



THE GLOBAL MEETING FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION LEADERS

PARTNERSHIP OFFER 2025 AND REPORT 2024

FALLING
WALLS
SCIENCE
SUMMIT

THE FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT CONCEPT

THREE DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH THINKING

There are numerous opportunities to connect, network, and actively engage. Join us either in person or virtually from anywhere in the world.



FALLING WALLS ENGAGE

A global platform for Science Engagers who actively involve the public with science.

FALLING WALLS LAB

A world-class pitch competition for Emerging Talents and early-career professionals.

FALLING WALLS VENTURE

An international platform for the most promising Science Start-Ups from around the world.

FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

Promoting Female Leadership in Science, Business and Society



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

FALLING WALLS PLENARY TABLES

FALLING WALLS ROUND TABLES

FALLING WALLS IMPACT DIALOGUES

FALLING WALLS EXECUTIVE TABLES

FALLING WALLS INSIGHTS CAFE

FALLING WALLS SYMPOSIUM

FALLING WALLS AI NIGHT



On the anniversary of the historic fall of the Berlin Wall, Falling Walls provides a stage for outstanding research presented in inspiring presentations. Every 9 November, "the brightest minds on the planet" (BBC) convene to answer the core question: Which are the next walls to fall in science and society?

FALLING WALLS BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

FULL PROGRAMME

Days and hours showcasing the most recent scientific breakthroughs and innovations.

3

DAYS

74

EVENTS

500+

SPEAKERS

1.938

ATTENDEES

9

LIVESTREAMS

62

HOURS OF SCIENCE VIDEO FOOTAGE

LEADING SCIENTISTS

Exceptional scientists and their groundbreaking work from around the globe.

3.634

NOMINATIONS

1.522

INSTITUTIONS

156

COUNTRIES (NOMINATIONS)

9

CATEGORIES

94

JURY MEMBERS

199

WINNERS

WHICH ARE THE NEXT WALLS TO FALL?

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

SUMMARY

SUMMARY | THE FALLING WALLS WORLD MAP 2024

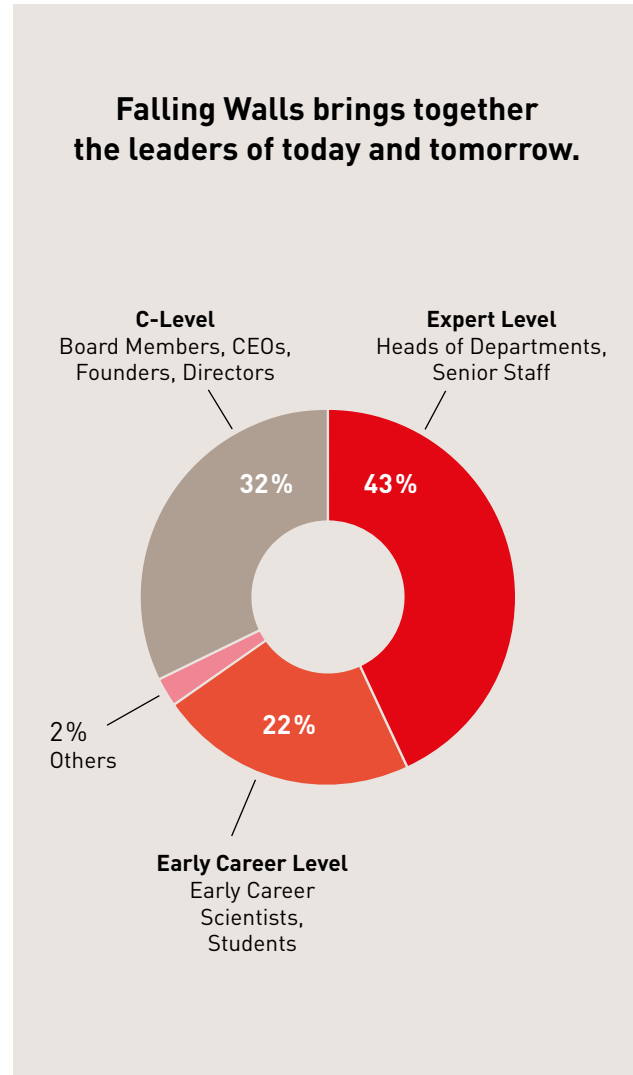
149 COUNTRIES – A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE

People from around the world gather, both virtually and in person, to participate in the inspiring Falling Walls Science Summit.

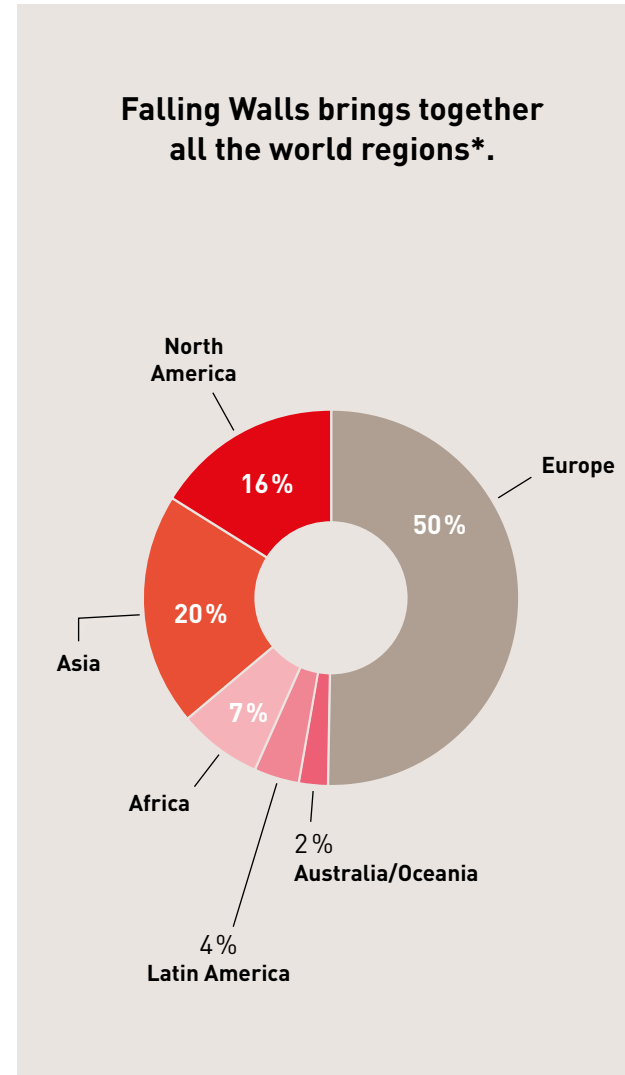


SUMMARY

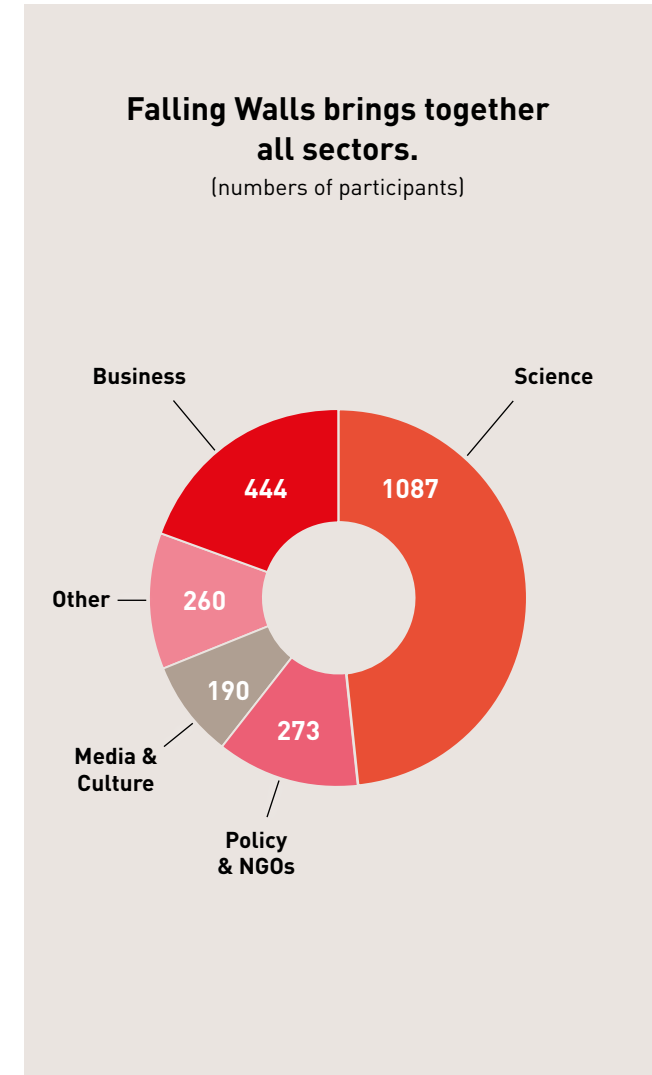
HIGH LEVEL



ALL WORLD REGIONS



ALL SECTORS



* International participants without Germans.

PITCHES





“TO SEE THESE YOUNG INNOVATIVE THINKERS LEVERAGE THEIR EXPERTISE AND LEARNINGS, TRYING TO SOLVE BIG PICTURE PROBLEMS, IS ALWAYS EXCITING AND INSPIRATIONAL.”

Sven Wagner Head of Business Development at Sartorius, Falling Walls Lab Jury Member 2024

FALLING WALLS PITCHES

PITCH COMPETITIONS & NETWORKING FORUMS

The world's next generation talents take the stage with their breakthrough ideas for the future.


**FALLING
WALLS
ENGAGE**

Falling Walls Engage puts a spotlight on the most inspiring Science Engagement projects worldwide. This year's focus was on climate change and adaptation, thanks to our partnership with the Hannover Re Foundation. The 21 Winners in the Science Engagement category were invited to present their 5-minute project pitches on stage.


**FALLING
WALLS
LAB**

Falling Walls Lab is an international and interdisciplinary pitch competition that brings together students and early-career scientists to present their breakthrough ideas on stage. Falling Walls Labs take place locally on all continents. They each send their winners to pitch their groundbreaking ideas in just 3 minutes in a grand finale at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin.


**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. Watch pioneering founders who have turned science into business demonstrate how entrepreneurial solutions can help solve today's most pressing challenges.


**FALLING
WALLS
FEMALE SCIENCE
TALENTS**

The Female Science Talents programme encourages alumnae of Falling Walls and other talented young women researchers to take a step forward in their career through tailored workshops, global networking and high-level events. The programme seeks to both broadly promote female talents and elevate exceptional female researchers.

FALLING WALLS ENGAGE PITCHES

THE MOST INSPIRING SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



“YOU SEE ME FULLY ENGAGED AND FULLY EXCITED.”

Olaf Brock Hannover Re Foundation, DE

FALLING WALLS ENGAGE

137

APPLICATIONS FROM 70 COUNTRIES

30

FINALISTS FROM 15 COUNTRIES

21

WINNERS

9

INTERNATIONAL FALLING WALLS ENGAGE HUBS

3,400+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM 140+ COUNTRIES

Hannover Re Foundation

Falling Walls Engage is an international pitch competition that showcases the most impactful projects that actively involve the public with science. In 2024, the competition focused on the topic of climate change adaptation. 21 finalists from 15 countries presented their projects in five minutes at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin.

Our mission is to inspire and connect those who involve the public in science to solve global challenges. Apart from our pitch competition, we build hubs for science engagement globally. Our hubs in Argentina, Australia, Canada, Greece, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, and Sweden connect scientists and the public with events throughout the year.

How to get involved

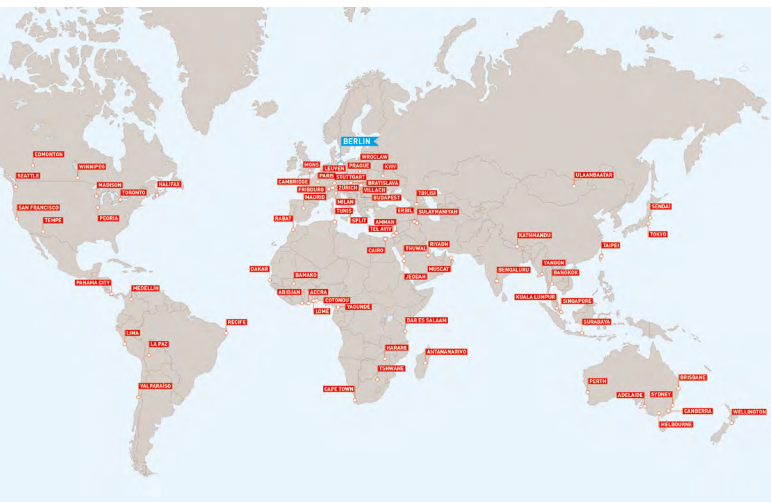
- › Apply: You run a science engagement initiative and are over the age of 18? We are looking forward to your application.
- › Join a hub: Become part of our local networks and connect with science engagers worldwide or contact us to launch your own.

› Become a partner: Help science engagers compete, connect globally and create impactful initiatives together with us.

Success stories: falling-walls.com/engage/impact

FALLING WALLS LAB PITCHES

INNOVATIVE IDEAS FROM EMERGING TALENTS



“INNOVATION HAPPENS HERE AND TO SEE THAT STARTING AND SUPPORTING IT IS RELEVANT FOR SOCIETY.”

Sven Wagner Sartorius

FALLING WALLS LAB

2,500+
APPLICATIONS

104
COUNTRIES

74
INTERNATIONAL LABS

100
INTERNATIONAL LAB WINNERS AT THE GLOBAL FINALE



Falling Walls Lab is an international and interdisciplinary pitch competition where students and early-career scientists present their breakthrough ideas on stage in three minutes. In 2024, 74 Falling Walls Lab organizers in 58 countries hosted local pitch competitions. Their 100 winners competed in the grand finale at the Falling Walls Science Summit.

Our mission is to celebrate and connect the world's next generation of scientists. We work together closely with our esteemed partners to create a career-boosting expanded program for our winners during their trip to Berlin: This year's program included a reception at the Italian Embassy, workshops by Springer Nature and a tour of research institutes by Research in Germany.

How to get involved

- › Apply to a lab: You have a breakthrough idea, are over the age of 18 and have received your PhD less than five years ago? Our local labs look forward to your application.
- › Launch a lab: You are a research institution and would like to bring together talent for a pitch competition? Cooperate with us.

- › Become a partner: Support the next generation of breakthrough scientists from around the world by becoming our partner and crafting experiences that will help them succeed together with us.

Visit: falling-walls.com/lab

FALLING WALLS VENTURE PITCHES

THE MOST PROMISING SCIENCE BASED START-UPS



“I’M IMPRESSED WITH THE ENTREPRENEURS’ LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. YOU CAN SEE THEIR STRONG MOTIVATION TO CREATE SOLUTIONS THAT HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR PLANET, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR.”

Luca Kleene *EnBW*

FALLING WALLS VENTURE

200
NOMINATIONS

115
FINALISTS

37
COUNTRIES

3
CLUSTERS
 • Sustainability
 • 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 from around the world. Watch pioneering founders who have turned science into business demonstrate how entrepreneurial solutions can help solve today’s most pressing challenges.

Our mission is to put the most groundbreaking science-based startups from around the world in the spotlight. In 2024, our advisory board carefully selected 25 startups from XY countries. Our esteemed jury under chair Stefan von Holtzbrinck had the difficult task to find winners in the categories engineering for innovation, health and sustainability.

Beyond our competition, we are part of Falling Walls Sciencepreneurs and foster a network of scientific institutions, incubators and investors to create an eco-system that helps science-based startups succeed. We have helped along investments and exits in several cases.

How to get involved

- › Are you a research institution? Nominate your best start-up and encourage them to apply.
- › Help us tailor a program for our winners that connects them with people that help them succeed.

Visit: falling-walls.com/venture

FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

PROMOTING FEMALE LEADERSHIP

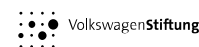


FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

270
 APPLICATIONS FROM
 66 COUNTRIES
Intensive Track

83
 APPLICATIONS FROM
 32 COUNTRIES
Women's Impact Award

3
 WOMEN'S IMPACT
 AWARD WINNERS



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 Skill 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 a Celebratory Dinner
- › Executive Table and/or other direct involvement in the Falling Walls Science Summit

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



7 NOV



“THIS IS REALLY GOOD NEWS WHAT WE SAW TODAY. ALSO FOR OUR PLANET.”

Stefan von Holtzbrinck *Holtzbrinck Publishing Group*



CIRCLE





“HERE YOU CAN DO THINGS IN 5 MINUTES, THAT OTHERWISE WOULD TAKE MONTHS BECAUSE YOU HAVE EVERYBODY HERE. THIS IS WHY I AM BACK EVERY YEAR.”

Rafael Laguna de la Vera Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation – SPRIND



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

DEBATES & SYMPOSIA

Fostering dialogue across disciplines to shape the future of innovation and collaboration

FALLING WALLS PLENARY TABLES



Panel discussions on global challenges with leading international experts and exchanges on necessary next steps along the international scientific agenda.

FALLING WALLS IMPACT DIALOGUES



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

FALLING WALLS ROUND TABLES



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

VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION IMPACT DIALOGUES



These formats address political and social consequences of major elections and different approaches on the topic of academic freedom.

FALLING WALLS INSIGHTS CAFÉ



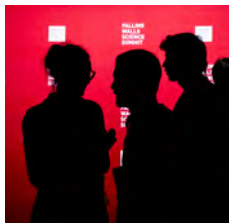
The “Insight Café” turns a public space into a hub of innovation. It simplifies complex scientific concepts, with interactive and compelling presentations.

WILHELM & ELSE HERAEUS FOUND. SYMPOSIUM PHYSICAL SCIENCES



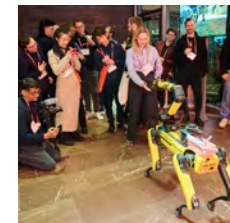
Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation and Falling Walls hosted this unique format to bring together international researchers in such fields as quantum physics and chemistry.

FALLING WALLS EXECUTIVE TABLES



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

FALLING WALLS AI NIGHT



The AI Night is dedicated to exploring the latest findings in AI research. Participants showcase their work and discuss and debate AI in various interactive formats.

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE PLENARY TABLES

Plenary Tables are the centrepiece of the Falling Walls Circle, addressing global challenges in a series of moderated panel discussions.

Leading experts share their perspectives on how science can be employed to benefit humanity and the world around us and which will be the necessary steps on the international scientific agenda.



BOOSTING FRONTIER RESEARCH: EUROPE'S NEXT MOVE

Moderation
Maria Leptin
European Research Council, *BE*

Alain Aspect
Institut d'Optique and Ecole Polytechnique, *FR*

Andrzej Szeptycki
Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland, *PL*

Jana Havlíková
Ministry of Science, Research and Innovation of the Czech Republic, *CZ*

Marie-Noëlle Semeria
Total Energies, *FR*

Patrick Hetzel
Ministry of Higher Education and Research, *FR*

European Research Council | **erc**

FEEDING THE WORLD IN 2050

Moderation
Magdalene Skipper
Springer Nature, *GB*

Jack A. Bobo
University of Nottingham, *GB*

Christophe F. Maire
Atlantic Labs & Food Labs, *DE*

Akua Konadu Antwi-Agyajwa
Cocoa Research Inst. o. Ghana, *GH*

Patricia Gruber
U.S. Department of State, *US*

Karin Guendel Gonzales
Bayer Crop Science Deutschland, *DE*

BAYER

BECOME OUR PARTNER AND JOIN THE FALLING WALLS COMMUNITY

Please contact andreas.kosmider@falling-walls.com

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
PLENARY TABLES



FUSION TECHNOLOGY: ENERGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Moderation
Norbert Holtkamp
 Hoover Institution, *US*

Pietro Barabaschi
 ITER, *FR*

Constantin Häfner
 Fraunhofer Inst. for Laser Tech. ILT, *DE*

Kimberly Budil
 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, *US*

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIVIC SCIENCE LEADERS

Moderation
Mariette DiChristina-Gerosa
 Boston University College of Communication, *US*

Frances Colón
 Center for American Progress, *US*

Dietram Scheufele
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, *US*

Avriel C. Epps
 Citizens and Tech. Lab, Cornell University, *US*

Naledi Saul
 University of California San Francisco, *US*

Narayan Sankaran
 University of San Francisco, *US*

RITA ALLEN FOUNDATION

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

DRIVING INNOVATION: RENEWABLES AND SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY

Moderation
Jennifer Porto
 NYU Berlin, *DE*

Maria Magdalena Atria Barros
 Embassy of Chile in Germany, *DE*

Carla Seidel
 BASF, *DE*

Juha Pankakoski
 Siemens Energy, *CL*

Bernd Rech
 Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin, *DE*

HZB Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
PLENARY TABLES



Moderation
Thierry Coulhon
 Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Michael Brigl
 Boston Consulting Group, DE

Michiel Scheffer
 President of the European Innovation Council Board, BE

Robbert Dijkgraaf
 University of Amsterdam, NL

Monika Lessl
 Bayer Foundation, DE

Rafael Laguna de la Vera
 SPRIND, DE

WINNING THE DEEP TECH CENTURY: EUROPE'S PATH TO INNOVATION

BCG **SPRIND**

Moderation
Beate Kampmann
 Charité Center for Global Health, DE

Jennifer Eileen Adair
 Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, USA

Christof von Kalle
 Institute of Health at Charité (BIH), DE

Alain Huriez
 AdBio Partners, FR

Jimi Olaghere
 ICER, US

EXPANDING GLOBAL ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE MEDICAL THERAPIES

BIH
 Berlin Institute of Health @Charité

Moderation
David Patrician
 RTL Nord, Hamburger Abendblatt und n-tv, DE

Kohei Itoh
 Keio University, JP

Richard Socher
 you.com, US

John Josephakis
 Nvidia, US

Paul Kearns
 Argonne National Laboratory, US

HPC AND AI SOLUTIONS: A COLLECTIVE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT

JÜLICH
 Forschungszentrum

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE ROUND TABLES

Round Tables bring attention to topics ranging from broader issues in science and society to more specific aspects of scientific development.

Depending on the topic, different methods of communication are used from presentations and interviews to panels and open discussions. In addition to experts from the respective field, the audience at the venue is usually encouraged to participate in the discussion. Round Tables are accessible free of charge via livestream.

**BECOME
OUR PARTNER
AND JOIN THE
FALLING WALLS
COMMUNITY**

Please contact
andreas.kosmider@
falling-walls.com



**CEO-TABLE:
FROM RESEARCH
INNOVATION TO
CORPORATE
STRATEGY**

Michael Brigl
Boston Consulting
Group, DE

Gesa Miczaika
Auxxo Catalyst
Fund, DE

Bernd Scheifele
Heidelberg Materials,
DE

Peter Sölkner
Vetter Pharma, DE

Moderation
Michael Bröcker
Table.Briefings, DE

TABLE BRIEFINGS

**SCIENCE
DIPLOMACY:
OPPORTUNITIES
AND LIMITS**

David Harel
Israel Academy
of Sciences and
Humanities,
Weizmann Institute
of Science, IL

Moderation
ShellyKupperberg
Deutschlandfunk K.
und RBB Radio3, DE

Robert Schlögl
Humboldt-Stiftung,
DE

Angela Liberatore
European Research
Council, BE

Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
und Halbach-Stiftung

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
ROUND TABLES



NAVIGATING DUAL-USE: BALANCING FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Alice Aiken
Dalhousie University, CA

Carsten Breuer
Bundeswehr, DE

Alex von Somoren
UK Government Office for Science, UK

Moderation Georg Schütte
Volkswagen Stiftung, DE

Ursula Staudinger
TU Dresden, DE

4TH GEN UNIVERSITIES: SHAPING FUTURE INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Moderation Nick Fowler
Elsevier, GB

Alekdrr Hobza
EU Commission

Robert-Jan Smits
TU Eindhoven, NL

Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades
RSL Revolutionary Labs Ltd, Theramir Ltd, Promed Bioscience Ltd, GR

Peter Schlosser
Arizona State University, US

DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK

Moderation Alexander Betts
Brasenose College, Univ. of Oxford, GB

Carsten Holtkamp
Hoover Institution, US

Lora Viola
Freie Universität Berlin, DE

Anna Lührmann
Federal Foreign Office

Petra Schleiter
St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford, GB

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
ROUND TABLES



KIWI POLICY TALK: TRANSATLANTIC SCIENCE RELATIONS & THE US ELECTION

Ralf Beste
 Auswärtiges Amt, DE

Anette "Nina" Gray
 New York University, US

Young-Kee Kim
 University of Chicago, US

Joybrato Mukherjee
 German Academic Exchange Service, DE

Moderation
Sandra Pfister
 Deutschlandfunk, DE

FUTURE OF OPEN SCIENCE: ENHANCING RESEARCH ACCESS AND IMPACT

Julieta Arancio
 Open Research Community Accelerator

Joseph Broz
 IBM, US

Magdalena Skipper
 Springer Nature, GB

Gerard Meijer
 Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, DE

Moderation
Alina Schadwinkel
 Der Spiegel, DE

NAVIGATING AI: SCIENCE, POLITICS, AND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

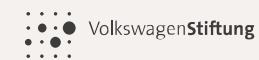
Sarah de Rijcke
 Leiden University, NL

Iryna Gurevych
 Technical University of Darmstadt, DE

Martin Hullin
 Bertelsmann Stiftung, DE

Michael Schönstein
 German Federal Chancellery, DE

Moderation
Georg Schütte
 Volkswagen Stiftung, DE



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE ROUND TABLES



RELIABLE GENERATIVE AI: A KEY TO INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Michael Bartsch, AI.DOPT

Mehdi Ali, Fraunhofer IAIS Lamarr Institute, DE

Hans-Jörg Vögel, BMW, DE

Moderation Ludwig Siegele, The Economist, DE

OVERCOMING ANIMAL TESTING WITH ADVANCED CELL MODELS

Moderation Alison Abbott, Nature, DE

Seyoum Ayeahunie, MatTek Corporation, US

Zaher Nahle, The Ivyctory Group, US

Uwe Marx, TissUse, DE

Martha Mayo, Sartorius, DE

EYES TO THE SKY: THE NEXT GENERATION OF LARGE TELESCOPES

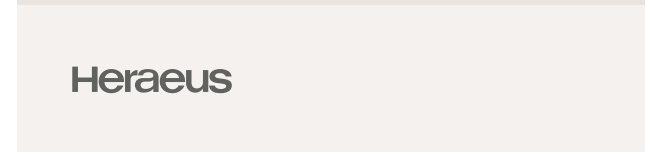
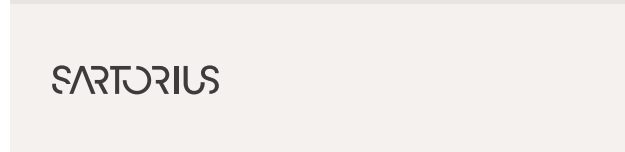
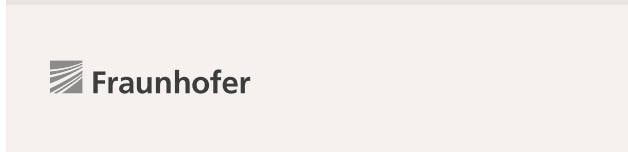
Moderation Sibylle Anderl, Zeit Online, DE

Michael Kramer, Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy, DE

Linda Tacconi, Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, DE

David Reitze, Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), California Institute of Technology, US

Frank Stietz, Heraeus Holding, DE



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
ROUND TABLES



**AI GOVERNANCE:
 HOW TO BENEFIT
 EVERYONE?**

Helmut Krcmar
 Technical University of Munich (TUM), DE

Urs Gasser
 TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, DE

Moderation
Ludwig Siegele
 The Economist, DE

Amelie Hennemann-Heldt
 German Federal Chancellery, DE

Isa Sonnenfeld
 Tech leader, advisor, ex-Google News Lab Head, EMEA, DE



**RESTORING TRUST: BUILDING
 DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE**

Gosia Binczyk
 EU Commission, DE

Günter Nooke
 Leipzig University, DE

Manon Westphal
 University of Münster, DE

Christof Gattringer
 Austrian Science Fund, AT

Moderation
Swantje Freifrau von Massenbach
 Medienakademie, DE

STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

**BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION
 ECOSYSTEMS:
 RECIPES FOR SUCCESS**

Juan de Pablo
 New York University

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

Ian Walmsley
 Imperial College London

Maike Sander
 Max Delbrück Center

Moderation
Claudia Ulbrich
 Cardior Pharmaceuticals

**MAX DELBRÜCK
 CENTER**



“IT’S WONDERFUL TO BE IN AN ENVIROMENT WHERE EVERYBODY IS LIKE-MINDED AND VERY MUCH FUTURE ORIENTED.”

Robbert Dijkgraaf University of Amsterdam, NL



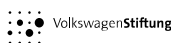
FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
INSIGHTS CAFÉ



The Insights Café brings a new format of scientific discourse to the venue, transforming an ordinary public space into a hub of innovation and engagement – making complex scientific concepts accessible.

BREAKING THE WALL OF SECTOR TRANSITION

Simone Menne American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, *DE*



ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION: TACKLING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Simone Menne AmCham Germany, *DE* / **Dietmar Harhoff** Max Planck Inst. for Innovation and Competition, *DE* / **Anousheh Ansari** XPRIZE Foundation, *US* / **Silke Sperling** Charité, *DE*



ACADEMIC FREEDOM: BREAKING DOWN (NEW) WALLS

Viktoriya Sereda Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, *DE* / **Katrin Kinzelbach** FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, *DE* / **Ksenia Luchenko** Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE
INSIGHTS CAFÉ



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES – SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

Inge Katrin Herrmann University of Zurich, Univ. Hospital Balgrist, ETH/Empa, *CH*
Saw Wai Hla Ohio University and Argonne National Laboratory, *US*
Elodie Chabrol Science Communicator, *FR*
Narayan Sankaran University of San Francisco, *US*



THE KAVLI FOUNDATION

NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Susanne Buiter Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, *DE*
Andreas Märkert Hannover Re Group / **Marco Bohnhoff** Ger. Research Cntr. for Geosciences, *DE* / **Thomas Heilmann** Deutscher Bundestag, *DE* / **Mariette DiChristina** Boston University, *US*



Hannover Re Foundation

REGULATING CONFLICTS IN INSTITUTIONS: MIGRATION, CLIMATE, IDENTITY POLITICS

Jens Martin Gurr University of Duisburg-Essen, *DE* / **Annette Schavan** Former German Minister of Education and Research, *DE* / **Patrick Cramer** Max Planck Society, *DE* / **Sabine Lehmann** Communication expert

THE LIMITS OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Hanoch Gutfreund The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, *IS* / **Thorsten Schwede** University of Basel, SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, *CH* / **Ruth Morgan** University College London / **Frederick Fenter** Frontiers / **Robbert Dijkgraaf** University of Amsterdam / **Tanja Stadler** ETH Zürich, *CH*

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

EXECUTIVE TABLES

Executive Tables are invitation-based events bringing together high-profile global leaders to discuss current and future developments in regard to specific challenges of scientific relevance in a moderated exchange.

All participants actively shape the discussion by sharing their ideas, questions, and solutions. The commitment of the attendees to the Chatham House Rule encourages an honest, open discourse, retains its confidentiality and allows for disruptive thinking.

CHARTING A PATH TOWARDS PRECISION HEART HEALTH

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session gathers global experts to explore the challenges in transforming heart health and how to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases.

DHZB Stiftung

QUANTUM DISRUPTED COMMUNICATION

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session gathers global experts to explore the untapped disruptive potential of quantum technologies.

bdr.

SAFEGUARDING RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive discussion assesses how governments, companies and researchers can preserve academic freedom.

 VolkswagenStiftung

BUILDING A FUSION INDUSTRY ECOSYSTEM

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session explores measures for establishing a sustainable fusion industry.

 Federal Ministry of Education and Research

PHILANTHROPY IN SCIENCE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session is about pressing issues of philanthropy in Science and fundraising resonating across foundations and projects worldwide.

WILHELM UND ELSE HERAEUS-STIFTUNG 

INNOVATION AND SCIENCE: THEIR ROLE IN DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive panel will explore how shifting global alliances are reshaping international cooperation in science.

 STIFTERVERBAND

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR EUROPE'S DEEP TECH FUTURE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive panel will examine Europe's future technologies and discuss how companies and innovation agencies can lead in the emerging deep tech century.



SCIENCE & RESEARCH IN UKRAINE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive discussion evaluates the challenges facing Ukrainian science and identifies urgent support needs.

WILHELM UND ELSE HERAEUS-STIFTUNG



SOLAR BOOM IN GERMANY: A BLESSING CHALLENGE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: At this exclusive session, experts address managing high solar power feed-in and explore regulatory solutions for seamless grid integration.



HUAWEI

TRANSATLANTIC BIG SCIENCE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This background table addresses challenges and perspectives in international cooperation.



WILHELM UND ELSE HERAEUS-STIFTUNG



ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: At this exclusive table, we explore how engineering biology can revolutionise industries by accelerating medical breakthroughs, lowering production costs.



SCIENCE-BASED POLICY ADVICE

Falling Walls Circle – This exclusive event explores how empirical evidence and interdisciplinary research guide risk assessment and solutions for complex societal issues.

FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

DEBATE CULTURE AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT ON CAMPUS

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive discussion focuses on the current debate surrounding political engagement that's appropriate on campus.



FEMALE THOUGHT LEADERS IN SCIENCE

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session is focussing on the representation of female leaders among e.g. Nobel Prize recipients and other awards.

FALLING WALLS FEMALE SCIENCE TALENTS

ART-SCIENCE ECOSYSTEMS FOR TRANSDISCIPLINARY BREAKTHROUGHS

Falling Walls Circle – Executive Table: This exclusive session brings together global leaders to explore ways to accelerate and scale Art and Science collaborations.



FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

IMPACT DIALOGUES



Impact Dialogues introduce a dynamic approach to scientific discourse, with diverse sessions 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 connections and impactful discourse.

OVERCOMING DIGITAL WALLS

Arturo Filastro Open Observatory of Network Interference
Patryk Pawlak European University Institute / **Peter Limbourg** Deutsche Welle, *DE* / **Sabine Frank** Google / DW, *DE*



INNOVATION JOURNALISM

Nicola Kuhrt science pressconference, *DE* / **Katja Matthes** Geomar, *DE* / **Henrik Müller** TU Dortmund, *DE* / **Ludwig Siegele** The Economist, *DE* / **Florin Zabascu** Science.Business, *DE*



DIVERSITY AND EQUITY IN SCIENCE

The Workshop focuses on unconscious bias in the MINT community. Dr. Alina Gales from TUM shared diversity best practices, and participants collaboratively developed solutions for a more inclusive academia through an interactive World Café.

Klaus Tschira
Stiftung



DECISION THEATER



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
OF GEOANTHROPOLOGY

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION IMPACT DIALOGUES ON SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES



ACADMIC FREEDOM: GLOBAL APPROACHES

Kader Konuk TU Dortmund, Academy in Exile, *DE*
Ilyas Saliba Global Public Policy Institute, *DE*

ACADMIC FREEDOM: PRACTICAL APPROACHES

Philipp Christoph Schmäddecke Sci. at Risk Emergency Office, *DE*
Aldo Spahiu Berlin University Alliance, *DE*
Daniela Koleva Sofia University, *BG*

ACADMIC FREEDOM:

Networking

GERMANY'S KEY VOTE

Susan Banducci University of Birmingham, *GB* / **Félix Krawatzek**
 Centre for East European and Intl. Studies, *DE* / **Thorsten Faas**
 Freie Universität Berlin, *DE* / **Clemens Fuest** ifo Institute, *DE*

US ELECTIONS IMPACT

Michael Bruter London School of Econ. and Political Science, *GB*
Sudha David-Wilp German Marshall Fund of the US, *DE* / **Petra**
Schleiter St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford, *GB* / **Jeffrey**
Kopstein University of California, Irvine, *US*

Moderation:

Samiha Shafy Die Zeit, *DE*
Catherine Newmark Deutschlandradio, *DE*

FALLING WALLS CIRCLE

WILHELM AND ELSE HERAEUS FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES



WINNER PITCHES

Saw Wai Hla Breaking the Wall of 128 Years of X-ray History, Ohio University/Argonne National Laboratory, *US* / **Simon Storz** Breaking the Wall of Quantum Communication, ETH Zurich, *CH* / **Thorsten Schumm** Breaking the Wall of Nuclear Laser Excitation, Vienna University of Technology, *AU* / **Ewold Verhagen** Breaking the Wall of Programmable Metamaterials, AMOLF, *NL* / **Liang Jie Wong** Breaking the Wall of Quantum X-ray Tech, Nanyang Technological University, *SG* / **Richard Town** Breaking the Wall of Fusion Gain, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, *US* /

Martin Zwierlein Breaking the Wall of Complex Quantum Matter, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *US* / **Xiaogang Liu** Breaking the Wall of X-ray Imaging, National University of Singapore, *SG* / **Nils Johan Engelsen** Breaking the Wall of Quantum Drum Vibrations, Chalmers Institute of Technology, *SE*

NEXT GENERATION RESEARCHER PITCHES

Thorsten Feichtner University of Wuerzburg, *DE* / **Mathis Fricke** Technische Universität Darmstadt, *DE* / **Rutvik Lathia** Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, *DE* / **Taner Esat** Forschungszentrum Jülich, *DE* / **Alice Orme** Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, *DE* / **Monika Aidelsburger** Breaking the Wall of Quantum Simulations with Neutral Atoms, Max-Planck Institute of Quantum Optics / Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, *DE* / **Valeria Pettorino** Breaking the Wall of Dark Energy Mysteries, European Space Agency (ESA), *FR*

Other formats:

SPEAKER CORNERS
NETWORKING

Further active participants:

Stefan Jorda Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation, *DE*
Moderation:
Oliver Benson Humboldt University of Berlin, *DE*
Thomas Elsaesser Max Born Institute, *DE*

WILHELM UND ELSE
HERAEUS-STIFTUNG



THE CONFERENCE INSIDE THE CONFERENCE

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR SCIENCE-PRENEURS

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 summit and year-round.

440

BUSINESS LEADERS

35

SCIENCE-BASED STARTUPS FROM OVER 12 COUNTRIES

40

VENTURE CAPITALS

50

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

“NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE GATHERED SUCH A DIVERSE GROUP TO SHAPE OUR DEEP TECH FUTURE.”

Michael Brigl *Head of BCG Central Europe, Boston Consulting Group*



THE CONFERENCE INSIDE THE CONFERENCE

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR SCIENCEPRENEURS

FALLING WALLS VENTURE – OUR PITCH COMPETITION

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



WINNING THE DEEP TECH CENTURY: EUROPE’S PATH TO INNOVATION

A discussion like a look into the crystal ball: A European minister, a government innovation agency and industry leaders with unique insight met at this table to pinpoint what needs to be done to bring Europe to the forefront of deep tech in Europe – and what they will do to make it happen.



Rafael Laguna de la Vera,
Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation SPRIND, *DE*



Michael Brigl
Head of BCG Central Europe, *DE*



Monika Lessl
ED Bayer Foundation and Senior VP Bayer AG, *DE*



Michiel Scheffer
President of the European Innovation Council Board, *DE*



Robert Dijkgraaf
Netherlands’ Minister of Education, Culture & Science, *NL*



Thierry Coulhon
President of Hcéres, *FR* (Moderation)



CEO-TABLE: FROM RESEARCH INNOVATION TO CORPORATE STRATEGY

A fly on the wall perspective on a discussion between CEOs that unearthed answers to important questions: How can innovations from research be translated into corporate strategies? How can the champion of basic research, Germany, move from the laboratory to the market more successfully?



Michael Brigl
Head of BCG Central Europe, *DE*



Gesa Miczaika
Auxxo Catalyst Fund, *DE*



Bernd Scheifele
Heidelberg Materials, *DE*



Peter Sölkner
Vetter Pharma, *DE*

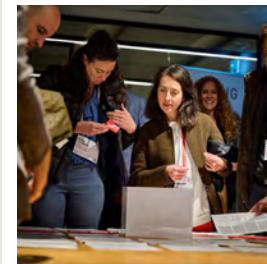


Michael Bröcker
Table.Briefings, *DE* (Moderation)



SCIENCEPRENEURS NIGHT

The 2024 Falling Walls Sciencepreneurs Night was one to remember, full of fun and meaningful connections: Over 120 visionary scientists, entrepreneurs, investors, and industry leaders at Merantix AI Campus in Berlin celebrated the Falling Walls Venture winning start-ups together.



SCIENCEPRENEURS LUNCH

A brown-box lunch for best-practice sharing among VCs and innovators: In April 2024, more than 40 European deep-tech investors met at the Falling Walls Sciencepreneurs Investor Lunch to discuss improvements and opportunities in financing science-based start-ups.



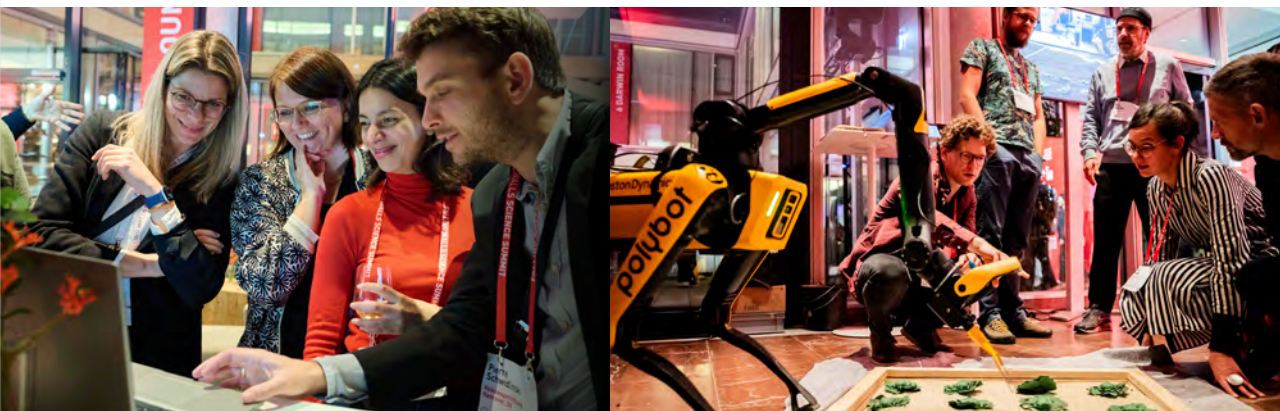
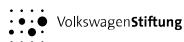
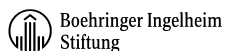
FALLING WALLS AI NIGHT

AI NIGHT: ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION

The AI Night is a groundbreaking format that brings together global thought leaders, innovators, and visionaries to explore and shape the future of artificial intelligence. Initiated by Matthias Bethge, the event

features interactive presentations, dynamic discussions, and an emphasis on diverse perspectives, fostering meaningful communication and interdisciplinary collaboration. With a distinguished line-

up of speakers, the AI Night is dedicated to advancing discourse, inspiring transformative breakthroughs, and championing innovation that reflects the richness of ideas from around the world.



BREAK-THROUGHS



“WE AS A FOUNDATION TRY TO SPONSOR BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH IN ALL FIELDS. THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU MEET TALENTED PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.”

Georg Schütte *Volkswagen Stiftung, DE*

9 NOV



FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

IDENTIFYING & HONOURING BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH

Breaking Walls, Shaping the Future: Celebrating the Year's Pioneering Achievements in Science



GLOBAL CALL



Prominent academics, universities, research organizations, companies, foundations, and institutes are invited to nominate groundbreaking projects across nine categories. A distinguished jury, comprised of leading experts in their fields, evaluates the submissions to identify the most exceptional contributions in each category.



THE GRAND FINAL

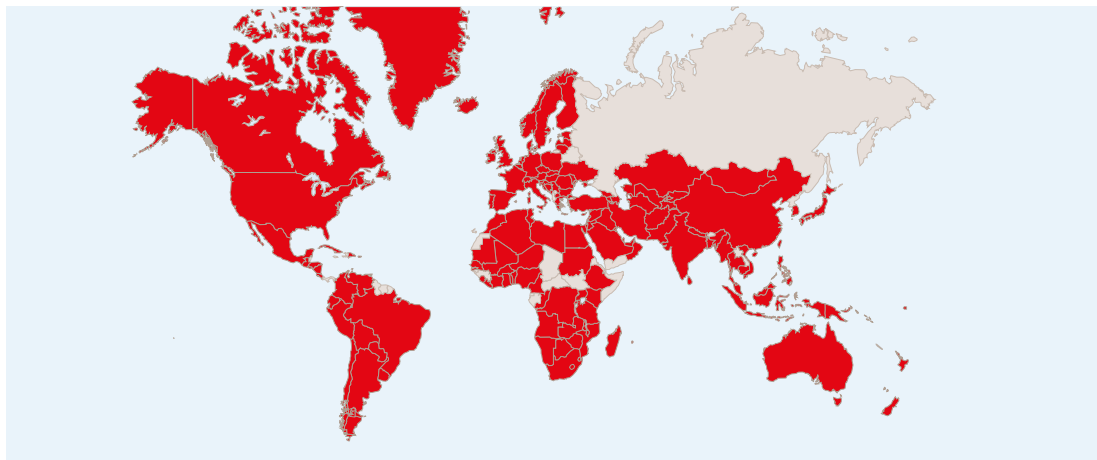
FALLING WALLS BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR



On 9 Nov, the anniversary of the historic fall of the Berlin Wall, the Breakthrough Day provides a stage for “the brightest minds on the planet” (BBC) in Berlin. Outstanding research is showcased in 15-minute presentations focusing on the question, “What are the next walls to fall in science and society?”

THE GLOBAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS PROCESS

IDENTIFYING OUTSTANDING BREAKTHROUGHS



GLOBAL CALL

to all research institutions worldwide



3.634 NOMINATIONS

from 156 countries and 1.522 institutions



199 WINNERS

chosen by 94 jury members



9 SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

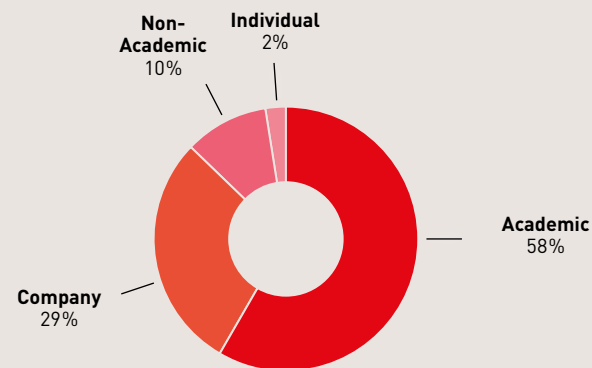
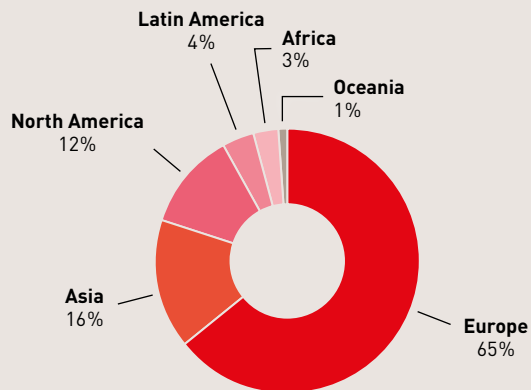
in 9 Categories:

- 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

Breakthrough research was and is the key to understanding and solving the greatest challenges of our time. To honor this important work Falling Walls encourages scientists to participate in the Falling Walls Global Call and submit their outstanding projects.

SEARCHING FOR THE SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

WORLD-CLASS NOMINATING INSTITUTIONS



EUROPE

- CNRS, *FR*
- Chalmers University of Technology, *SE*
- ETH Zurich, *CH*
- King's College London, *GB*
- University of Graz, *AU*
- Vienna University of Technology, *AU*
- Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, *IT*
- University of Pavia, *IT*
- European Space Agency, *FR*

GERMANY

- Johannes Gutenberg University, *DE*
- Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, *DE*
- Max Planck Society, *DE*
- Technical University of Munich, *DE*
- Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation SPRIND, *DE*
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research, *DE*

- Technische Universität Berlin, *DE*
- Technische Universität Dresden, *DE*
- Humboldt University of Berlin, *DE*
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, *DE*

AFRICA

- Stellenbosch University, *ZA*
- University of Cape Town, *ZA*
- University of Johannesburg, *ZA*
- Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná, *BR*

NORTH AMERICA

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *US*
- New York University, *US*
- University of California San Diego, *US*
- Queen's University, *CA*
- Dalhousie University, *CA*
- University of Manitoba, *CA*

- Brown University, *US*
- Stanford University, *US*
- University of New Mexico, *MX*

LATIN AMERICA

- The National University of Córdoba, *AR*
- National Technological University Mendoza, *AR*

OCEANIA

- The Australian National University, *AU*

ASIA

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong, *HK*
- The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, *HK*
- Nanyang Technological University, *SG*
- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, *SA*
- Indian Institute Of Technology Kanpur, *IN*

AND MANY MORE ...

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2024

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

LIFE SCIENCES

The Life Sciences jury, chaired by Michael Schuetz, focuses on recognizing the most groundbreaking advancements in the field. From a pool of remarkable nominations, the jury selected 10 exceptional winners and awarded Michael Platten the prestigious title of Science Breakthrough of the Year in Life Sciences. This category celebrates 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.

WINNER



MICHAEL PLATTEN
German Cancer Research Center, *DE*

JURY CHAIR



MICHAEL SCHUETZ
Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane, *AUS*

BREAKING THE WALL OF BRAIN TUMOR VACCINES

Michael Platten, a neurologist at Mannheim Medical University and the German Cancer Research Center, has achieved a breakthrough in cancer immunotherapy. His innovative research targets gliomas, including aggressive glioblastomas, using immune system strategies.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

The Physical Sciences jury, chaired by Ian Walmsley, focuses on identifying the most groundbreaking advancements in the field. From a pool of remarkable nominations, the jury selected 10 exceptional winners and awarded Saw Wai Hla the prestigious title of Science Breakthrough of the Year in Physical Sciences. 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.

WINNER



SAW WAI HLA
Ohio University and
Argonne National Laboratory, *US*

JURY CHAIR



IAN WALMSLEY
Imperial College London, *GB*

BREAKING THE WALL OF 128 YEARS OF X-RAY HISTORY

Saw Wai Hla is a professor of physics at Ohio University and a physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory. He is also the director of the Nanoscale and Quantum Phenomena Institute, Ohio University's largest interdisciplinary institute. He is a world-leading researcher in atomic and molecular manipulation on material surfaces and synchrotron x-ray studies of individual atoms. His research focuses on nano and quantum properties of materials, in particular molecular machines and rare-earth molecular systems for energy applications.

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2024

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

The Engineering and Technology jury, chaired by Rokia Roslan, focuses on identifying innovative solutions and transformative technologies that address global challenges and revolutionize industries. From a pool of remarkable nominations, the jury selected 10 exceptional winners and awarded Guihua Yu the prestigious title of Science Breakthrough of the Year in Engineering and Technology. This category celebrates groundbreaking advancements that redefine technological boundaries and create impactful solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

WINNER



GUIHUA YU
The University of Texas at Austin, *US*

JURY CHAIR



ROKIA RASLAN
University College London, *GB*

BREAKING THE WALL OF SOLAR WATER SUSTAINABILITY

Dr. Guihua Yu is Temple Foundation Professor of Materials Science and Mechanical Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. He earned his B.S. degree with highest honor from USTC and his Ph.D. from Harvard, followed by postdoc at Stanford. His research focuses on nanomaterials innovations for addressing frontier challenges in sustainable energy-water nexus technologies. He is a Fellow of AAAS, MRS, RSC, IOP, IMMM and IAAM, and has received numerous awards and honors.

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

The Social Sciences & Humanities jury, chaired by Genoveva Martí, focuses on recognizing ground-breaking advancements in understanding human society and interpersonal relationships. From a pool of remarkable nominations, the jury selected 10 exceptional winners and awarded Rafael Prieto Curiel the prestigious title of Science Breakthrough of the Year in Social Sciences & Humanities. This category highlights pioneering contributions in fields such as politics, economics, and philosophy, emphasizing innovative research that addresses the world's most significant challenges.

WINNER



RAFAEL PRIETO-CURIEL
Complexity Science Hub, *AT*

JURY CHAIR



GENOVEVA MARTI
University of Barcelona, *ES*

BREAKING THE WALL OF DRUG CARTEL ANALYSIS

Rafael studied Applied Mathematics, and worked for the Police Department in Mexico City. His work consisted of crime forecasting. After a PhD in Applied Mathematics at UCL and became a postdoc at the Mathematical Institute of the University of Oxford. He also joined the Complexity Science Hub in Vienna, where he is the leader of the quantitative migration research group. He analyses cartels in Latin America, violence, and sustainable mobility.

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2024

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

ART & SCIENCE

The Art & Science jury, chaired by Juliet Koss, focuses on recognizing groundbreaking projects at the intersection of artistic expression and scientific discovery. From a pool of remarkable nominations, the jury selected 10 exceptional winners and awarded Tiange Wang the prestigious title of Science Breakthrough of the Year in Art & Science. 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.

WINNER



TIANGE WANG
VLab, US

BREAKING THE WALL OF MULTISENSORY DATA

Tiange Wang is an award-winning and internationally-exhibiting designer and creative technologist. Her work investigates innovative interactive paradigms among humans, technology and the environment. Tackling subjects like climate change, holistic wellbeing, multisensory experiences and speculative futures, she employs mediums such as multimodal interaction, creative data visualization, multimedia art, AR/VR, installation, food, software, AI and games.

JURY CHAIR



JULIET KOSS
Scripps College, US

WOMEN'S IMPACT AWARD

WOMEN'S IMPACT AWARD: RECOGNIZING WOMEN SCIENTISTS DRIVING GLOBAL CHANGE

The Women's Impact Award recognizes women in science conducting research projects aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The award highlights exceptional talents engaged in interdisciplinary, ground-breaking research within their fields while advancing gender equality and diversity in science and academia. A distinguished Jury selects three outstanding scientists. In 2025, the Jury consisted of Ylann Schemm & Domiziana Francescon (Elsevier Foundation), Adelheid Wessler (Volkswagen Foundation), Aleksandra Drecun (Intersection Center For Science and Innovation), Simangele Shakwane (University of South Africa (UNISA)), Caroline Mose (Mawazo Institute). The award underscores the critical role of women in addressing the world's most urgent challenges and highlights their transformative contributions to science and society.

WINNER



INGE KATRIN HERRMANN
University of Zurich, University Hospital
Balgrist, ETH/Empa, CH

BREAKING THE WALL OF WOMENS HEALTH

Inge Herrmann, an ETH Zurich engineer, is a Professor of Medical Technology Innovation at the University of Zurich, Balgrist University Hospital, and Swiss Federal Labs. Her lab focuses on developing the tools and technologies shaping the future of medicine. These innovations advance diagnostics and therapy, translating into clinical applications and successful ventures. Her achievements include the Eccellenza Professorial Award, Latsis Prize, and Largaider Award.

SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2024

ALL CATEGORIES, JURY MEMBERS AND WINNERS

SCIENCE START-UPS | 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. Watch pioneering founders who have turned science into business demonstrate how entrepreneurial solutions can help solve today's most pressing challenges.

WINNER



ANDREA TÜTTENBERG
ActiTrex, *DE*

JURY CHAIR



STEFAN VON HOLTZBRINCK
Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, *DE*

BREAKING THE WALL TO IMMUNE RESPONSE THERAPIES

Andrea Tüttenberg founded ActiTrex which is developing patent-protected cellular and biologic therapies targeting the root-cause of overshooting immune responses, thereby decreasing the need for immunosuppressants. The company's cellular lead product Actileucel aims to prevent Graft-versus-Host Disease at an early stage. It will pioneer as the first unmatched cell therapy sourced from a third-party donor.

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT | FALLING WALLS ENGAGE

Falling Walls Engage is an international pitch competition that showcases the most impactful projects that actively involve the public with science. We believe public trust and involvement in science play a central role in addressing global challenges, achieving the United Nations' SDGs and contributing to the overall wellbeing of society.

WINNER



APPLE PUI YI CHUI
Apple Pui Yi Chui, *HK*

JURY CHAIR



MELANIE SMALLMAN
University College London
Department of Science and
Technology Studies, *GB*

BREAKING THE WALL TO ENGAGE SCHOOLS IN CORAL RESTORATION

This year's Engage Breakthrough of the Year Winner is Apple Pui Yi Chui from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her winning project engages students in coral restoration by turning schools into coral nurseries. She raises awareness about coral reefs and climate change, fosters connections with marine environments, and promotes conservation.

EMERGING TALENTS | FALLING WALLS LAB

Falling Walls Lab is an international and interdisciplinary pitch competition that brings together students and early-career scientists to present their breakthrough ideas on stage in just three minutes. 100 winners from preliminary rounds on all continents compete against each other at the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin.

WINNER



CONSTADINA ROGERS
University of Dalhousie, *CA*

JURY CHAIR



CARL-HENRIK HELDIN
Nobel Foundation, *SE*

BREAKING THE WALL OF PLASTIC ACCUMULATION

Constadina Rogers from Dalhousie University, CA is breaking the wall of Plastic Accumulation by enhancing the biological degradation of polyethylene terephthalate (PET), a common plastic used in packaging. Using a fusion of bacterial and fungal proteins, her research delivers a cost-effective and sustainable solution to managing plastic waste.

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS

BE INSPIRED & NETWORK WITH GLOBAL SCIENCE LEADERS



BREAKING THE WALL OF QUANTUM TIMEKEEPING

JUN YE

JILA/NIST/University of Colorado, *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF HUMAN EMBRYO CREATION

MAGDALENA ZERNICKA-GOETZ

California Institute of Technology, *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF DARK ENERGY MYSTERIES

VALERIA PETTORINO

European Space Agency (ESA), *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF SURGICAL IMAGING

LENA MAIER-HEIN

German Cancer Research Center, *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF BLIND OBEDIENCE

EMILIE CASPAR

Ghent University, *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

RICHARD SOCHER

you.com, *US*



BREAKING THE WALL OF MARINE CARBON INNOVATION

KATJA MATTHES

GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, *DE*



BREAKING THE WALL OF UNDERSTANDING THE QUANTUM WORLD

IMMANUEL BLOCH

Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, *DE*



KEYNOTE

CEM ÖZDEMİR

Federal Ministry of Education and Research, *DE*



KEYNOTE

INA CZYBORRA

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

RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

9

LIVESTREAMS SUMMIT

64,000

SOME FOLLOWERS
2024 WHOLE YEAR

+62 h

HOURS OF FOOTAGE SUMMIT

148,555

SOME REACH

5.7 K

LIVESTREAM VIEWS SUMMIT

3,173

SOME REACTIONS

12.5 K

DIGITAL EVENT VISITS SUMMIT

7,94%

SOME ENGAGEMENT RATE

1M

PAGE VIEWS 2024 WHOLE YEAR

193

COUNTRIES (AUDIENCE)

59,7%

AGE 18-34 SUMMIT

43,000

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

650+

PRESS REPORTS

12,000,000
























SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS N.

99

INTERNATIONAL
JOURNALISTS





MEDIA OVERVIEW

REPRESENTED MEDIA FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT










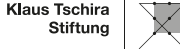
















				
				
				
				
				
				

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THANK YOU!

BECOME
 OUR PARTNER
 AND JOIN THE
 FALLING WALLS
 COMMUNITY
 Please contact
 andreas.kosmider@
 falling-walls.com

 Federal Ministry of Education and Research	 BERLIN Senole Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care	 für Natur MUSEUM FÜR NATURKUNDE BERLIN	 Robert Bosch Stiftung		
 academics Suchen. Finden. Forschen.	 ALFRED LANDECKER FOUNDATION	 Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung	 ÖAW AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	 BAYER	 Bayer Foundation
 BIH Berlin Institute of Health @Charité	 Berlin University Alliance	 BIONTECH	 Boehringer Ingelheim	 Boehringer Ingelheim Stiftung	 BCG
 BRAIN CITY BERLIN	 bdr.	 BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND	 Chan Zuckerberg Initiative	 Carl Zeiss Stiftung	 DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service
 DAAD KIWI Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service	 DESY.	 DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	 DHZB Stiftung	 DW	 DIE ZEIT VERLAGSGRUPPE
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THANK YOU!

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT IS A PART OF BERLIN SCIENCE WEEK

BERLIN SCIENCE WEEK – THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Berlin Science Week is a 10-day international festival held annually from 1 to 10 November, transforming Berlin into a vibrant hub of scientific ideas, exploration, and experimentation.

Bringing together leading scientific organisations, the festival offers a lively programme of over 300 events across dynamic hubs and venues throughout the city and online, celebrating science and fostering interdisciplinary exchange. This year's theme, Common Ground, invited participants to step out of their echo chambers and embrace diverse perspectives. Through its cross-disciplinary programme, the festival highlighted the role of science in combating polarisation and fostering collaboration, cohesion, and understanding, particularly in a year shaped by elections and concerns about misinformation.

10
DAYS

120
LOCATIONS

300+
EVENTS

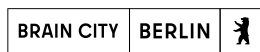
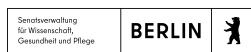
700+
SPEAKER

35,000
PARTICIPANTS

300+
PRESS MENTIONS

25,000
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

BERLINSCEWEEK.COM



Media Cooperations:





WHAT'S OUR COMMON GROUND?

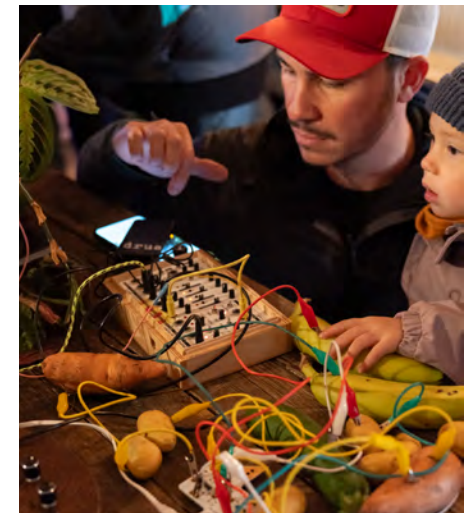
BERLIN SCIENCE WEEK CAMPUS

Held at Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, the CAMPUS hosted over 30 events on 1-2 November 2024, featuring exhibitions, panels, and workshops. Focused on Common Ground, the interactive programme brought scientists, innovators, and families together to explore how science bridges diverse viewpoints and deepens understanding of our shared world.



SCIENCE & CULTURE FORUM

At Holzmarkt 25, the Science & Culture FORUM showcased the intersection of art and science through a curated programme of workshops, talks, and performances. Highlights included an Art & Science Conference and Tiny Galleries, which invited audiences to engage with innovative concepts blending artistic and scientific perspectives.



SCIENCE WEEK CAMPUS | SCIENCE & CULTURE FORUM

INDEPENDENT EVENTS ALL OVER BERLIN

1 NOV	2 NOV	3 NOV	4 NOV	5 NOV	6 NOV	7 NOV PITCHES	8 NOV CIRCLE	9 NOV BREAK-THROUGHS	10 NOV
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FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT



“WE JOINED TOGETHER FOR ONE COMMON CAUSE: BREAKING DOWN WALLS AND ENSURING A MORE INNOVATIVE WORLD.”

Christopher Gripps *Institut Polytechnique de Paris*

WELCOME BACK TO BERLIN 7-9 NOV 2025

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PLEASE CONTACT US



ANDREAS KOSMIDER
Managing Director
+49 30 60 988 39 770
andreas.kosmider@falling-walls.com
www.falling-walls.com

FALLING WALLS
FOUNDATION gGmbH
Kochstraße 6-7
10969 Berlin
Germany

ABOUT OUR COVER PORTRAITS “OUT OF THE BOX”

To show how playful science and innovation are, the Falling Walls Foundation initiated the photography project “Out of the Box”. Thank you for playing with us to Tina Boes, Carl-Henrik Heldin, Elaine Chew, Georg Schütte, Valerie Makoge, Rafael Prieto-Curiel, Alain Aspect, Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Aissa Mboub, Ina Czyborra, Andrzej Szeptycki, Tiange Wang, Apple Pui Yi Chui, Cem Özdemir, Maria Leptin, Carsten Dreher, Anousheh Ansari, Frankline Ojiambo and to Dominik Butzmann – the photographer.



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