

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### FORUM WISSENSCHAFTSKOMMUNIKATION 2023

The **Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2023** will take place in **Bielefeld**, Germany, from **15th to 17th November 2023**.

The **Call for Proposals** is open from **6th February to 20th March 2023**.

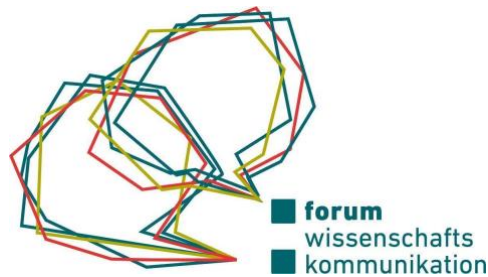
Proposals for the conference programme can be submitted via the [online form at www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de](http://www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de).

#### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The conference programme will mainly consist of contributions submitted via the call for proposals. We encourage contributions focusing on the main theme of the conference but also welcome proposals dealing with any other aspect of science communication.

The programme committee has decided upon a main theme for the 2023 Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation: **"Contentious, but Fair – Towards a New Culture of Debate"**.

Format	Keynotes and Framework Programme	Panel Discussions	"Practice Perspectives" "Research Insights"	Interactive Formats/Workshops
<b>Theme</b>	"Contentious, but Fair – Towards a New Culture of Debate"	thematically open <i>proposals related to the main theme are welcome</i>		
<b>Selection process</b>	speakers will be invited by the programme committee	submission via call for proposals		



## THEMATIC FOCUS

### "Contentious but Fair – Towards a New Culture of Debate"

Debates, discussions, and discourse form the foundation of any democratic society. They arise from existing differences of opinion and, at best, lead to agreement. Emotions may run high in these discussions, but it's generally imperative to maintain a degree of objectivity. A good culture of debate is the very basis for any constructive discussion. But what is this culture of debate, what characterises it and how has it changed over the past years? And what are the specific qualities of debates that take place virtually or during protest actions out in the streets?

#### **Democracy Requires Debate**

The value of scientific knowledge has been demonstrated in a particularly striking way throughout the global pandemic. However, increased attention also increases vulnerability. How can this be addressed? How can scientific freedom be maintained amidst increasing political tension and the appropriation of scientific knowledge by different actors? What role can and should science and scientists play in public debates?

#### **Objectivity meets Emotions**

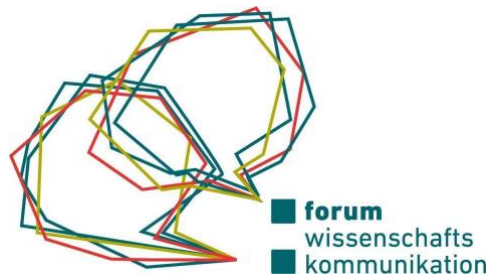
It's not uncommon for discussions to leave the factual terrain and become deeply emotional. How can such an escalation of debates be prevented? And if boundaries are crossed, how can we react appropriately? How can institutions handle harsh criticism, and what impact do public outrage and instances of supposed "cancel culture" have on the culture of debate, not least at universities? Finally, how political is research, and is there anything such as a neutral position?

#### **The Forgotten Art of Debate**

Individuals are the part and parcel of any institution. What happens if they are personally attacked for expressing their opinions? What are the support structures that currently exist for scientists and professional communicators, where are these structures lacking and what should they ideally look like? How can science and science communication learn from these personal experiences? How can we encourage mutual support?

#### **A Matter of Tone**

Guidelines, rhetorical skills, non-violent communication, gender sensitive and inclusive language: Successful debates and discussions often require respect for established rules, standards, and frameworks. But what are these rules, and what conditions must be met in a given situation? Can debating be practiced? How does one know when to use a certain tone or formulation? How can insights from different disciplines be applied in practice, and what can scientific exchange of opinions learn from political debates and vice versa?



## Debate formats

Debate formats, such as fishbowls, world cafés, or House of Commons debates, form part of science communication. Have these formats been able to prove their worth, and how have they changed? What kind of adjustments may be necessary to make them even more successful? Are there any evaluation results available as a basis for such adjustments? What new, contemporary formats can science and science communication use to engage in a productive dialogue and successful debates with society?

## OPEN TOPICS

You are welcome to submit proposals in the following areas:

- **Main theme 2023 "Contentious, but Fair – Towards a New Culture of Debate"**
- **Practice** (e.g. practical tips, formats, target groups, best/worst cases, etc.)
- **Intersections** (e.g. art, politics, economy, international, etc.)
- **Reflections** (e.g. values and guidelines, quality, evaluation, impact measurement, science of science communication, etc.)
- **Other issues**

The following topics are also welcome:

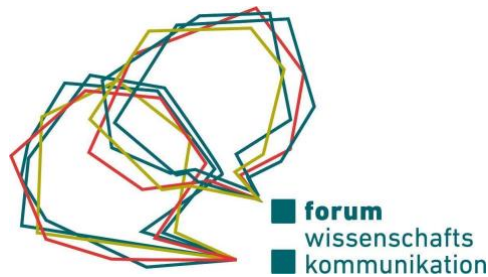
- Current **challenges** and **trends** in science communication
- **Strategic** issues, projects and cooperation
- **Innovative formats** and localities of science communication
- Formats and activities that reach new, hitherto seldomly reached **target groups**
- **Best and worst practices**: experiences with successful or failed projects
- New insights, e.g. **evaluations** or **research projects** in science communication
- Future perspectives and project ideas

We welcome proposals from a **global perspective** on these topics, which can be submitted and presented in **English**. We especially encourage **proposals from scientists (of all disciplines)**.

## FORMATS

Please submit your proposal for a **panel discussion**, "**Practice Perspective**", a "**Research Insight**" or an **interactive format or workshop** through the **call for proposals** in English or German.

*Wissenschaft im Dialog* **values gender equality** in both panel compositions and in the teams leading interactive workshops. Mixed-gender proposals are especially encouraged. Please consider the following information regarding the formats.



Please review the information on the available formats before submitting your proposal to ensure it meets the requirements.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

- A **75-minute** panel discussion with a **maximum of three speakers** and **one moderator**
- Includes **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**
- Showcases **different perspectives**, including a **scientific perspective**, ideally by involving a researcher or artist
- Panel members from diverse backgrounds and institutions, each with a unique view on the topic
- Each panel member has a maximum of **10 minutes** for an **opening talk**
- The Moderator cannot simultaneously be a panel member
- Moderator should conduct intensive preparations together with the speakers to **clearly define the topics and questions of discussion**.

#### PRACTICE PERSPECTIVES

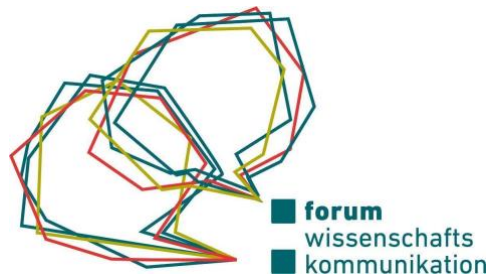
- A **7-minutes** presentation of a successful or failed project **or a new project idea** by **one speaker** (max.)
- Further information provided on a **poster** as part of a poster exhibition
- Opportunity for questions and further discussion at the poster exhibition
- Provides an overview of new formats and projects in science communication and an opportunity to exchange ideas

#### RESEARCH INSIGHTS

- Short presentation of **maximum 12 minutes** of specific **study results** or **evaluations** of science communication by **one speaker (max.)**
- Further information about the study or evaluation provided on a poster as part of a poster exhibition
- Opportunity for further questions and discussions at the poster exhibition
- Provides insights into **current research** in science communication and **presents results of studies or evaluations** of science communication

#### INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

- **90-minute interactive workshop** moderated by a **maximum of four** moderators or speakers
- Diverse formats such as **workshops, world cafés, debates, fishbowls**



- Participants work extensively on an issue in small groups and generate potential solutions with a focus on practical relevance
- Should indicate methods and aims of the workshop
- Should be suitable for **at least 40 participants**
- If there is sufficient interest, you may be asked to run the workshop twice during the conference

## SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

To submit a contribution, please complete the [online form at www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de](#) and submit it before 20th March 2023.

**Please note: After submitting your proposal, you will receive an automatic confirmation email from *Wissenschaft im Dialog*. If you don't receive a confirmation mail, please contact [forum@w-i-d.de](mailto:forum@w-i-d.de).**

## CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

### Submission of proposals

Proposals for Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation 2023 must be submitted through the online form. An automatic email will be sent to the email address provided on the form, confirming successful transfer of data and summarising the information. If the email fails to arrive, please contact [forum@w-i-d.de](mailto:forum@w-i-d.de).

### Selection of proposals

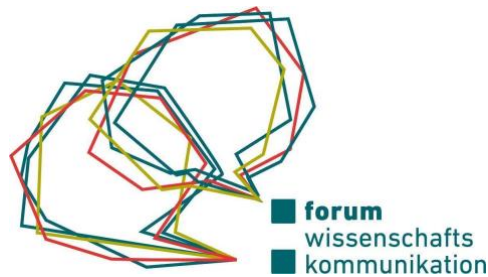
All submitted proposals will be evaluated by the programme committee, and the selected contributions will be included in the conference programme. **If your proposal is chosen, *Wissenschaft im Dialog* will notify you of the date and time of your session.**

### DATES

- Deadline for submissions: 20th March 2023
- Notification of selections: May 2023
- Date of conference: 15th – 17th November 2023
- Place of conference: Bielefeld

### Conference fees and registration

**Speakers and moderators** are eligible for **reduced conference fees** (covering participation and catering) for the duration of the conference (€120/1 day, €175/2 days, €195/3 days). We will send you a link that enables reduced registration. Registration must be completed using this link and the online form before the close of registrations.



It is not possible to register for the conference after the closing of registrations or at the event.

#### **Travel and accommodation costs**

Speakers and moderators pay for their own travel and accommodation – these expenses will not be reimbursed by the organisers, *Wissenschaft im Dialog*.

#### **Technical equipment and materials**

We can provide equipment for your contribution including a laptop, projector, flip chart or pinboard. Please bring any further material you need for your contribution such as cards, pens, paper etc.

## **PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING**

### **a. Scope of personal data processing**

When proposals are submitted to the Call for Proposals for Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation, personal data is recorded and processed by *Wissenschaft im Dialog gGmbH*. The data is solely processed for the purpose of organising and running the event in accordance with legal requirements and deleted when this purpose is fulfilled. The personal data that is processed and saved, is the same data entered into the online forms for the call for proposals and for conference registration. During the selection of proposals for the programme, names and institutions, as well as the title and description of the session and the submitted links, are shared with the programme committee. The legal basis for the processing of personal data is obtaining permission from the user; as stated in Article 6, Paragraphs 1a and b, GDPR.

### **b. Purpose of personal data processing**

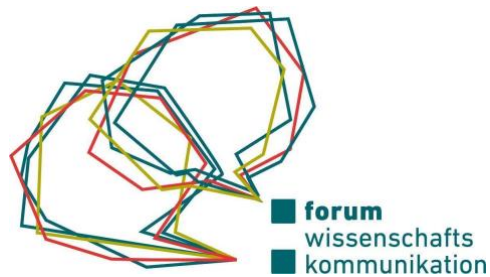
The processing of personal data using the online form is for the sole purpose of managing the submitted proposal and the conference programme. In the case that contact occurs by email rather than via the form, the communication implies permission to process the data. Further information may be collected during the submission of proposals or registration for the purpose of ensuring the safety of IT-systems and preventing misuse of the form.

### **c. Duration of data storage**

The data will be deleted as soon as it has fulfilled the purpose for which it was collected. In this case that includes the procedures required to execute the conference and prepare the conference documentation. If the user wishes to continue to receive regular information about future conferences, their permission is required.

### **d. Options for refusal and deletion**

Any user can revoke their permission for their personal data to be processed at any time. If permission is revoked, it is not possible to participate in the call for proposals.



## INFORMATION

[www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de](http://www.forum-wissenschaftskommunikation.de)

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## CONNECT WITH US!

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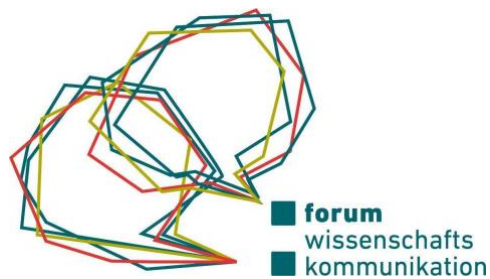
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## About Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation

The Forum Wissenschaftskommunikation is hosted by *Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD)*, an initiative of German science and research organisations. The conference provides a platform for science communicators to share ideas and knowledge. Since 2008, the conference has offered professionals in the field an updated look at recent trends and strategies in science communication. Invitees include representatives from universities, research institutions, municipalities, science centers, student labs, science festivals, and research companies. The conference caters to scientists, marketing and communications staff, science journalists, teachers, preschool teachers, and anyone interested in science communication.