

Press Release

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Interdisciplinary research and a novel paper gala event

Ten new members admitted to Die Junge Akademie

On 5 June, ten early career scientists and artists were admitted to Die Junge Akademie. This signals the start of a five-year membership for them, during which they will be able to work and do research together with 40 other members in interdisciplinary projects.



Image: © Dicey Studios

Ten members have joined the alumnae and alumni community. For the second time running, the traditional annual celebration could not take place due to the pandemic, making for an unusual but in no way less exciting start to life in Die Junge Akademie for the new members. Paper set a new stage for the event and different print formats were used, such as a flipbook or “wimmelbook” hidden picture book. Just as festive, the new members were introduced to those who would have otherwise been invited, and farewell was said to the departing members in a creative manner. The ten new members are:

- **Christopher Degelmann**, Ancient History, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
- **Johanna Gereke**, Sociology, University of Mannheim
- **Racha Kirakosian**, German Medieval Studies, University of Freiburg
- **Rona Kobel**, Sculpture, Photography, Berlin University of the Arts
- **David Labonte**, Bioengineering, Imperial College London
- **Linus Mattauch**, Economics, Environmental Policy, Technische Universität Berlin

- **Thorsten Merl**, Paedagogy, University of Marburg
- **Hermine Mitter**, Climate Economy and Rural Sociology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
- **Viola Priesemann**, Physics, Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization
- **Senthuran Varatharajah**, Literature, freelance author (S. Fischer Verlag)

“A very warm welcome goes to our new members. With their excellent subject-matter expertise from a wide range of areas, they will without doubt add to and promote interdisciplinary discourse,” explains **Anna Lisa Ahlers**, political scientist/sinologist and one of the two chairpersons of this year’s Co-opt Committee. “We are looking forward to the ten new members, to their ideas and to working with them, which we will hopefully be able to do face-to-face again in future,” states **Michael Saliba**, physicist and also chairperson of the Co-opt Committee.

The objective of Die Junge Akademie is to give young scientists and artists the opportunity, alongside their own research, to actively and creatively help shape the dialogue between science and society. In order to become a member, they need to have produced an outstanding doctorate or an outstanding artistic work. The final examination of this work should have taken place within the last three to seven years (taking into consideration periods of parental and care leave). In addition, at least one further excellent scientific work or evidence of being established as an artist are expected. The applicants should also enjoy working on interdisciplinary projects at the interface between science, art, society and politics.

This year it was the turn of Die Junge Akademie to co-opt the new members. In 2022, it will again be the turn of the parent academies of Die Junge Akademie, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

Detailed information on all of the members of Die Junge Akademie can be found at diejungeakademie.de/en/members

**Die Junge Akademie
an der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
und der Nationalen Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina**

Die Junge Akademie wurde im Jahr 2000 als weltweit erste Akademie für herausragende junge Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler ins Leben gerufen. Ihre Mitglieder stammen aus allen wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen sowie aus dem künstlerischen Bereich – sie loten Potenzial und Grenzen interdisziplinärer Arbeit in immer neuen Projekten aus, wollen Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft ins Gespräch miteinander und neue Impulse in die wissenschaftspolitische Diskussion bringen. Die Junge Akademie wird gemeinsam von der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) und der Nationalen Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina getragen. Sitz der Geschäftsstelle ist Berlin.