

Press Release

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Die Junge Akademie celebrates its 25th anniversary

A quarter century as an important part of Germany's scientific landscape

The world's oldest academy for researchers in the early phase of their career is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Founded in 2000 as the first academy of its kind, it offers outstanding young researchers a place to carry out interdisciplinary work, and test new forms of thought, research, and action. It is a place for discussion and engaging with science policy at the points where research and society intersect.

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The anniversary provides an opportunity to jointly reflect. What areas have members focused on over the years? What has motivated them? In which debates have they been involved? In two panel discussions, members and alumni will examine the topics of "What motivates *Die Junge Akademie*?" and "Communicating science - learning from the pandemic, utopias for tomorrow". The event will also look ahead: The "Utopiamobile" of the research group "Utopias" offers a place where ideas about the future can be gathered and visualised live – inspiring thought, discussion, and fresh perspectives.

"Founded in 2000 as an experiment, *Die Junge Akademie* has now successfully established itself as an international concept. Junior researchers enrich current debates with innovative and sometimes unconventional perspectives. They need the space and trust to develop these ideas. And that is precisely what *Die Junge Akademie* offers," says Professor Dr. Bettina Rockenbach, President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, one of *Die Junge Akademie*'s two supporting academies.

"Young researchers need curiosity and openness from their more senior colleagues and need understanding for the irreverent, independent approach that is the only way to truly forge new paths. For 25 years *Die Junge Akademie* has been offering such an environment – bold and irreverent and independently exploring new paths – thus hugely enriching the scientific landscape," says Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Christoph Markschies, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, one of *Die Junge Akademie*'s supporting academies since its founding.

Following the anniversary event for members and alumni on June 7 2025, *Die Junge Akademie* celebrates its traditional annual event, with many long-standing academy associates expected. Additionally, the annual celebration will also feature the draw for the winners of the "Best Research Environment 2024", awarded by *Die Junge Akademie* in cooperation with the VolkswagenStiftung.

You can find further information about the anniversary, the history of *Die Junge Akademie* and past activities here: diejungeakademie.de/en/projekte/anniversary-25-years

Die Junge Akademie

at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Die Junge Akademie was founded in 2000 as the world's first academy for outstanding young academics. Its members – who come from all academic disciplines as well as creative fields – explore the potential and limits of interdisciplinary work in new projects, aim to encourage dialogue between academia and society, and provide new impetus in discussions about scientific policy. *Die Junge Akademie* is supported by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Its office is located in Berlin.