What Life Holds in Store for Us

18 In Pursuit of Happiness
Obviously, not everyone is satisfied with their job. Among employees in Germany, however, job satisfaction has been falling since the mid-1980s – an alarming finding. Researchers are now studying the role that different forms of employment and states of health can play – and the circumstances under which this could be politically relevant.

26 Getting More out of Life
Demographers are astounded at the way human mortality continues to drop, and have begun to look into it. This trend started well over a hundred years ago. What used to be a statistical investigation of death rates has long since developed into the science of longevity.

34 “The state has less and less room for maneuver”
As Director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Wolfgang Streeck’s research focuses on the tension between democratic politics and the capitalist economy. In this interview, he speaks about the consequences of fiscal policy decisions, such as the establishment of a debt brake, the cutbacks required as a result and the shared liability for debt in the eurozone.

ON THE COVER: Nothing is more constant than change. What Heraclitus declared even back in ancient Greece is all the more applicable to society today. For instance, the trend of societal aging is causing changes in all aspects of our lives. New findings in “happiness research” and in the political sciences will also play a key role in the future.
FOCUS
18 In Pursuit of Happiness
26 Getting More out of Life
34 “The state has less and less room for maneuver”

SPECTRUM
40 Fatal Fling
40 Solar Plasma at a Slow Pace
40 Ripe Fruit
41 A Volatile Pulsar
41 Quantum Memory as Brilliant as a Diamond
42 Iron Trumps Precious Metal
42 Decision in the Hippocampus
43 There’s No Center of Consciousness
43 Hard as a Shark’s Tooth
43 Genotype of a Prehistoric Human
44 Computers Gather Momentum
44 Close-Up of an Active Galactic Nucleus
45 Climate Change Despite Sun Screen
45 Breathing Is Becoming Less Healthy

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
46 Elemental Metamorphosis
Pressures of several million atmospheres prevail inside planets. Under such conditions, substances undergo astounding transformations.

BIOLOGY & MEDICINE
54 Untrue to Type
Plants can be crossbred only if the genetic material in the nucleus and the chloroplasts harmonize. A few factors in the chloroplasts are decisive.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
70 The Power of Flames
Fire and climate influence each other, and humans also play a key role. Future climate models should take these interactions into account.

CULTURE & SOCIETY
78 Law and Anthropology
Personal Portrait: Marie-Claire Foblets

FEATURES
03 On Location
06 Spotlight – Peter Gruss
More Excellence for Europe
86 Flashback
86 A Place That Radiates Great Science
88 Community
88 A Conference with an Eye to the Future
90 Greater Freedom for Science
91 Research Establishments
91 Imprint

Many genes: Boxes of evening primrose plantings, which permit interbreeding across species boundaries.

Many characteristics: Nanocapsules can be equipped to perform numerous functions.

Many cultures: Marie-Claire Foblets researches legal concepts in multi-ethnic societies.