalin Karikó, Stephen Streiffer, Verena Shifferman, Daniel Zajfman, Dorothee Bär, Nigel Smith, Marc Abrahams, Violeta Vázquez-Rojas Maldonado, Jan Hesthaven, Lucresse Adikponsi, Menahem Ben-Sasson,

Natalie Fardian-Melamed, Maria Leptin, Brian Schmidt, Dana Berenson, Matthias Maurer, Edelgard Bulmahn, and Alain Aspect (on the front cover) and Milena Stoycheva, Olaf Brock, Nereyda Ortiz de Lemus, Toni Krüger, Bettina Rockenbach, David Spergel, Katja Becker, Erin Beilharz, Marcus Pleyer, Tshiamiso Makwela, Constantin Häfner, Simone Schwanitz, Jeanne Rubner, Nathanael Liminski, Johanna Pütz, Helmut Schönenberger, Sabine Kunst, Shohya Matsuda (on the back cover).











WELCOME BACK TO BERLIN 7-9 NOV 2026



