

A large, faint, teal-colored line drawing of Minerva's head in profile, facing right. She is wearing a laurel wreath. The drawing is set against a teal background that has a subtle gradient from a darker shade at the top to a lighter shade at the bottom. The word 'PROGRAMME' is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font across the top of the image.

PROGRAMME

1st Max Planck Symposium for
Alumni and Early Career Researchers
Harnack House Berlin,
August 22nd – 24th, 2016

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WELCOME BY MARTIN STRATMANN

Dear Participants of the Max Planck Symposium for Alumni and Early Career Researchers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Harnack House, the Max Planck Society's Conference Venue.

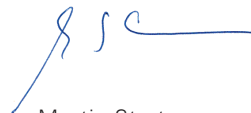
In the next coming days, you will find yourselves among highly motivated and talented Max Planck researchers, both current and former ones. You share something with all of them: The vision of a worldwide network of Max Planck Alumni and Early Career Researchers and the motivation to discuss and even take first steps towards realizing such a goal.

Within the next three days, you will have the opportunity to get to know a wide array of inspiring people whose time at the Max Planck Society has shaped their careers in many innovative and dynamic ways, be it in research, industry, academia, politics, public relations, human resources, or publishing. I am convinced that our multifaceted line-up of conference formats and sessions will help you engage, discuss and connect with these individuals and generate many fresh ideas.

Maybe you can see yourself founding a Max Planck Alumni Group in the area of your current or future place of residence? Or you would like to actively develop our Lifelong Learning Programme together with your Max Planck Institute? Alternatively, you may have a programme in mind that is not even on the list yet: — go ahead! Now is the time to bring your thoughts forward and conceptualize them for the benefit of the entire Max Planck Society.

In this connection, I would like to express my sincere welcome to the members of the newly founded Max Planck Alumni Association, an umbrella organization that will help standardize, professionalize, and improve lifelong Max Planck connections across institutes, sections, and disciplines. The Alumni members have worked hard and with great commitment to launch a thought process that many later generations will hopefully profit from in the future, both Max Planck Alumni and Early Career Researchers alike.

I wish you all an exciting conference, and I am looking forward to the outcome of your vivid discussions!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Stratmann', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Stratmann
President of the Max Planck Society

WELCOME BY MARTIN STRATMANN



MOTIVATION

ENGAGE



FUTURE

of a Lifelong Max Planck community

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

within and outside of Max Planck

PROJECTS

of the Max Planck Alumni Association

DISCUSS



PLENARY SESSIONS

Meet our international experts while they present and discuss best practices of alumni relations, careers within and outside of science, and future cooperations between active and former Max Planckies. All plenary sessions will be in the heart of the Harnack House and the Symposium: the Goethe Lecture hall.

CONNECT



WORKSHOPS

Learn more about successful career networks and be an active contributor to the future programmes bringing active and former Max Planckies together.

UNCONFERENCES

Create your own mini-conference on a topic you deem important and valuable to others. You can choose between the short slots on Wednesday morning or the longer sessions on Wednesday afternoon – first come, first served.

CAREER FAIR

Get informed about career opportunities of our Alumni's companies and institutions – and find future collaborators and business contacts.

NETWORKING SESSIONS

We wish for attendees to grow their professional and business network at the Symposium. We have therefore organized several parallel networking sessions. Feel free to engage with participants in the Lobby and look for new contacts and mentors. If you wish to expand your network in one particular field, we have prepared several thematic tables with refreshments. During the whole session, the Goethe Lecture Hall will host short presentations rounds where participants can introduce themselves and their activity to the audience.

GARDEN BARBEQUE

Joe's Barbeque Smoker is waiting for you outside on the lawn +++ meet us for some Grill and Chill in the Garden.

JAM SESSION

Whether you play the drumset, the guitar or the piano – on Tuesday night, we will transform the Einstein Lounge to a Jam Session. Bring in your skills!

CITY TOURS

Get to know Berlin better and join our different city tours – from Highlights to Berlin Wall to Wannsee beach. (*Pre-registered participants only due to capacity limitations.*)

CULTURAL RUNNING DINNER

As a festive closing of our Symposium, we invite you to taste the delights of different continents during our Cultural Running Dinner. From African and Asian Entrées to Main Courses from Europe to Desserts from the American Continent – and don't miss the homemade icecream by Schoko & Luise. Join us for drinks and dancing in the Einstein Lounge right afterwards.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

SUNDAY August 21 st , 2016		MONDAY August 22 nd , 2016	
15.00 +	Arrivals at individual hotels	08.00-09.00	Registration in the Harnack-Lobby
16.00-18.30	Registration in the Harnack-Lobby	09.00-09.30	Welcome and Opening Speech, <i>Ferdi Schüth</i>
19.00 +	Optional Dinner at "Alter Krug" (Pre-Registered only)	09.30-10.45	Keynote Speech, <i>Kathy Edersheim</i>
		10.45-11.00	Coffee Break
		11.00-11.45	Plenary Talk, <i>Reinhard Jahn</i>
		11.45-12.45	Plenary Session, <i>Anke Post</i>
		12.45-14.00	Lunch Break
		14.00-14.45	Plenary Session, <i>Sascha Brozek</i>
		14.45-15.30	Plenary Session, <i>Jörg Polakiewicz</i>
		15.30-15.45	Coffee Break
		15.45-16.35	Plenary Session, <i>Shabnam Mousavi</i>
		16.35-19.00	Networking Sessions
		19.00 +	Barbecue Dinner

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

TUESDAY August 23rd, 2016

09.15-09.45	Opening Speech, <i>Birgit Adam</i>
09.45-10.15	Keynote Speech, <i>Filippo Guarnieri</i>
10.15-10.30	Coffee Break & Networking Session
10.30-11.00	Plenary Session, <i>Luca Spani Molella / Dennis Fink</i>
11.00-11.30	Plenary Session, <i>Albert Presas i Puig / Ali Shahmoradi</i>
11.30-11.45	Coffee Break & Networking Session
11.45-12.30	Plenary Discussion, <i>Jai Virdi-Dhesi / Johanna Havemann</i>
12.30-14.00	Lunch Break
14.00-16.15	Workshop Sessions I + II
16.15-16.30	Coffee Break
16.30-17.30	Workshop Sessions III
17.35-18.00	Plenary Discussion, <i>Ghazaleh Afshar</i>
18.00 +	Formal Conference Dinner + Jam Session

WEDNESDAY August 24th, 2016

09.00-09.15	Opening Speech
09.15-09.45	Keynote Speech, <i>Frank Sander</i>
09.45-10.15	Keynote Speech, <i>Lars Cuypers</i>
10.15-12.30	Expert Workshops
12.30-14.00	Lunch Break in the Winter Garden
14.00-18.30	Career Fairs / Unconferences / City Tours
18.30 +	Concluding Remarks & Festive Opening of Cultural Running Dinner

THURSDAY August 25th, 2016

09.00 +	Departure
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST 2016

15.00

ARRIVALS AT INDIVIDUAL HOTELS

16.00-18.30

REGISTRATION in the Harnack-Lobby

19.00

OPTIONAL DINNER at Alter Krug

Participation with pre-registration only.

**Meet us in the Harnack Lobby at 18.30
for a guided walk to the restaurant.**



MONDAY, AUGUST 22nd 2016
(Goethe-Saal unless indicated otherwise)

8.00 - 9.00

REGISTRATION in the Harnack-Lobby

9.00 - 9.30

WELCOME and OPENING SPEECH

Ferdi Schüth

9.30 - 10.45

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Kathy Edersheim

"Beyond the Campus. How Alumni Can Support Career Development and Life Skills Acquisition for Students and other Alumni"

10.45 - 11.00

COFFEE BREAK and NETWORKING SESSION
in the Winter Garden

11.00 - 11.45

PLENARY TALK

Reinhard Jahn

„Careers in science — between frustration and success“

11.45 - 12.45

PLENARY SESSION

Anke Post

"Scientific carriers. from academia into industry for Neurosciences"

12.45 - 14.00

FINGERFOOD LUNCH at the Harnack Restaurant

14.00 - 14.45

PLENARY SESSION

Sascha Brozek

"From Science to Consulting to Business — one option for a career development"

14.45 - 15.30

PLENARY SESSION

Jörg Polakiewicz

"Careers in Law"

15.30 - 15.45

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING SESSION
in the Winter Garden

15.45 - 16.35

PLENARY SESSION

Shabnam Mousavi **"Of Men and Machines: How do humans and machines process information?"**

16.35 - 19.00

NETWORKING SESSIONS — Signs in the Harnack House will guide you to the networking sessions.

19.00 BARBEQUE DINNER in the Garden

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23rd 2016

9.15 - 9.45

OPENING SPEECH

Birgit Adam

"The future of lifelong Max Planck connections"

9.45 - 10.15

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Filippo Guarnieri

"The Max Planck Alumni Association. bridging the gap between academia and industry."

10.15 - 10.30

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING SESSION

in the Winter Garden

10.30 - 11.00

PLENARY SESSION

Luca Spani Molella and Dennis Fink

"MPAA I. A worldwide network of Max Planck alums to support innovation and professional growth."

11.00 - 11.30

PLENARY SESSION

Albert Presas i Puig and Ali Shahmoradi

"MPAA II. Alumni Groups as geographical and specialized centers for networking, mentoring and career support."

11.30 - 11.45

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING SESSION

in the Winter Garden

11.45 - 12.30

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Speakers. Jaipreet Viridi-Dhesi and Johanna Havemann

"MPAA III. Defining the vision and mission of Max Planck alums and the Max Planck Alumni Association."

12.30 - 14.00

FINGERFOOD LUNCH at the Harnack Restaurant

14.00 - 15.00

1st BREAKOUT SESSIONS in individual Workshop rooms

"Build a network, make an impact. best practices from the Yale Postdoctoral Association"

Drago Milovanovich **1 GOETHE**

"Open a Circle of Friends and Regional or Shared Interest Groups, and plan your own activities."

Albert Presas i Puig and Ali Shahmoradi **2 HAHN**

"Synergetic.Bio — fostering an ecosystem, in which academia synergizes with Biotech and global pharmaceutical companies"

Marija Pesic and Irene Ferreira **3 HUMBOLDT**

"How to use digital tools for professional networking within the MPAA"

Johanna Havemann **4 MOZART**

"Career Communities with and for Students, PhD Students and Young Professionals — a best practice example from the Alumni of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab"

Jenny Sachweh and Marius Schwabenland **5 LYNEN**

15.00 - 15.05

ROOM CHANGE

15.05 - 16.15

2nd BREAKOUT SESSIONS

in individual Workshop rooms

**"Alumn engagement. How to better commit and engage
alumni and researchers in volunteering?"**

[Kathy Edersheim](#) **6 GOETHE**

**"Strategic planning and monitoring of research alumni
relations instruments"**

[Barbara Sheldon](#) **7 HAHN**

**"How to Establish your Social Media Presence.
Branding & Networking"**

[Jai Viridi-Dhesi](#) **8 HUMBOLDT**

**"Mentoring programmes to keep alumni in contact with their
former Institute and recruit high-potential researchers."**

[Filippo Guarnieri](#) **9 MOZART**

"Great minds, great ideas. shaping tomorrow's MPAA today!"

[Ghazaleh Afshar](#) **10 LYNEN**

16.15 - 16.30

COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING SESSION

in the Winter Garden

16.30 - 17.30

3rd BREAKOUT SESSIONS in individual Workshop rooms

**"Building up a network based on themes. the Helmholtz Leader-
ship and Career development Community (Helmholtz & Friends)"**

[Jennifer Schevardo](#) **11 GOETHE**

**"Interdisciplinary event communities — best practices from
Falling Walls and the Falling Walls Lab"**

[Lisa Kohler and Naveed Syed](#) **12 HAHN**

**"The MPAA Career Network — a novel professional network
for Max Planck scientists and alumni"**

[Norman Gerstner and Isabell Weber](#) **13 HUMBOLDT**

**"From Idea to Startup to Finding Investors to Success —
And How to Embrace Failure on the Way There."**

[Simon Bungers](#) **14 MOZART**

**"Lifelong learning. Scientific and professional training
for Max Planck alumni."**

[Andreas Sorge](#) **15 LYNEN**

17.30 - 17.35

ROOM CHANGE

17.35 - 18.00

PLENARY DISCUSSION

[Ghazaleh Afshar](#)

**"MPAA IV. Alumni programmes and tomorrow's professional
support to Max Planck alumni and researchers."**

18.00

FORMAL CONFERENCE DINNER

at the Harnack Restaurant

20.00 +

JAM SESSION AND DRINKS

at the Einstein Lounge

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24th 2016

9.00 - 9.15

OPENING SPEECH

9.15 - 9.45

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Frank Sander

“Digital Change in the Business of Scientific Information”

9.45 - 10.15

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Lars Cuypers

“Max-Planck-Innovation - Connecting Science and Business”

10.15 - 12.30

PARALLEL EXPERT WORKSHOPS

Ahmed El Hady HUMBOLDT

“Entrepreneurship and scientific innovation after the
Max Planck Society”

Tobias Klose HAHN

Crafting a competitive grant application”

10.15 - 12.30

CAREER FAIR / UNCONFERENCES

12.30 - 14.00

FINGERFOOD LUNCH at the Harnack Restaurant

14.00 - 18.30

CAREER FAIR / UNCONFERENCES / CITY TOURS

18.30

CONCLUDING REMARKS and FESTIVE OPENING
of the CULTURAL RUNNING DINNER by the
Dahlemer Kammerorchester

21.00+

DANCE PARTY at the Einstein Lounge
RELAXED NETWORKING in the Winter Garden

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25th 2016

9.00 DEPARTURE

Ahmed El Hady

Ahmed El Hady is a neuroscientist and a peace activist. At the Max Planck Society, he did his doctoral thesis at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self Organization and stayed for a short postdoctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry. He is currently a Howard Hughes Medical Institute postdoctoral fellow at the Princeton Neuroscience Institute.

**Albert Presas i Puig**

Albert Presas i Puig is Associate Professor at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. He lectures in the History of Science and has been a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. His research interests focus on science, culture and power; science in the European periphery; Science and Francoism and the history of nuclear energy. In the last 5 years, he has been involved in 8 research projects funded by different Spanish institutions such as the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Science and Innovation or the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalonia's local government) or the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and Max-Planck Society. Together with Jürgen Renn (Director MPI for the History of Science) and colleagues, he founded the first Circle of Friends in Iberia in 2014.

**Ali Shahmoradi**

Ali Shahmoradi is a neuroscientist at the Stanford University and founding board member of the Max Planck Alumni Association. After studying Physics and Molecular Medicine in Göttingen and Rotterdam, he



received his doctoral degree from the University of Göttingen at the Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine. Currently he is studying higher cognitive functions of the brain in the context of autism spectrum disorder.

Andreas Sorge

Andreas Sorge works in research and higher education policy at the Head Office of the German Council for Science and Humanities (Wissenschaftsrat). He is an open science advocate and practitioner. In his former life as a physicist and complexity scientist at MPIDS Göttingen (and still in his free time today), he loves to model, code and simulate next generation mobility systems.

**Anke Post**

Anke Post studied medicine at the Universities in Berlin, Vienna and Muenster and obtained her M.D. degree from the University in Muenster. Early on in her career, Anke Post was a resident at the Humboldt University (Charité), Neurology department and started in parallel her basic research carrier at the Institute of Neuroanatomy at the Charité.



Anke Post joined the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich in 1996, where she combined clinical duties with pre-clinical research. She conducted her residency and fellowship in Psychiatry and Neurology at the institute, and focused her research work on brain signaling pathways mediating psychopharmacological drugs and transcranial magnetic stimulation. She performed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Salk Institute of Biological Studies, La Jolla, USA in 1997. She obtained her

SPEAKERS

specialization degree in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the MPI in 2002 and her habilitation degree at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich in 2004.

From 2005 to 2011, Anke Post worked for the Novartis Pharma AG in Switzerland where she was the medical lead for numerous development programmes in late-stage clinical development in Neuroscience. She joined Lilly in Indianapolis, USA, in early clinical development, Neuroscience in 2011.

Since 2013, Anke Post represents the neuroscience clinical group of Eli Lilly & Company research center in Erl Wood, UK as a senior medical director.

Barbara Sheldon

Barbara Sheldon is Head of Division for Strategic Planning at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and as such responsible for the development and implementation of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative for supporting threatened scholars. She has worked in the field of research management for nearly twenty years, fifteen of them at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in various positions. Her responsibilities have included the development of a programme for implementing “Welcome Centres for internationally mobile researchers” at universities in Germany, creating a German network of Welcome Centres and linking it to a European network of similar institutions (EURAXESS), as well as a programme for promoting “research alumni relations”. Previously she worked as a fundraiser for the German Academic Exchange Service and as personal assistant to the President of the University of Heidelberg. Barbara holds a Ph.D. in American Literature from the University of Erlangen, Germany.



Birgit Adam

Birgit Adam is a Biotechnologist by training and Central Coordinator of Max Planck alumni activities. After her doctoral studies at the MPI for Marine Microbiology, she joined the Communications Department at the MPG Administrative Headquarters in 2012 to promote the Max Planck alumni network and to administer the internal social network maxNet and build the new collaborative Intranet “Max”.



Dennis Fink

Dennis Fink is Alumnus of the MPI for Marine Microbiology and after his PhD in 2011 he co-founded a science communication agency in Cologne (mediomix GmbH). On his way from scientist to science communicator he relied on his network and he will talk about the advantage of the MPAA network and how you can efficiently use this platform to grow your network.



Dragomir Milovanovich

Dragomir Milovanovich is a first-year postdoc in the Department of Neuroscience at Yale School of Medicine. Drago finished his Ph.D. at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, Germany where he worked on the dynamics of proteins and lipids in the presynaptic membranes. For postdoctoral work, Drago moved to cellular neuroscience and he focuses on understanding the dynamics of synaptic vesicles in developing neurons. During his time in Germany, Drago was a coordinator of the PhD/Postdoc Community at the Max Planck



Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (2013-2015); student representative at the Göttingen Graduate School for Neuroscience, Biophysics and Molecular Biosciences (2014), and for three years he was part of the organizing committee for the international conference “Horizons in Molecular Biology”. All of these engagements gave him the valuable opportunity to be part of joint team ventures, practice leadership skills, host dozens of speakers from both academic and non-academic institutions, and learn to fundraise, as well as familiarize himself with the range of challenges that students/postdocs may face in their academic environment. Upon arrival at Yale, Drago immediately became involved in the YPA. Currently he is a coordinator of Communication Affairs and Public Relations and he has been a member of the advisory committee for the Office of Career Strategy at Yale University. Drago sees the YPA as a major hub for postdocs to share their experiences, expand their networks and make the time at Yale productive at both the professional and private level.

Ferdi Schüth

Ferdi Schüth studied Chemistry and Law at the University of Münster before graduating and receiving his PhD in 1988. After postdoctoral research studies in Minneapolis, he became a Full Professor in Anorganic Chemistry and has served the Max Planck Society as Director and Scientific Member at the MPI für Kohlenforschung since 1998. He has served the Max Planck community as Chairman of the Scientific Council and is currently Vice President.



Filippo Guarnieri

Filippo Guarnieri is a theoretical physicist and Chairman of the Max Planck Alumni Association. After his doctoral studies at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics he has worked at the Freie Universität in Berlin and Yale University. He is currently a research fellow in theoretical physics at the NORDITA Institute in Stockholm.



Frank Sander

Frank Sander studied Physics at the University of Cologne and Ludwigs-Maximilians-University in Munich before conducting his doctoral studies at the MPI for Quantum Optics. Afterwards he spent 12 years in the industry, including 2 years in software development and 10 years in strategic management consulting (e.g. McKinsey & Co.), before joining the Max Planck Digital Library in 2010 as General Manager.



Ghazaleh Afshar

Ghazaleh Afshar is a theoretical physicist by training and Vice-Chair of the Max Planck Alumni Association. She earned her doctorate at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization. She worked as a consultant before joining SAP, where she currently is product specialist in sales area in the Customer Engagement & Commerce unit.



SPEAKERS

Irene Ferreira

Irene Ferreira is passionate about building bridges between academia and industry. She is one of the founders and organizers of the InPharma platform and the Synergetic:Bio mentoring programme. Currently, she is concluding her PhD at the MPI of Biochemistry.



Isabell Weber

Isabell Weber studied biology at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany and the University of Salamanca, Spain. In 2010, she joined the lab of Caren Norden at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden. After finishing her PhD in developmental neurobiology, Isabell was awarded a springboard-to-postdoc fellowship to join the lab of Michael Brand in Dresden. In August 2015, she moved to Cambridge, UK where she is an EMBO-Fellow with Kristian Franze working on neuromechanics. As a founding member of the "MPAA Career Network", Isabell is responsible for coordinating the life science sector.



Jaipreet Viridi-Dhesi

Jaipreet Viridi-Dhesi (B.A., M.A., PhD) is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at Brock University who works at the intersection of the history of medicine and disability studies. As a Pre-doctoral fellow at MPIWG in 2013, she worked on the project "The Construction of Norms in 17th to 19th Century Europe and the United States." She is working on her first book, *Hearing Happiness: Fakes, Fads, and Frauds in Deafness Cures*. You can read her work on her blog, "From the Hands of Quacks" and follow her on twitter: @jaivirdi.



Jennifer Schevardo

Jennifer Schevardo is responsible for career support, Alumni activities and the network Helmholtz & Friends, and based in the Helmholtz association's Berlin head office. She is a studied historian and worked for some years in cultural management and civic education. As an expert for Central Eastern Europe she also worked for a think tank on foreign policy and organized different international programmes on further professional training and peer exchange for young executives.



Jenny Sachweh

Jenny Sachweh is a 21 years old German student of Molecular Biotechnology at Heidelberg University. As a former participant of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab, she now contributes to this initiative of the DKFZ both as supervisor of its biochemistry working group and board member of the alumni association. In that capacity, she ensures continuous communication between the parent organisation and alumni and supports the chairmen in various tasks like event management and internal communication.



Johanna Havemann

Johanna Havemann obtained the PhD in 2009 from the Max-Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tübingen and works as a trainer and consultant in International Affairs and Science Communication with a regional focus on Africa. Her working experience covers NGOs, startups and international institutions including UNEP.



Jörg Polakiewicz

From 1986 to 1993, Jörg Polakiewicz was a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public and International Law in Heidelberg. He joined the Council of Europe in 1993, currently holding the position of Director of Legal Advice and Public International Law (Legal Adviser).

**Kathy Edersheim**

Kathy Edersheim is Senior Director of International Alumni Relations and Travel at the Association of Yale Alumni. Her role encompasses responsibility for programmes that take alumni, family and friends on educational, service and mission trips around the world. She is also part of the management team of the AYA. She is the Chairperson of YaleGALE and produced many of the YaleGALE trips prior to joining Yale. Working with universities overseas, Kathy speaks about volunteer engagement, leadership development and strategic planning as well as specific alumni initiatives. Kathy served on the AYA Board of Governors for four years. Kathy was the first woman President of the Yale Club of New York City, the largest college club in the world with a 22 story building located in the heart of mid-town Manhattan, and continues to serve on the Board of the Club. Kathy won the AYA Volunteer of the Year award in 2008. In 2011, Kathy was awarded the Yale Medal, Yale's highest award presented by the AYA, conferred solely to honor outstanding individual service to the University. Prior to joining AYA, she worked as a Financial Advisor and marketing professional. Kathy received her BA from Yale University and an MBA from the Stern School of Business.

**Lars Cuypers**

Lars Cuypers studied chemistry at Universities Oldenburg and Marburg, working in the field of organometallic synthesis during his doctoral research studies. From 2003 to 2007 he gained first business experience working as R&D manager for the detergent raw materials business at Clariant. Since May 2007 he is working as Patent & Licensing Manager for Max-Planck-Innovation, being responsible for technology transfer in the chemistry, physics and technology section.

**Lisa Kohler**

A literature and cultural studies major by training, Lisa Kohler has held positions in transatlantic programme and event management, science management and the Berlin startup scene before joining Falling Walls.

**Luca Spani Molella**

Luca Spani Molella is a Project Procurement Manager (act.) at OHB-System AG. He is Alumnus of the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) where he earned his doctoral degree and worked as a postdoctoral fellow. Before his current employment he has worked as the General Manager of the Hanover Center for Optical Technologies (HOT) and as a lecturer at the Leibniz Universität Hannover.



SPEAKERS

Marija Pesic

Marija Pesic finished her PhD and Postdoc at the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology where she studied immune cell priming in Multiple Sclerosis. During that time, she became a part of InPharma initiative and has been devotedly involved in its organisation and evolution ever since. Since September 2015, she is working at INC Research, where she manages initiation processes of clinical trials.



Marius Schwabenland

Marius Schwabenland is a medical student and PhD candidate at the Institute for Neuropathology, University Medical Center Freiburg. As the head of the executive board of the Alumni of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab, he represents more than four hundred former participants of this initiative at the German Cancer Research Center. Together with his executive board fellows, he coordinates more than 60 volunteers who are continuously active for the alumni association.



Naveed Syed

Naveed Syed is the coordinator of international Falling Walls Labs. Naveed aspires to expand this network and to offer more cities worldwide the possibility to host a Falling Walls Lab.



Norman Gerstner

Norman Gerstner studied biology at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany, and chose an entrepreneurial path by entering a small BioTech spin-off in 2007. After 3 years of R&D he joined Marino Zerial's lab at MPI-CBG to do his PhD and postdoc work in cell & developmental biology. As of spring 2016, Norman is working on founding a BioTech start-up and in parallel leads the pilot project to establish the "MPAA Career Network", a novel platform for MPS alumni and alumnae and MPS scientists to promote their career development.



Reinhard Jahn

Reinhard Jahn studied biology and chemistry before receiving his doctorate 1981 at the University of Göttingen. After research and teaching at Yale and Rockefeller University, he's led a research group at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich since 1989. Five years later he again went to the US as an associate investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and professor of pharmacology and cell biology at Yale University. In 1997 he became Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry.



Sascha Brozek

Sascha Brozek, graduated from the University of Hannover as Diplom Physiker in 1994 and completed his dissertation in 1999. He was working in the gravitational wave detection project GEO600 at the MPI for Quantum Optics (the project is now affiliated with the MPI for Gravitational Physics) and the Laser Zentrum Hannover. In 2000 he changed his professional career from Science to Business when he joined Siemens AG, a multinational company. In Siemens AG he held various positions in Business Consulting and since 2009 as a general manager in the Siemens Building Technologies Group in South-Korea and later in the international headquarters in Switzerland with P&L responsibility of over 1 billion EUR global business. In 2014 Dr. Brozek became Senior Vice President and the global head of Major Projects at KONE Corp., a world leading company in the elevator and escalator industry. He is currently based in Helsinki, Finland and engaged in major customer projects around the globe.

**Shabnam Mousavi**

Shabnam Mousavi's research revolves around making sense of the ways in which people make their decisions. She holds a PhD in economics and one in statistics, serves on the faculty of business at the Johns Hopkins University, and is a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. At the moment she is writing her first book, *Fast-and-Frugal Decision Making*.

**Simon Bungers**

Simon Bungers is founder and CEO of labfolder GmbH, and an alumnus of the MPI of Experimental Medicine in Göttingen, where he did his PhD in Neurobiology in 2010. After his PhD, he joined an international strategy consulting firm in Munich - but just for a couple of months, after which he founded his first company in the e-commerce industry. This company was sold successfully in 2013. Already in late 2012, he had started labfolder, together with his PhD colleague Florian Hauer, who did his PhD in Biophysics at the MPI of Biophysical Chemistry. For labfolder, Simon raised more than €2m by now, to unlock the potential of high quality research data that is usually lost in paper notebooks and unstructured datasets.

**Tobias Klose**

Holding a degree in Performing Arts, Media and Cultural Management, in his 15 years of working experience Tobias Klose is ever since passionate about project storytelling. He has worked as a PR consultant, held a position as International Relations Manager at Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, where he established a career platform for young professionals working in the film and visual effects industry, before joining the Development team at the University of Witten/Herdecke, a pioneer among Germany's higher education institutions. Since 2013 he is contact point for foundations in the Development-unit at Max-Planck Society in Munich, closely working with Max-Planck-Institutes on networking events, friend- and fundraising and as well consulting on project design for grant applications targeted at trusts and foundations



Kathy Edersheim

"Beyond the Campus: How Alumni Can Support Career Development and Life Skills Acquisition for Students and other Alumni"

Alumni of MPS are in a uniquely qualified position to support students and each other over a lifetime because of their understanding of the educational background and the culture of the shared institution. Through alumni relations organizations and targeted programming, alumni can share their experiences, wisdom and connections to the benefit of students and other alumni looking for a job, wanting to hear about career opportunities, looking to learn leadership skills or generally needing advice on life. This session will consider specific ways that alumni can support students and each other in very practical ways using Yale University alumni initiatives as a case study. Goals: The goals of this session are to provide an understanding of the role of alumni relations in community building and how the alumni community can and should support current students and alumni in their career aspirations and attaining their personal goals. The session will consider specific programs that might be developed through MPSAA in career advising, mentoring, and leadership and life skills training by alumni. The session should provide inspiration for actionable ideas for those looking for advice and counsel and those needing an idea of how to most effectively provide it.

Anke Post

"Scientific carriers: from academia into industry for Neurosciences"

Transitioning from academia to industry could be both an interesting approach and long lasting endeavor or a discouraging, frustrating experience; in any way it is and will be a learning opportunity. I will describe how a potential carrier in the Research and Development area may look like in larger pharma and which opportunities exists for researchers in the medical and pre-clinical field.

Neuroscience research and development faced challenges over the recent past and changes to the approach in the field of CNS are occurring. Eli Lilly was a very strong contributor to psychiatric research in the past and it is currently focusing on research and development of treatment for Alzheimer's disease dementia. Some examples will be described to illustrate it.

External collaboration between industry and academia is an important aspect of the work and includes initiatives which allows students and postdocs to experience research under industry conditions as well as broader collaborations such as the EU based Innovation for Medicine Initiatives.

Sascha Brozek

"From Science to Consulting to Business — one option for a career development"

Many young scientists are standing at a crucial decision point after the successful completion of their 1st or 2nd university degree: in which direction to further develop the professional career. Corporations are employing young scientist in various functions – from specialist to generalist functions. The career path from science to consulting to a general management career is one of various options and we will discuss this path during the 1st Max Planck Symposium for Alumni and Early Career Researchers.

Jörg Polakiewicz

"Careers in Law"

Based on my personal experience, I shall examine various career paths for lawyers in national and international contexts.

In a first part, I would like to explain how my work at the MPI Heidelberg has prepared me for the work in an international organisation.

tion and in particular for the position of legal adviser. In that context, career paths, requirements, prospects and challenges for lawyers in international organisations and the European Union will be presented.

In a second part, career paths and prospects in the German academic system will be explored. In that context, the two career patterns which continue to coexist (old system/provisional new system with junior professorship) will be examined.

Finally, some general observations about the role of law and lawyers in our interconnected and knowledge-intensive world will be presented.

Goal of session

- Present the various career paths for lawyers nationally and internationally;
- Evaluate the pros and cons of career paths;
- Discuss factors, requirements and barriers for career advancement such as gender, nationality and the existence of informal networks;
- Critically analyse some general trends affecting government, intergovernmental organisations and universities alike:
- introduction of a management culture, project management methodology, use of consultants, rebranding exercises, pursuit of rankings;
- Foster reflection about the role of the MPG in assisting young professionals throughout their career.

Shabnam Mousavi

“Of Men and Machines: How do humans and machines process information?”

The majority of life and career decisions are made with little information and time, and under high uncertainty. We have large-

ly come to believe that reliable and efficient decisions can be shaped by feeding logic and mathematical truth to our information processing machines, aka computers. I provide a typology of knowledge generated by different forms of information processes in relation to the level of uncertainty. I use my personal experience in academia to elaborate on the theory and practice of decision making, focusing on the ways in which humans differ from machines when dealing with information. An unwavering math fan, I moved from electrical engineering to social sciences, motivated by asking the same question for many years: How do people make decisions under uncertainty? In decision sciences, as in any field, much is unknown and much of what is known is changing all the time. However, as scientists we can always find pleasure and new inspiration in exploring what little we have unveiled and sharing that with each other.

Filippo Guarnieri

“The Max Planck Alumni Association: bridging the gap between academia and industry.”

The importance of well-structured alumni work at the Max Planck Society became more and more evident recently. Max Planck alumni are brilliant researchers who further progressed in academia, or ventured outside of it, often reaching relevant positions in industry and society. The Max Planck Alumni Association wants to provide alumni with a direct communication channel to their alma mater, and develop a worldwide network of alumni. Collecting all the expertise of its members may lead to several benefits for alumni, the Max Planck Society and its researchers. An alumni association may facilitate the professional entrance and career development of early career researchers and alumni, it may foster the professional exchange between different fields in industry, and support the scientific activities and working conditions of Max Planck researchers. In one sentence: it bridges the gap between academia and industry.

ABSTRACTS - PLENARY SESSIONS

Luca Spani Molella and Dennis Fink

“MPAA I: A worldwide network of Max Planck alumni to support innovation and professional growth.”

We introduce how to access a worldwide network of alumni and grow your list of contacts using the media channels and infrastructures provided by the Max Planck Alumni Association. We briefly list the activities and services of the organization and explain how to access them through the website. Concluding, we present how to join regional and thematic alumni groups, volunteer in programs and join the leadership of the association.

Albert Presas i Puig and Ali Shahmoradi

“MPAA II: Alumni Groups as geographical and specialized centers for networking, mentoring and career support.”

Local groups form the heart of Alumni Associations. Here, networks are fostered and mentoring takes place to promote early career Alumni. The Max Planck Society counts already several Circle of Friends and alumni groups that organize regional activities. We present the activities of few of these groups, focusing on mentoring and professional support for early stage researchers and alumni. We also introduce how these groups relate to the Max Planck Alumni Association; how to open a new alumni group, either at an MPI or as a thematic or regional group, and how to structure activities through the infrastructures provided by the Max Planck Alumni Association.

Jaipreet Viridi-Dhesi and Johanna Havemann

“MPAA III. Defining the vision and mission of Max Planck alumni and the Max Planck Alumni Association.”

We wish to engage with the audience and discuss on the vision and mission of the Max Planck Alumni Association. The association is dynamic and member-focused organization driven by philanthropic values. It aims at supporting research activities, professional growth and alumni programmes of its members and Max Planck researchers, and strengthening the ties of goodwill and communication between the Institutes, their alumni and current employees. As an association of Max Planck alumnae and alumni, what should we focus on in the long

term? During this plenary discussion, we will analyze few of the issues that the organization may address, and set long time goals and values.

Ghazaleh Afshar

“MPAA IV: Alumni programmes and tomorrow’s professional support to Max Planck alumni and researchers.”

Among many brilliant bold ideas discussed during the symposium, we should of course decide and plan which ones to pursue. Therefore, in this plenary discussion, we would like to summarize and outline the high level plan for future programmes and activities of Max Planck Alumni Association.

Frank Sander

“Digital Change in the Business of Scientific Information”

This plenary talk will offer insights into the Digital Change within the Business of Scientific Information with aspects on Access to Information, Informational Services, Tools for Information Management and Science Policy. We will address the role of the MPDL as a service facility of the MPG and as one of the largest buyers of scientific information within Europe. Furthermore, we will discuss career opportunities as Data Scientist, Software Developer, Conceptual Mastermind or Manager of Digital Information.

Lars Cuypers

“Max-Planck-Innovation - Connecting Science and Business”

Max-Planck-Innovation advises and supports scientists of the Max Planck Society in evaluating inventions and filing patent applications. We license patents and technologies to industry and coach founders of new companies based on research results from Max Planck Institutes. Thereby we perform an important task: the transfer of basic research results into products, which contribute to the economic and social progress. For early career researchers the involvement in a startup company can be an attractive career option. If you are interested in founding a company, Max-Planck-Innovation can support the business and financial planning, advise on suitable development funds, provide contacts at financial partners and consult on patent matters.

Drago Milovanovich 1 GOETHE**“Build a network, make an impact: best practices from the Yale Postdoctoral Association”**

Postdocs are seen as professionals engaged in a temporary period of advanced training. In addition to enhancing the research expertise and developing independence, we are expected to gain and practice the professional skills necessary for a future career. The aim of the workshop is to discuss the postdoctoral associations of our local institutes as hubs where many of these professional skills can be learned and long-lasting networks can be established. This workshop will consist of two parts. First, we will do a case study to determine the key parameters that are essential for making the postdoc experience successful and enriching beyond the immediate working environment. Afterward, we will look in detail at the structure and activities of the Yale Postdoctoral Association, a postdoctoral network that includes more than a thousand postdocs in different fields, with different backgrounds.

Albert Presas i Puig and Ali Shahmoradi 2 HAHN**“Open a Circle of Friends and Regional or Shared Interest Groups, and plan your own activities.”**

Would you like to join other alumni living in your city, region or country, or from your former Institute or in your professional branch? In this workshop we present how to open or join a Circle of Friends, or manage a Regional or Shared Interest Group of the Max Planck Alumni Association. We moreover help you to choose between Circles and Groups, and getting started with your own programme of activities.

Marija Pesic and Irene Ferreira 3 HUMBOLDT**“Synergetic:Bio — fostering an ecosystem, in which academia synergizes with Biotech and global pharmaceutical companies”**

The InPharma platform was founded by former and present members of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry and Neurobiology (Martinsried near Munich) in 2015. The aim of InPharma is to foster the flow of expertise from academia to industry. So far InPharma has established fruitful partnerships with the IZB (Innovation and Start-Up Center for Biotechnology), five Graduate Schools from the Munich area, and DGP-harMed (German Society of Pharmaceutical Medicine). InPharma is currently running three main projects: 1) the InPharma annual career event, aiming to introduce the landscape of job perspectives in pharmaceutical and biotech companies to young life scientists, 2) InPharma Innovation Initiative (3I's) with the particular purpose to introduce the Biotech landscape to scientists, and 3) Synergetic:Bio mentoring programme together with DGPharMed. The objective of the workshop is to introduce these projects and to explore the possibility of expanding the InPharma platform as well as mentorship programme in collaboration with Max Planck Alumni network. We invite participants to propose and discuss their own ideas of how we could together accomplish this in the most productive way.

Johanna Havemann 4 MOZART**“How to use digital tools for professional networking within the MPAA”**

The Max Planck Alumni Association provides its members with a world-wide network of (potentially) more than 50.000 alumni in professional environments ranging from high-tech to journalism, from biomedical to politics. Digital tools and networks like LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Research Gate, Academia.edu etc. may well serve as means of communication.

In this workshop, we will discuss the pros and cons of these tools to jointly develop a sound communications infrastructure for the MPAA.

Jenny Sachweh and Marius Schwabenland 5 LYNEN

“Career Communities with and for Students, PhD Students and Young Professionals — a best practice example from the Alumni of the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab”

Nowadays challenges for alumni associations are endless. Different scientific backgrounds and career paths of potential members require differentiated approaches in developing alumni institutions. Even alumni of different generations have different expectations and objectives towards those networks. How can this be taken into account? Is it possible to form a common alumni spirit? How sustainable are those communities? On the basis of vivid examples, we are going to discuss these genuine challenges of growing alumni networks. For more than one decade, our institution unifies hundreds of graduates from the Heidelberg Life-Science Lab at the German Cancer Research Center. High-school students can take part in this programme for several years by working in research groups, listening to lectures and taking part in weekend workshops and summer schools. On the one hand, our alumni network nicely completes and extends the Life-Science Lab’s individual ‘researching learning’ support concept. On the other hand, our network preserves friendships over long periods and distances. Our members benefit from our network both online and offline: international and interdisciplinary workshop and summer school series bring together students, PhD candidates and young professionals of different generations and research areas. They open up novel science and career opportunities and enable them to handle science and research in a responsible manner.

Kathy Edersheim 6 GOETHE

“Alumn engagement: How to better commit and engage alums and researchers in volunteering?”

A successful alumni programme relies on volunteers to create events and organizations that truly address the needs of the alumni and the institution. How do you identify volunteers and create a framework to help them succeed? This session will discuss ideas on recruiting and motivating volunteers based on the experiences at the Association of Yale Alumni. The discussion will consider how to keep alumni involved for the long term and how to identify which volunteers are likely to become successful leaders. If there is time, we will consider the challenges in having alumni leaders organizing and managing other alumni volunteers as well as the risks – and rewards – of having volunteer leadership.

Barbara Sheldon 7 HAHN

“Strategic planning and monitoring of research alumni relations instruments”

Research alumni are highly qualified scientists and scholars from all countries of the world and all disciplines with busy schedules – and usually multiple alumni relations. Engaging them for the strategic planning of your institute requires creating “win-win-situations” – for the alumni as well as for the former host institution. In the context of the project “International Research Marketing” the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation has over the course of the last five years supported universities in establishing lasting alumni relations and engaging them in strategic matters. The goal of the session is to share the experiences of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and discuss them with other alumni managers present.

Jai Viridi-Dhesi 8 HUMBOLDT

“How to Establish your Social Media Presence: Branding & Networking”

Building an online presence appears necessary for engaging in the vast professional and academic infrastructures, especially for positioning yourself in the job market. What does it mean to have an online presence and how can you grow your followers? What different approaches to social media might be used for those seeking academic jobs versus those seeking professional careers in the sciences, politics, or government? This workshop introduces the key elements of social media and branding, for novices who are unfamiliar with LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and other sites.

Filippo Guarnieri 9 MOZART

“Mentoring programmes to keep alumni in contact with their former Institute and recruit high-potential researchers.”

The Max Planck Society runs a mentoring programme named “Speed Informing” where a Max Planck Institute invites four or five former researchers of different career paths outside academia. Groups of five or six researchers can then interview each of the invited alumni in 10-minute rounds. We present the experience from two Speed Informings organized at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics. Mentoring can, however, be provided in several forms. We propose a “One-on-One” mentoring programme, where each researcher is put in connection to an alumni, and a “Web-mentoring” programme, where alumni can be reached by students through the website of the MPI Group. All participants are invited to propose and discuss their own ideas for mentoring.

Ghazaleh Afshar 10 LYNN

“Great minds, great ideas: shaping tomorrow’s MPAA today!”

Let’s get together and create a chain of knowledge and share the experience that will link today’s MPS graduates with the future ones. Come and share your great bold ideas with other like-minded people who, like you, think out side of the box!

Jennifer Schevardo 11 GOETHE

“Building up a network based on themes: the Helmholtz Leadership and Career development Community (Helmholtz & Friends)”

Talent management and leadership development play a very important role in Helmholtz Association’s strategy. Its most prominent instrument is the Helmholtz Leadership Academy which was founded in 2007. Since then, more than 500 researchers and research managers from Helmholtz centers and from partner institutions participated in one of the four different leadership training programmes. The alumni of this academy mostly show a vivid interest in staying in touch with each other and to go on working on the academy related issues. To enable them to do so, Helmholtz association created different formats of cooperation and peer exchange. Although appreciating the endurance of former participants, the “alumni focus” is not our only aim. We are striving for a more sustainable and broader network which connects people from different career levels who are willing to contribute to an improvement of leadership and organizational culture in science (not only at Helmholtz). The aim of the session is to discuss the possibilities and challenges in building up a sustainable network based on career and leadership issues in science and science management. Which incentives make people join such a kind of network, what are appropriate forms of communication and exchange and what content (related to leadership and career planning) is really needed?

Lisa Kohler and Naveed Syed 12 HAHN

“Interdisciplinary event communities — best practices from Falling Walls and the Falling Walls Lab”

The Falling Walls Lab is an innovative format for academic institutions to showcase the quality, diversity and passion of their next generation of top researchers. In 3-minute talks upcoming scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs present their research projects to their peers, the general public and a distinguished jury - promoting ideas and fostering interdisciplinary networks. After a successful kick-off in 2011, the Falling Walls Lab was subsequently brought to numerous cities worldwide. In 2016, more than 50 Falling Walls Labs will take place in more than 40 different countries. Each year, the most intriguing presenters of the international Labs travel to the Falling Walls Lab Finale in Berlin on 8 November. 100 innovators receive the opportunity to present their work in front of a renowned jury. The Falling Walls Lab is organised by the Falling Walls Foundation, a non-profit organisation in Berlin, dedicated to the support of science and the humanities. It is a unique international platform for leaders from the worlds of science, business and politics, the arts and society. Falling Walls fosters discussion on research and innovation and promotes the latest scientific findings among a broad audience from all parts of society.

Norman Gerstner and Isabell Weber 13 HUMBOLDT

“The MPAA Career Network — a novel professional network for Max Planck scientists and alumni”

The newly founded Max Planck Alumni Association (MPAA) is currently establishing the pilot project to create the “MPAA Career Network”. This network will connect scientists of the Max Planck Society (MPS) with MPS alumni and external parties (companies, organizations, etc.), to bridge the gap of knowl-

edge and talent between academia and industry. Today, more than 12,000 researchers currently working at Max Planck Institutes, and more than 50,000 alumni of the MPS are eligible to be part of that network. During the workshop, we will present the concept of the MPAA Career Network and highlight its potential to become a valuable platform for career development, open innovation and recruiting top talent. Career development through an extended professional network and contacts into diverse professional areas. Innovation through the exchange of state-of-the-art knowledge, experience, and highly skilled people. A space to initiate collaborations that are built on cooperation and mutual understanding. We envision a lively discussion during this workshop in which we evaluate the benefits for MPS researchers and alumni to be part of the MPAA Career Network. We are aiming at incorporating your feedback into our efforts to build this platform. Target Audience: MPS alumni and MPS researchers interested in career development (especially those who wish to transition to non-academic careers and/or plan to hire top talent from the Max Planck pool).

Simon Bungers 14 MOZART

“From Idea to Startup to Finding Investors to Success - And How to Embrace Failure on the Way There.”

Founding, building and running your own company will definitely feel like the best thing you’ve ever done in your life. It will definitely also feel like your worst nightmare. Startup life is like a roller coaster and just living and trying it is a valuable experience. However, turning your startup into a success takes a lot of resilience, while acknowledging failure. This workshop will be about the pitfalls that arise for every founder, and how, rather than avoiding them, being prepared when you encounter them. It will contain practical advice like how to forge an idea into a business, how to find and raise the money that

you need to build it, how you deal with investors before and after they invested and how to run a company that can easily grow from 1 to 20 shrink to 3 and grow to 50 team members all within 2 years or less. Target audience: Young researchers that are thinking of founding a startup or working in a startup.

Andreas Sorge 15 LYNEN

“Lifelong learning: Scientific and professional training for Max Planck alumni.”

A core aspect of staying connected in a Max Planck community is the continuing exchange of knowledge and scholarly discussions among alumni and actives. Furthermore, and more formally, scientific and professional training also includes courses and prospectively, certificates and even degree programmes. This workshop seeks to bring together such ideas to facilitate lifelong learning, and to explore strategic options for the Max Planck Society and its nascent Alumni Association to institutionalize such exchange and training.

Ahmed El Hadry HUMBOLDT VIA SKYPE

“Entrepreneurship and scientific innovation after the Max Planck Society”

The Max Planck Society is one of the world leaders in scientific innovation. The Max Planck Alumni association fosters innovation after the Max Planck Society, by providing support to alumni and early career researchers interested in venturing into entrepreneurship. During this workshop we will introduce and discuss several ideas, like the establishment of a “Entrepreneurship and Start-up” Shared Interest Group (SIG) of the Max Planck Alumni Association, and collaborations with third-party partners.

Tobias Klose HAHN

“Crafting a competitive grant application.”

People who know the facts usually can’t write and folks who write typically don’t know the facts. No matter if you are in search for venture capital, plan a social integration project, want to have a film festival supported or as a scientist want to boost your research output - this quote could easily apply to all sorts of professionals that know the facts, but at times have trouble writing and selling their ideas when trying to get their project funded. Dealing with a grant application is as central to success as it is to have a proper setup of a project. But in the fight to get your piece of the pie, writing a grant proposal can make or break regardless to how good or innovative your idea is. Many candidates stumble, making needless mistakes - with project plans being overambitious, nerdy and too diffused, or when the presentation storyline is plain incomprehensible. This talk offers a birds-eye view on basic elements almost every grant application consists of and gives insights on project design, methods, styles of writing and storytelling. As grant proposals have a different purpose and aim at a completely different target group than an annual business report or a scientific paper addressed to peers, the intention is to pass on a tool-box, so your next proposal stands a good chance of getting a positive review.

THE HARNACK HOUSE – A HOME FOR THE WORLD

Eighty-five years ago, Harnack House opened its doors to academic guests from all over the world – a unique institution at the time. The Kaiser Wilhelm Society, the Max Planck Society's predecessor organization, thus played a pioneering role in international networking. The House reopened in fall 2014 as a conference venue for the Max Planck Society, following extensive renovation work. TEXT SUSANNE KIEWITZ

Although the wine cellar had not yet been completed, the Harnack House was handed over for use in May 1929. Around 400 prominent guests from business and industry, science and politics filled the ceremonial hall of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society's (KWG) new clubhouse and guest accommodation. The paint on the walls barely had time to dry, as the building had only just been completed due to a long winter and dwindling funds.

Nevertheless, everybody who was anybody turned up. Industrial magnate Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach acted as host, Foreign Minister Gustav Stresemann extended a warm welcome from the government of the German Reich, and US ambassador Jacob Schurman conveyed the best wishes of the diplomatic corps, whose members were well represented in the audience. Even after the VIPs had left and the doors had opened to normal guests, there was still a tremendous onslaught. By midday, the new venue on the Dahlem research campus was practically overrun. The kitchen had anticipated 60 hungry lunch guests from the surrounding laboratories; instead, three times that many turned up to fill their stomachs.

The Harnack House filled many gaps in Berlin's science community of the 1920s and was unique in Germany. It immediately became a focal point for the employees of the Berlin-Dahlem research campus, which was built literally on a green field in 1911 and had neither

shops nor cafés. It offered reasonably priced lunches everyday, as well as sports activities, a tennis court, functional rooms, a library and a newspaper room with comfortable lounge chairs. Starting in 1938, there was also a swimming pool.

However, behind these practical amenities lay a vision of great political and social magnitude. In 1926, Adolf von Harnack, President of the KWG, proposed the construction of an international clubhouse and guest rooms. An expert committee would nominate suitable academic fellows as guests. The Dahlem-based research campus offered strong incentives, as its seven institutes conducted pioneering work in virus research, biochemistry, molecular biology and, starting in 1937, also in particle physics.

The idea wasn't just scientifically beneficial – it also received political backing, as German foreign policy under Gustav Stresemann had, since 1923, increasingly focused on peace and international understanding. Germany, having lost the war, had been excluded from the international community starting in 1918, and was struggling to reestablish its reputation. With Stresemann's help, Harnack persuaded the German parliament to support the building of the academic guesthouse. German industry, which had recently survived inflation, was also dependent



Intellectually stimulating dialogue: Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Nobel Prize laureate in literature who corresponded with Albert Einstein, stayed at the Harnack House on two occasions in 1930.

»The Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Science is now building a guest accommodation and a lecture venue in Dahlem in the direct vicinity of its research institutes. 'Harnack House' (...) is intended to serve the international exchange of intellectual resources.«

on good foreign relations and had a vested interest in results from basic research. It thus made a generous contribution totaling 1.3 million Reichsmarks.

The driving force in the fundraising effort was Friedrich Glum. The young Secretary General of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society came up with the novel idea of dedicating rooms to individual major donors. The Vereinigte Stahlwerke, a leading player in the European coal and steel industry, financed the building of the lobby, which was called the Bismarck Hall at its request. IG Farben made a donation for the Duisberg Hall. Designed by Munich-based architect Carl Sattler, this room was modeled on a student pub where the institute assistants could enjoy jovial evenings.

The Harnack House thus supported its founder's goal of making science a vital component of the state in several ways. Echoing his sentiments, the German and international press acclaimed the newly opened venue as a place where "international understanding could be applied in practice." Even in its first year of opening, the German Foreign Office liked the new building so much that it also accommodated its diplomatic guests there. With the Harnack House, the Kaiser Wilhelm Society had also created a new venue for its own communication. This was modeled on the numerous clubs found in Berlin at that time, where politicians, industrialists and business tycoons, as well as artists and journalists, fostered their network of contacts at official and informal events. Scientists also participated in this scene, but didn't have their own spot.

That changed with the construction of the Harnack House. The face-to-face exchange was very much in keeping with the spirit of its founder, as Adolf von Harnack emphasized in his opening address, saying that he had "enjoyed the wonderful experience

of establishing close relationships, not just with business and industry, but also with industrialists, not just with banks, but also with bankers, and not just with the trade unions, but also with workers (...)."

The venue's rapid success proved Harnack right. After just one year, the Harnack House had recorded 200 overnight stays, including 98 foreign guests. There were actually only 13 rooms, including some family apartments, which had been personally suggested by Harnack, but these were increasingly frequently booked out. When a radio journalist reported on the Harnack House in 1931, he mentioned a host of prominent figures who had stayed there. Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Nobel Prize laureate in literature who corresponded with Albert Einstein, visited the Harnack House twice in 1930, staying in the room adjacent to Heinrich Wölfflin, the art historian from Zurich. In his radio report, Berkeley professor Thomas Goodspeed lauded the Harnack House as "unique as a home away from home."



Center of international understanding: The Harnack House filled many gaps in the science community and was a unique venue in Germany.

THE HARNACK HOUSE – A HOME FOR THE WORLD

By 1931, the Harnack House had established its place in public life in Germany's capital city. The well-respected newspaper *Vossische Zeitung* came up with a new column providing readers with the latest details on the "guests at the Harnack House." In 1930, these also included Munich-based chemist Hans Fischer, who received news of his Nobel Prize while at the Harnack House. With his presentation in the lecture hall, Fischer joined the list of eminent speakers who informed experts and laypersons alike about the latest scientific developments. Topics included astrophysics and ornithology, biochemistry and heredity studies; art history, history and jurisprudence were also permanent fixtures in the lecture programme.

The Harnack House's guests included at least 35 current or future Nobel Prize laureates, among them many from the US. However, visitors also came from South America, China, Japan and even Australia. The timetable of Hapag-Lloyd's Atlantic ships, which sailed weekly between Cuxhaven and New York, was close at hand in the reception office. The hotel-like routine also didn't change after the National Socialists came to power in 1933. The Harnack House remained an international meeting place. It was, however, increasingly under the influence of Nazi foreign policy and race ideology; in the first year after Hitler seized power, the number of guests from the US had already fallen by half.

After the enactment of the Nazi law "to reestablish the civil service" in April 1933, the KWG dismissed most of its Jewish scientists or those of Jewish background at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes in Dahlem, leaving them to face an uncertain future. With them disappeared a significant share of the regular visitors. Only those who held a foreign passport, like Lise Meitner, were allowed to stay and were welcome at the

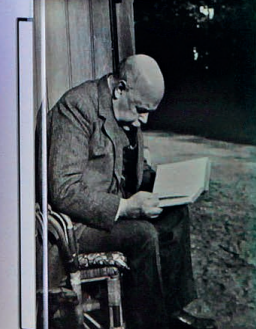
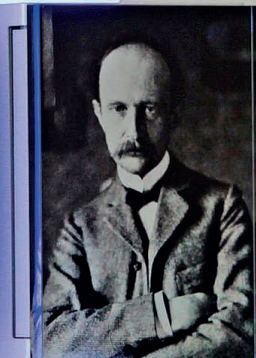
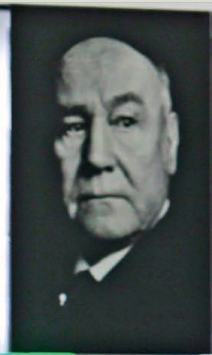
Harnack House. The KWG's official invitation policy at the Harnack House nevertheless remained loyal to the regime. Secretary General Glum and later Ernst Telschow endeavored to establish good political contacts with the new leadership, and invited key figures of the Third Reich to the clubhouse.

Adolf Hitler visited the Harnack House on two occasions, and Joseph Goebbels, Heinrich Himmler and Albert Speer were also guests. The public lecture series increasingly contained topics that appealed to the government, above all on race research and eugenics. The experts in these fields at the neighboring Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology conducted research into human heredity studies and eugenics, and trained doctors and lawyers at the Harnack House.

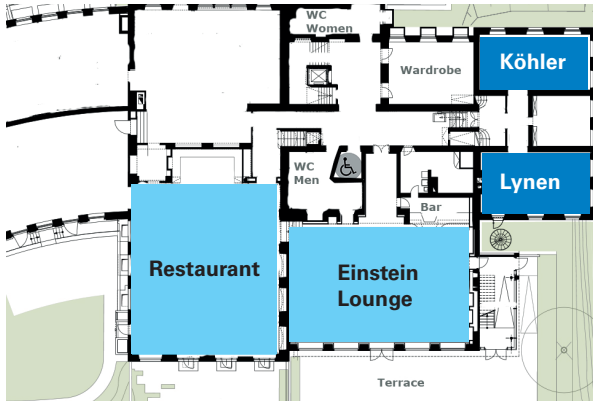
The Harnack House remained an academic clubhouse until 1945, and starting in 1943, accommodated the bombed-out staff of the KWG. After the war, the US army finally confiscated the intact building in July 1945, turned it into an officers' club and renovated it extensively. Situated close to the headquarters of the Berlin Brigade, which controlled the southwest of Berlin, the Harnack House became a piece of America in Berlin and played a significant role in German-US relations until the fall of the Wall.

The Harnack House's academic tradition was increasingly forgotten, while the events programme was dominated by balls and parties after Eckart Muthesius converted the Helmholtz lecture hall into a dance bar in 1953. The Americans mounted a memorial plaque on its door paying tribute to Adolf von Harnack for fostering German-American friendship. After the withdrawal of the Allies, the building was turned over to the Max Planck Society in 1996, which today uses it as a conference venue.

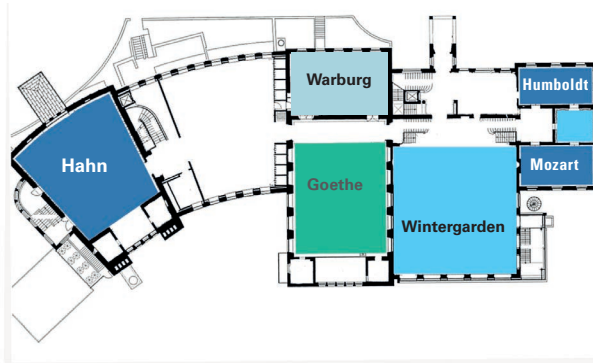
THE HARNACK HOUSE – A HOME FOR THE WORLD



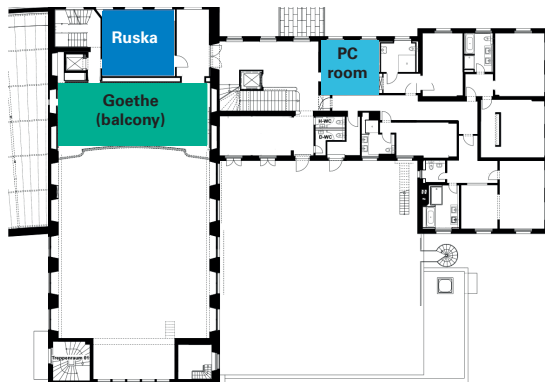
FLOOR PLANS HARNACK HOUSE



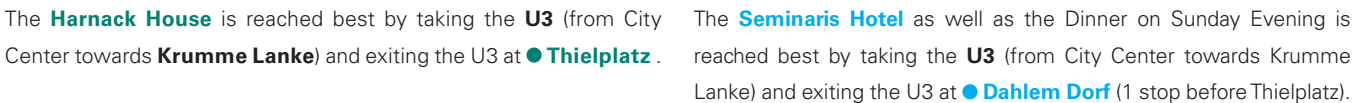
► SOUTERRAIN / BASEMENT



► GROUND FLOOR



► 1ST FLOOR



CITY TOURS

Wednesday 24th August, 13.30-18.00

Participation **with pre-registration only**.

Departure times: 13.30 for Groups A-D and 15.00 for Groups E+F.
All group guides are provided with emergency phone numbers to make sure you're back in the Harnack House for the festive opening of the Cultural Running Dinner.

Please find **additional information in the Conference App** and on the **Corresponding Posters** in the Harnack House.

A.....
BERLIN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR Foot & Ship



B.....
BERLIN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR Foot only & optional earlier return to the Harnack House



C.....
BERLIN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR Ship only &
prior free time in the city center



D.....
BERLIN WALL Museum and Tour



E.....
VILLA MARLIER (House of the Wannsee Conference)
Tour and Museum



F.....
WANNSEE BEACH



ADDRESSES & CONTACTS

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for Speakers, Staff and Travel Stipend Recipients

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OPTIONAL DINNER Sunday Evening

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