

Press Release

Berlin, 28.06.2026

New Members, New Impetus for *Die Junge Akademie*

Ten new members broaden the profile of *Die Junge Akademie* in key fields for the future

On 27 June 2026, *Die Junge Akademie* appointed ten scholars as new members. With the 2026 cohort, *Die Junge Akademie* gains additional expertise in research fields relevant to addressing key societal challenges. These include, among others, the development and critical reflection of digital technologies, legal, ethical and psychological perspectives on societal change, sustainable energy and mobility systems, as well as climate-, environmental- and behavior-related research.

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From left to right: Yuki M. Asano, Steffen Schneider, Jessica Szczuka, Franziska Meinherz, Eva Pfannerstill, Frederic R. Hopp, Weihan Li, Luke Dimitrios Spieker, Kristof Meding (not in the picture: Corinna Coupette). Photo: Die Junge Akademie/Bernd Brundert

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During their five-year membership, the new members can initiate their own interdisciplinary projects and research groups or participate in existing activities – for example on topics such as climate change, artificial intelligence, or science policy. The 50 members of *Die Junge Akademie* work and conduct research across disciplines and benefit from a steadily growing network of outstanding scientists and artists. Together, they develop formats at the interface of science, art, society, and politics and provide impetus for the further development of the science system.

The ten new members are:

- **Prof. Dr. Yuki M. Asano**, Artificial Intelligence, University of Technology Nuremberg
- **Prof. Dr. Dr. Corinna Coupette**, Law/Computer Science, Aalto University and Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance

- **Prof. Dr. Frederic René Hopp**, Psychology, Leibniz Institute for Psychology
- **Prof. Dr. Weihan Li**, Energy Storage Technology/Artificial Intelligence, RWTH Aachen
- **Dr. Kristof Meding**, Computational Law, University of Tuebingen
- **Prof. Dr. Franziska Meinherz**, Urban and Mobility Geography, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- **Prof. Dr. Eva Pfannerstill**, Atmospheric Chemistry, Research Center Jülich and University of Cologne
- **Dr. Steffen Schneider**, Artificial Intelligence/Neuroscience/Statistical Modeling, Helmholtz Munich and KI macht Schule gGmbH
- **Dr. Luke Dimitrios Spieker**, Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
- **Dr. Jessica Szczuka**, Human-Computer Interaction/Media Psychology, University of Duisburg-Essen

“Ten impressive individuals are bringing expertise and curiosity to *Die Junge Akademie*. We look forward to developing new formats with them, setting new accents, and thereby fulfilling our societal responsibility as scholars,” said Dr. Hanna Pfeifer, conflict researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg and Chair of *Die Junge Akademie*.

The ten members of the 2026 cohort were selected by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, one of the supporting academies of *Die Junge Akademie*. The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities alternate responsibility for selecting new members in even-numbered calendar years; in odd-numbered calendar years, the members of *Die Junge Akademie* themselves elect the new cohort.

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Alongside the admission of the new members, the 2021 cohort was also bid farewell. As alumnae and alumni, they remain connected to the network of *Die Junge Akademie* and will continue to be able to participate in the Academy’s activities as guests in the future.

Further information on the application procedure and membership:
diejungeakademie.de/en/mitglied-werden

More detailed information on all members of *Die Junge Akademie*:
diejungeakademie.de/en/members

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.