



Contents



18 FREEDOM

18 Academic freedom – a never-ending story

Academic independence has a long history in Germany. However, it was repeatedly restricted by religious or legal principles. The development of academic freedom and its limitations are a subject of research at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

26 Cracks in the justice system

In principle, the Basic Law guarantees the independence of the courts in Germany. But can politicians influence the judiciary after all? At the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History, researchers have studied this question and came up with some astonishing answers.

34 Freedom foisted

The differences between East and West have intensified again in recent years. Scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology are examining the reasons why, in Eastern Germany and Hungary.

ON THE COVER Freedom is a fundamental requirement for academic work. That's the reason why it is an area of interest for all fields of research. In the fields of legal, social and historical studies in particular, freedom is also a topic of research. Academics examine the development of academic freedom and query the status of judicial independence or how people experienced the transition in the GDR to a liberal, western system.

10 Excluded: Internet users demonstrate against losing access to online content.

PERSPECTIVES

- 06 Plenary Assembly with a European theme
- 06 Growth in Bochum and Konstanz
- 07 "The telescope offers enormous potential"
- 08 Top women scientists
- 08 Flight simulation for flying disks
- 09 A prize for the pioneer of Artificial Intelligence
- 09 On the net

VIEWPOINT

- 10 On the urge to regulate freedom**
The digitization of society and the economy requires clear legal framework conditions. Our authors warn against protectionist regulation and rushed decisions, however.

FOCUS

- 18 Academic freedom – a never-ending story
- 26 Cracks in the justice system
- 34 Freedom foisted



50 Aligned:
a space telescope focuses
on the stars of our galaxy.



66 A healthy balance:
Anja Feldmann can clear her
head when she's on horseback.



72 Flowed out:
hot springs in the deep create
the habitat for microorganisms.

SPECTRUM

- 44** Those who live longer have fewer children
- 44** Frequency comb trimmed for data communication
- 45** Self-assembling micromachines
- 45** Origins of the potato
- 45** The drug crisis and its offspring
- 46** Fire weakens tropical rainforests in the long term
- 46** Humanity's oldest workshop
- 47** How humans began smoking cannabis
- 47** Infanticide by mammalian mothers
- 48** The journeys of hoverflies
- 48** Goliath's ancestors came from Europe
- 49** Taking time to decide
- 49** Buoyancy for robot jellyfish
- 49** Always play it safe!

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

50 **Inventory of the Universe**
The *Gaia* European satellite telescope measures billions of stars in our Milky Way. Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy have compiled one section of the star catalog.

BIOLOGY & MEDICINE

58 **Tiny giants**
Some viruses are larger than bacteria. Only a small number of researchers are studying these exotic organisms. They include scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY

66 **A tour de force on data highways**
Personal portrait: Anja Feldmann

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

72 **Partners in the deep**
Archaea are a domain of life of their own. In the deep sea, the microbes form aggregates with bacteria in the areas around hot springs. Researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology want to know how they degrade methane during the process.

REGULAR FEATURES

- 03** **On location**
- 16** **Post from - Ngamba Island, Uganda**
Living side by side with chimpanzees
- 42** **Infographic**
Reforestation courtesy of fruit bats
- 78** **Flashback**
The virus from the basement
- 80** **Max Planck Community**
80 Working together for a better future
80 The Max Planck website is one of the most successful media pages
- 81 Three at once
- 82 The courage to build bridges
- 83** **Research Establishments**
- 83** **Publisher's Information**