



Digital Communication Lab for Exchange between Research and Media

11 – 13 May 2023, Virtual Event

ComLab#7: The Next Big Bang – New Frontiers in Exploring Life

Science has always experimented at the boundaries of life, but how will new technologies shape our understanding of humans and our habitats in the future? With new space missions, novel AI-based approaches to drug production and fast developments in bioengineering, ComLab#7 aims to explore the research that will fuel our expectations in 2023.

What are the new frontiers in research and how can or should scientists and journalists tell the story of the next “big bang” that is already fundamentally happening but has not yet arrived in everyday reality? At the same time: How much news value should we ascribe to risky or early research? Can too much attention at an early stage harm further developments, especially in terms of public acceptance? In addition, there are ethical and social issues to consider when we deal with disruptive research and technologies.

With the seventh ComLab we want to explore the next scientific revelation whilst also considering the underlying cultural norms that affect how new research is implemented and perceived in different countries.

Key Questions:

- What are the trends and topics in science in 2023?
- What might be the social and ethical implications of new frontiers in research – from the exploration of space via progress in the field of bioengineering to new AI-based innovation?
- How do different cultural perspectives and religion influence our understanding of ground-breaking discoveries?
- To what extent is the visibility of new research determined by inequality of opportunity – especially regarding differences between the Global North and the Global South?

The programme is financed by:



Federal Foreign Office

Preliminary Programme

The times indicated refer to Berlin time
(Central European Summer Time)

11 May 2023

- 09:00 **Welcome**
Stephanie Siewert, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Martina Johns, International Journalists' Programmes
- 09:10 **Official Opening**
Vito Cecere, Federal Foreign Office
Judith Wellen, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
- 09:45 **Meet & Mingle / Practical Exercises**
- 11:45 **Goals and Expectations**
- 12:00 Break
- 13:00 **Keynote Research: New Frontiers of Life in Space**
Markus Kissler-Patig, European Space Agency
- 14:00 **Keynote Journalism: How to Imagine and Narrate Innovation**
Clive Cookson, Financial Times
- 15:00 **Forum: Potentials and Challenges of Science-Media Cooperation**
Annegret Burkert, Science Media Center Germany
- 17:00 **Closing**

12 May 2023

- 13:30 **Welcome and Warm-Up**
- 13:45 **Challenges of Innovation**
Impulse: #Breakthrough – Between Visionary Futures and Reality Check
Zulfikar Abbany, Deutsche Welle
- 14:45 **Networking: Your Regional Newsroom**
- 15:45 **Break**
- 16:00 **Workshop: Multimedia Storytelling**
Jens Radü, DER SPIEGEL
- 17:30 **Break**
- 18:00 **Lab Space: Brainstorming Project Ideas**
- 19:30 **Closing**

13 May 2023

- 13:30 **Welcome**
- 14:00 **Workshop: Toolbox Science Communication**
Michael Wingens, Wissenschaft im Dialog
- 15:00 **Lab Space**
- 16:00 **Break**
- 16:30 **Pitching Session with Guest Juror**
Mohammed Yahia, Nature Portfolio
- 17:30 **Group Feedback / Forum**
- 18:00 **Closing**