

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

“Nothing is constant except change,” said the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus, and a better way of describing our society today can hardly be imagined. The coronavirus pandemic proves that science is also subject to constant change – it continually poses unexpected and life-changing challenges. Communication is vital, and not just in these exceptional times. Forms of communication must be continually adapted to the upheavals in the media landscape and continuously respond to new challenges.

In such turbulent times, a science magazine cannot afford to stand still. To reflect this, we have changed some aspects of the Max Planck Research edition you are currently reading. Our aim is to place greater emphasis on topicality and social-relevance in the subjects we choose to cover and to present the results of our research within a broader context. We will also be bundling together the larger articles into a section entitled “Knowledge from”. Articles on research policy and science are brought together under “In brief”. The section “Visit to” will offer insights into the personality, biography, and motivation of selected scientists. And as you can see, along with these changes, we have adopted a fresher and more modern design.

Change is also the focus of this issue. After all, global crises – especially human-made climate change – are affecting our daily lives. It is no coincidence that in 2020 the topic of Germany’s annual “Year of Science” is bioeconomy. Max Planck Society researchers can contribute a great deal to this subject. They are showing us that a “green economy” offers more opportunities than just replacing fossil resources; it can open up entirely new ways of producing chemicals. But how do we successfully implement economic change? The articles in our current issue will provide some answers.

Enjoy reading!