



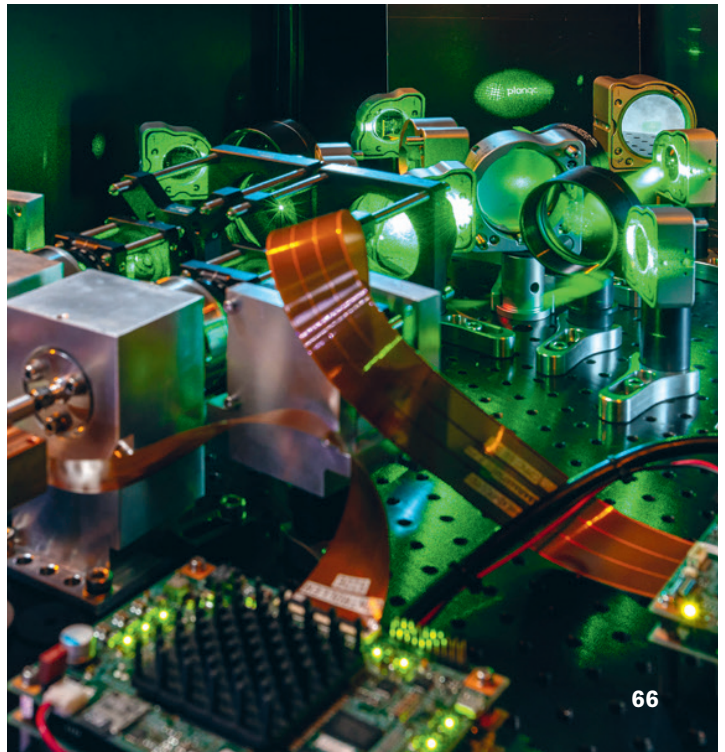
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34 | PLAYFUL

A pinball machine simulates how genetic and social factors influence development.

40 | NETWORKED

Mia Cha conducts research at the frontier where information technology and social science meet.

48 | HIDDEN

The interaction of cell components is controlled by the nucleus.

66 | BRANCHED

Researchers are using lasers to control the atoms in quantum computers.

IMAGES: ADOBESTOCK (TOP LEFT), MPI FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY (TOP RIGHT), LOUISE DUVER, SHAU CHUNG SHIN / MPI OF BIOPHYSICS (BOTTOM LEFT), PLANQC (BOTTOM RIGHT)

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FOCUS

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Do we have free will? This question is yet to be fully resolved. The answer also depends on how we define freedom.

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Thanks to the Internet, the selection of possible partners is greater than ever. But do we actually have freedom of choice?

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How we develop is dependent on the interaction of our genetics, environment, and society. Researchers investigate the impact on later life of genetic influences and social disadvantages during adolescence.

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Nuclear pores act like bouncers, protecting cell nuclei from unwanted intruders. Scientists have uncovered the structure of the nuclear pore complex.

54 | AI's material power

These days, materials must have both impressive properties and sustainability characteristics. This makes them difficult to develop. Researchers are turning to artificial intelligence for help.

60 | On Fertile Ground

Max Planck researchers want to facilitate both growth and sustainability in agriculture – using intelligent farming robots.

66 | Computing with Atoms

In the future, quantum computers will be able to make many complex calculations faster than today's computers. In 2027, the Garching-based start-up planqc plans to introduce a freely programmable quantum computer.

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