



Information regarding the call for proposals

11th Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation will take place in **Bonn, Germany** from **7 – 9 November 2018**.

The event programme will be primarily compiled from contributions via a thematically open Call for Proposals.

The programme committee is also planning a thematic focus titled **“Scientists in the focus of science communication”**.

Speakers will be invited for themed sessions and **we particularly welcome proposals from scientists**.

The thematic focus will include the following areas:

- **Scientists’ Perspectives**

What can and *what should* we communicate about research? *Why* should scientists communicate with the general public, and *what benefits* can this bring them? Is science communication *good or bad for scientists careers*? Do scientists communicate for their own interests or in the interests of their institutions, and is public communication accepted by peers and management? How do scientists see themselves, and does their *self image* match their *public image*?

- **The relationship between scientists and communicators**

Should scientists approach communicators, or communicators scientists? What is the *current division of roles*, and how do the two groups *see their own roles* – is there a need for change? How do scientists see science communication? How can science communicators *enable* and *motivate* researchers to communicate publicly (*training, cooperation, support*)?

- **Delicate relations: scientists – communicators – media**

How can we best communicate *difficult topics*? What is *acceptable to communicate* and what *must be communicated*? How can scientists determine whether their research is relevant or interesting to the general public or specific target groups? Should scientists express *opinions on political issues*? How can we achieve *transparency* and build *trust*?

- **Communication and academic freedom**

Does communication interfere with research, or should researchers be *required to communicate* publicly? *Does scientific research pursue particular interests*? *Does research funding influence the communication of research*?

- **The science of science communication**

What can science communication *studies* and *research results* tell us about the role of researchers in science communication? Could a stronger focus on the *relationship* between scientists and communicators help develop improved communication concepts for the future?



The following table gives an overview of the different programme areas and their structure:

Format	Opening keynotes Panels Sessions	Panel discussions	Interactive workshops & Project presentations
Theme	Scientists in the focus of science communication	Thematically open	Thematically open
Selection process	Invited speakers will be asked to present on the conference theme. You are also welcome to submit proposals on the topic.	Submission through call for proposals	Submission through call for proposals

Contributions through the **Call for Proposals** are thematically open, but there are criteria for the submission and selection of proposals. The Forum aims both to promote networking and exchange among science communication professionals, and to provide information about new formats, trends and research findings.

We are seeking proposals for contributions on

- Specific **challenges** and **current trends** in science communication
- Strategic projects and co-operations
- New and **innovative formats** and locations in science communication
- Formats and activities reaching interesting, previously unknown **target groups**
- **Best or worst practice**: experience with particularly successful or failed projects
- New insights, e.g. **evaluation** or **research projects** in science communication
- Future perspectives and project ideas

Proposals providing an international perspective on these areas are welcome and can **be submitted and presented in English**.

Wissenschaft im Dialog **considers equal gender distribution important** in both the panels for sessions and the moderating teams for interactive formats. Mixed-gender proposals are particularly appreciated.

Please submit your proposal for a **panel discussion, project presentation** or **interactive workshop**



through the **Call for Proposals**.

Please consider the following information regarding session formats:

1. Panel discussion

- A **75-minute** panel discussion with **up to three speakers** and **one moderator**
- Include **at least 45 minutes** of discussion with **active involvement of the audience**, e.g. through the use of **voting tools, interactive surveys** or the live use of **Twitter**
- Discussion showcase **different perspectives** including a **scientific perspective** – ideally via the **involvement of a researcher**
- Speakers from **different** backgrounds and institutions, potentially with **different views** on the topic, every member of the panel has a maximum of 10 minutes to give their impulse talk
- The moderator should not be one of the panel members
- The moderator should work intensively with the speakers before the session to **clearly define key topics and questions** for the discussion.

2. Project presentation

- Short presentation **maximum 7 minutes** of a successful or failed project with **one speaker**
- further information is presented on a **poster** as part of the exhibition in the foyer
- Further discussion with interested attendees at the poster exhibition
- Provides an overview of new formats and projects in science communication and the opportunity to exchange ideas

3. Project presentation “special”

- Short presentation **maximum 12 minutes** of specific **study results** or **evaluations** of science communication presented by **one speaker**
- Further information about the study or evaluation can be provided on a **poster** as part of the **poster exhibition** in the foyer
- Opportunity for further questions and discussions as part of the poster exhibition
- Provides a glimpse of **current research** in science communication

4. Interactive workshop

- **90 minute interactive workshop** moderated by a **maximum of three** moderators or speakers
- Diverse formats such as **Workshop, World Café, simulated parliament, Fishbowl**



- Participants should work in-depth on an issue and generate potential solutions with a focus on practical relevance and working in groups
- Please indicate the **methods and aims** of the workshop
- Suitable for **at least 40 participants**
- If there is sufficient interest you may be asked to run the workshop twice during the forum.

Submitting your proposal

To submit a contribution, please complete the online form **by 16 April 2018** at www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de.

Note: After submitting your proposal, you will receive an automatic email to confirm the successful transmission of data to *Wissenschaft im Dialog*. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, your proposal has not been submitted successfully. In that case please contact us.**

Conditions of participation

The programme committee assesses all submitted proposals and compiles the selected contributions in the conference programme. You will be informed of the selection outcome in **July 2018**.

If your proposal is selected for the 9th Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation program, *Wissenschaft im Dialog* will notify you of the date and time of your session and provide you with a fully equipped room (with laptop, projector, flipchart or pin board as requested). Please bring any additional materials such as pens, moderation cards or paper with you.

Speakers and moderators are eligible for reduced conference fees (covering participation and catering) for the duration of the conference (100€/1 day or 160€/3 days). We will send you a link that enables reduced registration.

Speakers pay for their own travel and accommodation – these costs will not be reimbursed by the organisers.



Important dates

Deadline for submissions	16 April 2018
Notification of selection	July 2018
11th Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation	7 – 9 November 2018 in Bonn

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The Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation

Through the Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation, *Wissenschaft im Dialog* (WiD), an initiative of German science research organisations, offers an opportunity for science communicators to exchange ideas and expertise. Since 2008 the forum has offered professionals in the field an overview of recent trends and strategies in science communication.

Representatives of universities, research institutions, cities and municipalities, science centres, student labs, science festivals and companies that conduct research are invited. The Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation is targeted at scientists, members of marketing and communications departments, science journalists, teachers, pre-school teachers, and all others with an interest in science communication.