

Saturday, 6 July 2019

Hotel Mercure, Lange Brücke, 14467 Potsdam

8:45 – 10:30 | Session 4: Assessing existential risks

Chair: Julius Weitzdörfer, *Cambridge Centre for Existential Risks*

Student rapporteurs

The challenge of climate change

Jochem Marotzke ML, *Max Planck Institute for Meteorology*

What is the real threat of pandemics?

Lothar Wieler ML, *Robert Koch Institute*

Discussion (speakers and chair)

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00 | Session 5: Coping with risks

Chair: Filippa Lentzos, *King's College London*

Coping with uncertainty in a complex world

Ortwin Renn ML, *Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam*

How to cope with extreme global events and strengthen societies' resilience

Garry Peterson, *Stockholm Resilience Centre*

Discussion (speakers and chair)

Student rapporteurs & closing remarks

How to improve risk literacy?

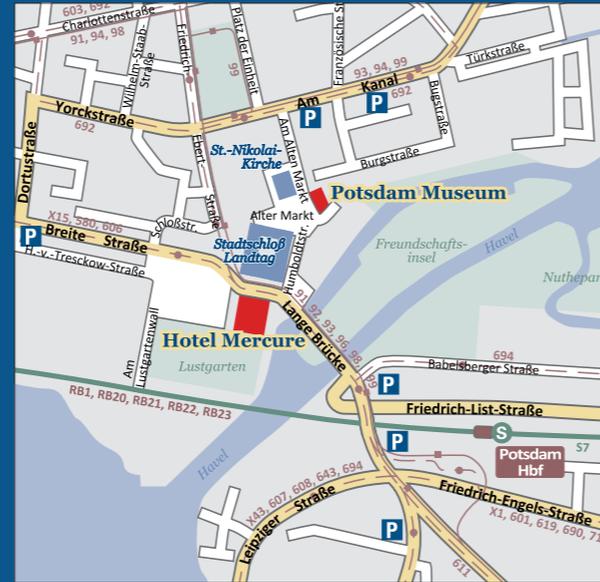
Ralph Hertwig ML, *Max Planck Institute for Human Development*

13:00 | Farewell Networking Lunch

Registration

Please register via: www.leopoldina.org/risk2019

How to find us



Venue Keynote Lecture (4 July 2019):

Potsdam Museum, Am Alten Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam

Venue Conference (5-6 July 2019):

Hotel Mercure, Lange Brücke, 14467 Potsdam

Arrival by plane:

- Berlin-Tegel airport (TXL): i.e. bus X9 to “Zoologischer Garten” and train S7 to “Potsdam Hauptbahnhof”
- Berlin Schönefeld (SXF): i.e. RB22 to “Potsdam, Golm” and train RB21 to “Potsdam Hauptbahnhof”

Arrival by train:

Berlin main station “Berlin Hauptbahnhof”: trains S7, RB1 or RB21 to “Potsdam Hauptbahnhof”

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina brings together the expertise of some 1,500 distinguished scientists to bear on questions of social and political relevance, publishing unbiased and timely scientific opinions. The Leopoldina represents the German scientific community in international committees and pursues the advancement of science for the benefit of humankind and for a better future.

The Joint Committee on the Handling of Security-Relevant Research was established by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Leopoldina to raise awareness amongst researchers of dual-use issues in security-relevant research and to further develop and foster both a responsible approach to security-relevant research and self-governance within the research community.

Crossing Boundaries in Science

The mystery of risks – How can science help reconcile perception and assessment?

Leopoldina-Conference

Thursday, 4 July – Saturday, 6 July 2019

Hotel Mercure
Lange Brücke
14467 Potsdam | Germany

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Crossing Boundaries in Science

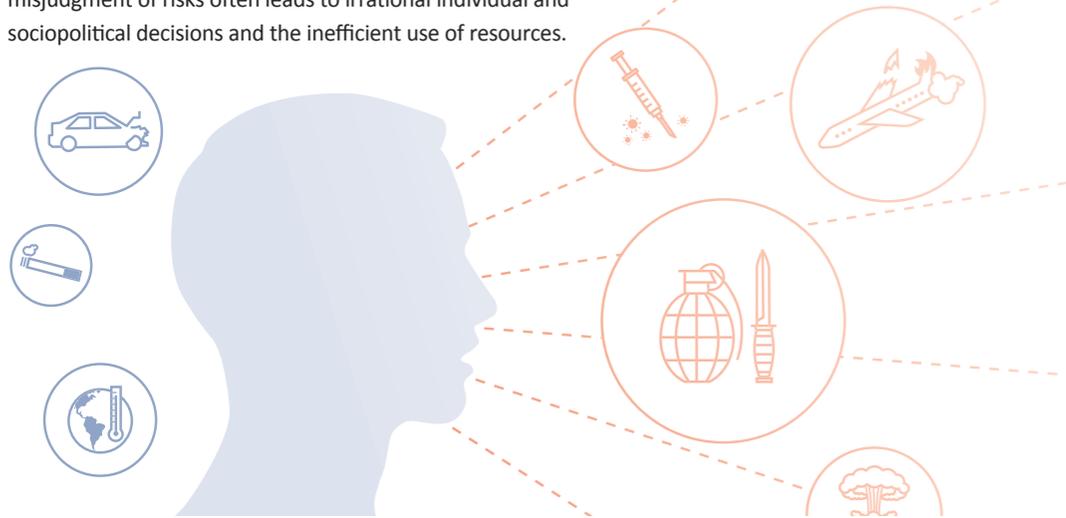
The mystery of risks – How can science help reconcile perception and assessment?

The conference format *Crossing Boundaries in Science* of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina is meant to stimulate discussions between areas of research that are particularly dependent on new forms of interdisciplinary cooperation and method transfer. The first international conference, entitled *Modeling Nature and Society – Can We Control the World?* took place in Weimar in June 2016. Its objective was to provide an overview and discuss current attempts using scientific modeling to understand and control complex systems in nature and society.

The second international conference *The mystery of risks – How can science help reconcile perception and assessment?* will focus on the role of science in perception, assessment and handling of risks in our growingly complex world. This includes the frequent overestimation of certain risks associated for example with terrorism, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence or vaccination but also the prevalent underestimation of risks associated with common causes of destruction, illness and death. The scientific community attempting to assess and communicate these risks objectively is often confronted with big challenges since public risk perception systematically follows more subjective and emotional principles. This systematic misjudgment of risks often leads to irrational individual and sociopolitical decisions and the inefficient use of resources.

In the three-day conference scientists from areas such as sociology, economics, physics, psychology, medicine, meteorology and biology will discuss the following questions:

- Did our lives get riskier or do we simply know too much about potential risks to handle them objectively?
- How are risks socially constructed?
- What are commonly underestimated and overestimated risks?
- What are the positive as well as negative consequences of the misperception of risks?
- Does the precautionary principle hinder innovation and progress?
- How can science help to reconcile the systematic misperception of risk and promote evidence-based policy in this context?
- Are scientists also responsible for creating new risks when providing new knowledge that may be misused for harmful purposes?
- What are short term and long term science-based strategies to mitigate risks?
- How to promote risk literacy and resilience of individuals and society?



Program

Thursday, 4 July 2019

Potsdam Museum, Am Alten Markt 9, 14467 Potsdam

18:30 | Keynote Lecture

Welcoming Address

Jörg Hacker ML, *German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

Introduction

Thomas Lengauer ML, *Max Planck Institute for Informatics*

Uncertain risks in an uncertain world

Armin Nassehi, *Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich*

20:15 | Reception

Friday, 5 July 2019

Hotel Mercure, Lange Brücke, 14467 Potsdam

9:00 Welcoming Address

Bärbel Friedrich ML, *German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina*

9:15 – 10:45 | Session 1: How risks are socially constructed

Chair: Ralph Hertwig ML, *Max Planck Institute for Human Development*

The paradox of the risk society

Martin Schröder, *University of Marburg*

Risk as feelings and perception matters

Ellen Peters, *The Ohio State University*

Discussion (speakers and chair)

10:45 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

11:15 – 13:15 | Session 2: Limits of assessing and communicating risks

Chair: Alfons Bora, *University of Bielefeld*

Foundations of the precautionary principle and what's wrong with empirical psychology

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *New York University*

Risk information transmission in critical infrastructures

Didier Sornette, *ETH Zurich*

Risk communication and policy

Ragnar Löfstedt, *King's College London*

Discussion (speakers and chair)

13:15 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 | Session 3: Commonly over- and underestimated risks

Chair: Thomas Lengauer ML, *Max Planck Institute for Informatics*

Between phlegm and panic – underestimated versus overestimated risks

Gaby-Fleur Böhl, *The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment*

How to advocate for vaccination in a climate of science denial

Cornelia Betsch, *University of Erfurt*

Can China trigger a crisis of globalization?

Heribert Dieter, *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*

Discussion (speakers and chair)

16:30 | Networking Coffee

17:00 Potsdam Palace Tour by Boat

ML= Member of Leopoldina