

The Oxford Berlin Research Partnership

Academics in the Public Sphere: Navigating the Political

Berlin, 7th/8th July 2022

Leibniz-Saal, Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
Entrance: Markgrafenstraße 38, 10117 Berlin

Day One: Thursday 7th July 2022

9.30 to 10.00: **Opening remarks:** Professor Dr Peter Frensch, Spokesperson, Berlin University Alliance; The Rt Hon the Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor of the University of Oxford; Professors Andrew Hurrell and Çiğdem İşsever, Academic Directors of the Oxford Berlin University Partnership.

10.00 to 12.30. **Session One: Speech, Truth and Universal Reason**

The opening panel will engage with the fraught debates about facts and truth, including in times of war and conflict, about free speech, about the internet and hate speech, and about confronting the past and the de-centering or de-provincializing of academic teaching and research.

Chairs: Professor Dr Christoph Marksches, President, Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, and Professor Dr Anita Traninger, Freie Universität Berlin.

10.00 to 11.00. *Truth in an age of conflict*

Professor Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, University of Oxford
Professor Rasmus Nielsen, Director, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford

Professor Dr Michael Zürn, WZB, Social Science Center, Berlin
Annette Dittert, Senior Correspondent and Bureau Chief, ARD London

11.00 to 11.30: Coffee break

Confronting the past/legacies of Enlightenment

Professor Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English, University of Oxford
Professor Laura van Broekhoven, Director, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford
Professor Avi Lifschitz, Faculty of History, University of Oxford
Professor Dr Herman Parzinger, President, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

12.30 to 13.30: Lunch

13.30 to 15.30: **Session Two: The Pandemic and the Universities**

This panel will consider the questions brought up by the pandemic, including the challenges faced by those who have tried to engage directly with different publics.

Chair: Professor Dr Axel R. Pries, Dean Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Chair of World Health Summit.

Professor Chris Conlon, Head of the Experimental Medicine Division, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford

Professor Dame Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

Professor Dr Heyo Kroemer, Chief Executive Officer, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Professor Dr Leif Erik Sander, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

15.30 to 16.00: Coffee break

16.00 to 18.00: **Session Three: Living and Working with AI**

The third panel will look at the particular issues surrounding AI and at the question of how AI might be used responsibly and how the difficulties of understanding what AI means technically can be explained and debated within a broader public.

Chairs: Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, Principal, Jesus College, University of Oxford and Dr Nicolas Cruz Bournazou, Technische Universität Berlin.

Professor Ioannis Havoutis, Oxford Robotics Institute, University of Oxford

Professor John Tasioulas, Director, Institute for Ethics in AI, University of Oxford

Professor Abigail Williams, Professor of English Literature, University of Oxford

Professor Dr Michelle Christensen, Technische Universität Berlin and Einstein Centre for Digital Future

Professor Dr Jürgen Mlynek, Professor, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, former president of Helmholtz Association of German Research Centers (2005-2015)

18.00 to 19.30: **Reception and buffet supper.** Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Day Two: Friday 8th July

9.15 to 12.30: Session Four: Multiple pathways into varied publics

The final session will explore issues around the creation of academic knowledge, and the ways in which academics connect with a broader public audience and make that knowledge both accessible and relevant in a range of contexts.

Chairs: Professor Karen Leeder, Professor of Modern German Literature, University of Oxford and Professor Dr Eva Geulen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Director, Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung.

9.15 – 10.30: The production and diffusion of academic knowledge

Professor Dr Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Professor of Japanese Politics and Vice-President of Freie Universität Berlin

Niko Pfund, President and Academic Publisher, Oxford University Press, New York

Professor Dr Martin Rennert, Chair of the Executive Board, Einstein Stiftung

Professor Johannes Vogel, PhD, Director General, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

10.30 to 11.00: coffee break

11.00 to 12.15: Truth-telling, cultural performance and literature

Dr Samson Kambalu, Associate Professor of Fine Art and Director of Research, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford

Professor Dr h.c. Erika Fischer-Lichte, Freie Universität Berlin, Director IRC Interweaving Performance Cultures

Professor Dr Norbert Palz, President, Universität der Künste Berlin

Ulrike Almut Sandig, Performance Poet

12.15 to 12.30: **Closing comments:** Professor Dame Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford, and Professors Andrew Hurrell and Çiğdem İşsever, Academic Directors of the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership

Please find more information on the event and the speakers on our [website](#).