







**34** | ASSERTIVE

When it comes to the crunch, only a few people have the courage to intervene.

**48** | *INVENTIVE* 

Majd Al-Naji wants to convert plant waste and plastic into fuel.

**56** | *POLEMIC* 

Political debates on social media frequently get out of hand.

**78** | AGGRESSIVE

Climate activists are not only taking to the streets but also going to court.

# CONTENT

# 03 | EDITORIAL

# 06 ON LOCATION

Palazzo Grifoni Budini Gattai in Florence

# 08 | IN BRIEF

# 16 | VIEWPOINT

# China - a partner in transition

The Max Planck Society has maintained close relations with China for almost 50 years. The country has undergone a rapid development in recent years. This poses entirely new challenges for collaborative research.

#### 24 | INFOGRAPHIC

The dead of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic

# **FOCUS**

All together now!

#### **26** The monkey troop is on course

Baboon troops are famous for sticking together as they traverse the savannah in search of food. For almost a decade, a scientist has been studying a group of olive baboons in Kenya. She wants to understand what holds the group together.

# 34 | Rarely courageous

Civil courage is essential in a free society. Yet, when it comes to the crunch, few people dare to protect the victims of crime or to take an active stance against hatred and racism. What motives, what conditions inspire civil courage?

#### 40 | Birth of collectives

Cheaters can leave. In the case of the bacteria that's exactly what is wanted. If single cells are to become multicellular organisms, too much cohesion can be counterproductive for the colony.

# 48 | VISIT TO

# Majd Al-Naji

On the leap towards green chemistry

#### 54 DOUBLE TAKE

#### KNOWLEDGE FROM

# 56 In the gears of the opinion machine

Nowadays, political debates often turn into verbal brawls – especially on social media. But how does polarization happen? And how does opinion-forming function in groups?

# **62** | Tuning for solar power

Germany aims to become carbon-neutral by 2045. This can only succeed if solar energy systems are massively expanded and photovoltaic modules are improved. New materials are to make these systems more efficient.

# **70** | The architecture of the quantum internet

Advances in technology are likely to make cyber-attacks ever more damaging. Quantum communication could at least make data transmission more secure.

# **78** | Climate-Protecting Courts

Effects of global warming are becoming increasingly apparent. Climate activists around the world are taking legal action to conserve our natural resources.

**84** | Post from ...

India

**86** | Five questions

On glyphosate

# 87 | PUBLISHER'S INFORMATION

\_